Homeless families ready
for battle of Arbour Square

Guerrillas spotlight plight
of hijacked Arabs see page 5
As miners get ready for a big pay battle, a militant describes pit conditions

FRED HIGGINS is in his early 40s and has been a miner for most of his life, punctuated by service in the Merchant Navy and work in the catering industry. Until a year ago he was secretary of the local Communist Party in Bentley, Doncaster. He left the party after becoming increasingly dissatisfied with its tendency to place greater emphasis on electoral politics rather than the industrial struggle. He is interviewed by John Charlton.

What are the main problems facing the British miner today?

Firstly, job security, even thought they are probably exhausted, there is a weekly threat. Fresher air will be available at the survival. Even though there is currently a shortage of labour in some areas, the number is being eliminated by increased mechanisation and by the use of labour.

The result: increased mechanisation has certainly brought with it a significant increase in wages for all categories of miners.

Ruinous shifts

The facework for example now earns £26.50 before stoppages. It will increase in workers nearly every other industry to do that and far more. The current pit earnings are far less than such as many at 10% ago. It is not surprising that the average rate of increase for all industries will be now on about £38 a week. The company's savings, largely because of machine workers have faced the same over the same period. This means that some have increased earnings and the workshopﺌi now £38 a week. The shift work has intensified, from two shifts over the early 60s to four at present. This is not only a result of the changed social structure, but also of growing confusion between trade union organisation.

FRED HIGGINS

Alarm clocks are obsolete

Increased mechanisation has also brought a rise in 'miners' accidents': falls, injuries, loss of arms, etc., and the larger volume of fines is now theatre the incidence of chest diseases - whilst the age of the bite which they become unregular.

One of my mates says, 'You don't need an alarm clock in Bawber. At half past five every morning I have to be up, although I sometimes wake up the people next to me. The NCB are very cagey about publishing these figures - which proves they aren't falling! All you can get out of the X-ray film which comes round every three months is the place and not until after some time. I've been twice when I should have been there. The NCB have not said anything about it. I've been taken to hospital. But the thing is that the miner himself is responsible for working under that level, the NCB are not.

Pushed around

Supervision has increased a great deal which, in turn, this results in a hogg being pushed round. Actually, the only way to find a job is to work when machines break down.

Then, the four-shift system also came into being. All the machinery is working, whether or not it was officially part of the NCB's plan.

What role has the NUM played in all this?

Most rank and file miners now join the union as an extension of the NUM. For workers in the industry per se.
Big Four car bosses out to smash power on the shop floor

CRISIS IN MOTORS: 2
A four-part series by John Setters

with speeding up production. The company is not prepared to negotiate the contract. The same attitude was taken in 1966 when a dispute occurred at the company's factory in Oldham where the company wanted to introduce MDW. The government set up a Court of Inquiry into the dispute and the findings were not published. The second main point at issue was the question of seniority. The company, on the contrary, would not accept that standards established by work study should be the subject of shop floor bargaining. In its final verdict the Court of Inquiry supported the company and said that "the company's arguments and defensive counter-arguments over the standard rates are not commendable in accordance with the practices of the organization and are not valid in accordance with the principles of a Marquardt Day Work Scheme." The whole purpose of MDW is to hold down wages, speed-up production and smash the power of the shop stewards.

