Private report says British Leyland will make £53m profit this year

For Workers Control and International Socialism

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Socialist Worker Reporters

When Lord Stokes, chairman of the British Leyland Motor Corporation, launched his vicious attack on the company's 190,000 workers at the shareholders' annual meeting on 25 February, he departed not just from his prepared speech but from the truth as well. But a private report prepared in January by a leading firm of stockbrokers, is said to have arrived at a profit figure for British Leyland in the first half of the current financial year.

It placed the blame for this on the government's credit squeeze - which, it was said, has disrupted the company's credit lines and undermined its management's confidence in the future.

A statement from the company's board members was submitted to the shareholders' meeting clearing the company of these charges.

The report states that the company's financial position is not as bad as it seems, and that a number of things have been done to improve its performance. These include a better management of labor and a reduction in overhead costs.

The company's sales are expected to increase by 10% in the current year, and profits are expected to be up by 20%.

The report concludes that the company will be able to weather the current economic crisis and continue to grow.

...The report ends its summary with a call for a public meeting to discuss the future of British Leyland and its role in the economy. It states that the company needs to be more open and accountable to its stakeholders, and that it should be more concerned with the long-term interests of the country than with short-term profits.
Printing militants alarmed by threats to unity

by Mike Heym

Militants in the printing industry are being alarmed by the growing split developing within the rank and file of NEWSTRADE. Founded in 1945 by the coming together of NATROPA (operative printers) and NEWS DE (newspaper workers), the union has consisted of two discrete groups of workers, each seeing themselves as having different interests and goals. The split, which has been brought to a head by certain officials of NEWSTRADE, has created a situation where the right-wing leadership, backed by a majority of the workers, is trying to push through major changes that are being resisted by the left-wing majority.

In response to the Decision 1, a group of left-wing workers were sent to publicize to all members written by the Political Committee in an attempt to outline their position. Claiming that the split is not an inevitable one, British Printers argues that the constituent bodies of the new union have only been brought together at the insistence of the black community, and that they have not been able to establish a meaningful identity. Their formation was inevitable and now that these organizations are a reality, and in the case of the left, they are the only unions that can resist against the best interests of the working-class position, that position is obviously unpalatable.

The left is learning that revolutionaries must take a radical position in order to win over the workers and themselves carry out new methods of class struggle, covering their own capacities and power. The mass movement makes its own mistakes and learns its own lessons. In the process, it educates itself and succeeds in its own way. This is what an independent working-class movement will show itself to be, what the workers' intentionality will show itself to be, what the workers' intentionality will show itself to be. The unity of the workers' movement has already shown itself to be. That is also the one who challenges the unity of the workers' movement and their own self-consciousness to break ranks with the black community.

Selma James (left) speaking at the IWW meeting in solidarity with the American Black Panthers.

Black Panther spokesman called for work with white organisations

After hearing a speaker from the Black Panther Party of the伟大, the American Black Peoples' Alliance in Britain, which has been formed by black and white anti-racist intellectuals and workers, the meeting called for a meeting of black and white anti-racist intellectuals and workers, to discuss the question of a national black and white anti-racist union.

Selma James (left) speaking at the IWW meeting in solidarity with the American Black Panthers.

Opposition to all forms of racism and all migration controls.

Letters must arrive first post Monday. The editor reserves the right to shorten letters.
From IS, paper of the American International Socialists

AMERICA 1970: year of the big strike as workers fight soaring prices

EVER SINCE the Johnson administration’s massive escalation of the war in Vietnam, prices soaring, American workers have been fighting to keep wages ahead of consumer prices. By 1968, strike activity was expanding.

The number of strikes, workers involved, and the time lost rose through 1968 and 1969, nearly tripling in 1970. This strike wave was the continuation of the mass movement of workers through all phases of the economy.

In the first eight months of 1969, in opposition to a series of national contract expirations, the mass movements of workers already advanced beyond the 1968 level, an incredible movement of workers.

Since the General Electric strike began, the wave of strike activity probably rose well above the 1968 level.

This year saw a wave of action in all the sectors of the economy and the war has already surpassed it in intensity.

In the textile and apparel strike wave, which began in the spring of 1968, the picket line is longer and the mass movement of workers has more than doubled since the 1968 level.

In all other industries, the striking movements of workers have shown an unprecedented wave of militancy. The health and safety issues have found an open and direct expression as more people are involved in the workplace in the last eight years in Vietnam, and the rate of disabling injuries up to 20 percent over the last five years. The flow of profits continues to deteriorate.

Struggle

Against this background, 1970 presents a new stage in this specifically intensified struggle. In this context, the struggle of workers for a living wage and a living level of life is not the simple projection of the sixties.

National contracts covering auto, truck, and aircraft assembly, machinery, and electrical workers, furniture-movers, warehousemen and transport workers, and the textile and apparel industries have been in the past nine months, respectively, protected by the series of picket lines, lockouts, and occupations, and the more general expansion of the labor movement.

For socialists and militantly conscious workers, the current conditions are coming to the conscious that what we mean is a new movement, this strike wave and the political content in which it is important.

The inflation and increased taxes that set millions of workers in motion were caused by the increasing costs of living and the increased costs of production brought on by the growing long-term national and international debt. In fact, much of the long-term military pressures, like the war, are the result of the political decisions that amount to billions of dollars.

It must be remembered that while the appropriations for the Vietnam war alone have been over $25 billion 1966 to 1969, the ratio of the budget of one have risen from 6% to 12% of the national budget in 1969. Direct payments to private corporations for wages and profits, which are the immediate cause of the inflation, have increased rapidly.

The rapid rise in the cost of living has not only increased the real cost of living, but it has also increased the cost of labor. Workers are paid less, and the cost of living has increased.

Policemen in Lynn, Mass., preventing pickets from blocking entrance to General Electric plant.

After all, are matters of consciousness of political policy by the nation’s rulers. Without an attack on these policies, labor is not likely to make gains in 1970.

This is a vital question, and a vital strike wave.

In recent years, the Vietnam war has been the major threat to the American economy. The war has been a source of instability and uncertainty. Capital is looking for what it can win in the war, while the workers are looking for a place to work. The rate of unemployment remains high, and the rate of profits continues to decline.

Under conditions of political disorder in the war, the culture of economic growth and stability is in danger.

Every strike wave, from the CIO strikes of 1937-41 to the French general strikes of 1968 and the Italian strike movement of November 1969, has had its own dynamic.

The longer it lasts, the more its character changes.

So is it with the strike wave of the past four years. What began as a substantially ‘simple’ struggle for wage increases and improvements in working conditions, has increasingly become a struggle for control of the workplace. The workers have developed an increasing struggle to win control of the workplace in open battle.

Workers in this economic crisis, growing numbers of workers experienced disgust with the settlements that ‘leaders’ made by voting to reject these contracts.

By 1967, 11 per cent of all contracts were rejected by the unions, 37 per cent by the workers. The year 1968 saw the nationwide New York City Junior police contract rejected by 700,000 workers.

Inadequate

Inadequate

The past decade has seen the rise and fall of millions of workers in other sectors of the population. The situation of the workers, power, student and anti-war movements was often very aware of their political opposition to the policies of this nation’s rulers, but which proved to have inadequate power, could not resist the lack of in the working movement.

In contrast, a strike movement that saw the rise of millions into action and brought many millions into a new political movement, could take on the mass movement and win significant victories.

Inadequate

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BOOK REVIEWS

How Stalin's Lunatic Policies Destroyed the Minority Movement

by Bernard Ross

Communism and the British Trade Unions, the General Strike,
the Minority Movement in the British Steel Industry,
and the German Steel Industry: An Agenda for Research.

THE MINORITY MOVEMENT was an attempt by Communists and industrial militants in August 1924.

Somewhat reluctantly, they had accepted the demands of 'international proletarian discipline' — the insistence by the Third International (Comintern) and the Red International of Labour Unions that communists in every country should organize a unified front strategy in the trade unions.

The Comintern had lost its first battle of discipline. It was realized that there were too few class-conscious revolutionaries in Western Europe for the immediate conquest of power to be feasible.

Revolutionaries had therefore argued for an independent struggle against the trade unions. They would work within the 'official' trade unions to promote their own policies and as a result, were often forced to accept the narrowest concept of the Comintern line that was not always easy to do.

The NLI was thus to act as a front organization, involving producers, consumers, and coordinating industrial propaganda on a national scale.

Modesty successful

At first, the new movement was modestly successful. After little more than a year, the TUC claimed over 500 affiliated organizations — local branches, districts and districts committees, and even small national unions.

Support grew swiftly in mining areas, in iron and steel, and also in metal and construction. The movement was not only an extension of the anti-Green movement, but also a direct attack on the influence of official union policy.

The Ministry also played an important role, especially in the construction industry. The Ministry's efforts to ensure that the unions were not influenced by the Comintern were recognized.

But after this early growth and influence in the 1920s, the movement began to fade. This was due to the restoration of the trade unions during the 1920s, as well as the Comintern's increased emphasis on industrial unity.

In the 1930s, the movement was taking on a new life when Stalin took over the reins of power in 1924.

The success of the movement was due to the leadership of the Comintern, which was instrumental in mobilizing the movement and providing guidance on how to work within the official trade unions. The Comintern also played a key role in mobilizing the movement and providing guidance on how to work within the official trade unions. The Comintern also played a key role in mobilizing the movement and providing guidance on how to work within the official trade unions.

After the defeat of the strike, Ben Turok (the TUC and Sir Alfred Mond of IC of IC told how the pattern of open class collaboration was political alliance — we now irreconcilably committed to serving the working class and the working class.

The urgency of revolutionizing old lines on two fronts meant that the "Socialist" character of the reform movement was no longer acceptable. The "workers'" leadership fell into the hands of the Comintern line leaders, who were no longer idealistic.

The general strike was declared — not only by Harry Pollitt but also by Jack Tzarow — as an attempt to follow the line of the British trade union movement. The strike was eventually forced to accept the narrowest concept of the Comintern line that was not always easy to do.

The new tactics involved the creation of a "bourgeois" government and a "bourgeois" attempt to exploit and form alliances with the "bourgeois" in order to build non-working-class formations which would lead to the elimination of the Bolshevik party, a new, revolutionary trade union movement.

The new policy was disastrous. The Comintern leaders had wanted to change the existing unions, not destroy them, but to improve the new union and develop a new, revolutionary trade union movement.

THE PUBLICATION in English of a little selected volume of Poems by Nazim Hikmet, translated from the Turkish by Paul Lull, 1967, 36 pages, 2 marks 64. Book Club Edition, paperback 76 64.

This little book is the only one available in English and is highly recommended. The poems are rich and varied, touching on love, politics, life, and death.

There's no need to choose freedom:

Certainly he would have been in prison when he wrote in 1949 of people dying of hunger and poverty, but he was not against the regime. He was against the regime because he considered it a threat to the liberation of the working class.

That's why those waiting to see free his blue eyes will see a drop of blood.

There is no violence in these poems which are unifying in courage:

"In the twilight of the last moment to see your figure and you, and see the illusion, I shall take to my grave."

There is also unifying faith in the all-powerfulness of the world, since coward or brave, literate or illiterate, they alone, with the help of the living, the dying and the dead, are the makers and breakers, and are their own authority and sustenance of word, and all the rest.

For 33 years after his first imprisonment, Nazim Hikmet, the revolutionary, was kept in prison. But the day before his death in 1963 his name began to appear in the press again, his name was used, and his poems were read, and the time — told me, and gradually all the poems were read.

It was a great work of volume and what emerged from it was a great poet, and one who revolutionized the language of poetry, and, probably, something quite new to it — free verse.

INTENSITY

Even from this handful of poems, a man can be recognized in English, it is impossible to feel the intensity of words, the tone of revolutionary ideals by which he lived and adhered to them.

It is interesting to speculate on what happened to a poet, a man who was not a revolutionary socialist. It is hard to believe he would not have found himself in a more favorable climate in his own time, in the context of terms in the human race — Asia, Africa, Near East, Middle East, Pacific, and the people of our own country.

I mean, seventy per cent of the entire population.

From Bursa Prison, on November 11, 1933, he wrote a poem to the world, in which he thought of death, as a dead man swallowig at the end of a long, good heart, a bird of death, if the snake should be put out of the world.

"Well, those who are waiting to see your blue eyes will see a drop of blood."

There is no violence in these poems which are unifying in courage.

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ETHEL MANN
Lebus—the armchair millionaires back 1100 as 100 are sacked

by Laurie Flynn

AS THE FIRST of the 1600 Lebus workers
in Tottenham, North London, leave their prison for the last time, they are accompanied by explanations that "false alarms struck down".

The Lebus family, the theory goes, called in people who were not their workers in a desperate attempt to increase the profit to capital employed ratio.

Chef of the white nights was a Leonard Goughed.

The factory, selling off the land to the local caterers, gained £1.2 million, making 1600 workers redundant and took new plant and machinery to mechanize the production space.

Some workers believe that the failure of this attempt was due solely to his evil genius and lack of any technical or merchandising training. Others have different tales to tell.

Higher work rates

It seems Lebus launched a new brand of furniture once they had slain off the labour force, levelled down the new machine and set the rate to a helter-skelter, to the detriment of the company.

In the main responded to the call "a new normal" was produced by a new rate of work for the men working in the sales and management teams to ensure the workers were able to make something of a workable scale.

This was a great technical advantage which allowed them to sell the factory and to invest the profits of £1.2 million that they could shift out of the floor at the same time.

In fact, the workers were always down and out, and seemed to be always put on and replaced. Formally a new piece was now in production. It was not necessary for them to change their habits.

Angry woodworkers occupy their union headquarters

by Paddy Fahy (JASW)

NEARLY 300 members of the Amalgamated Woodworkers, Carpenters and Palmers’ Union were camped at the Lebus Furniture, Epping Ferry Road, London, on September 13, 1975, to protest their leaders’ initiative in the May 1975 general election.

They were protesting against the union’s decision to endorse or vote for the Labour Party in the Epping constituency seat. The decision was made by the union’s executive, which had previously rejected the idea of union endorsement of the Labour Party. The workers were angry about the lack of consultation and the lack of a clear strategy for the union.

The decision was met with widespread opposition within the union. Many members were dissatisfied with the direction of the union leadership and felt that they had been left out of the decision-making process.

The union leadership had argued that endorsing the Labour Party would help to increase union membership and increase the union’s influence in the workplace.

However, many members of the union disagreed with this approach and instead called for a more active role in the political process. They argued that the union should be more involved in political activities and that endorsing the Labour Party would not necessarily lead to increased union membership or influence.

Some members also expressed concern that endorsing the Labour Party could lead to the union endorsing other political parties in the future, which could undermine the union’s independence.

The debate continued for several weeks before the union’s executive decided to endorse the Labour Party in the Epping constituency seat. The workers were not consulted on this decision and many felt that it was a mistake.

Join the International Socialists!

Please send further details of the meetings and activities of the International Socialists to:

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OPEN ALL FILES
STUDENTS MUST DEMAND
by Martin Shaw

As a new wave of militancy has swept Britain's universities in the wake of the government's political strategy at Warwick University, which was described as 'peaceful' but in reality at least appeared to be a retreat.

The issue of the political activity at Warwick University, led by Edward Short, has led to a number of political rows in recent years. The political activity at Warwick University was described as 'peaceful' but in reality it was a retreat.

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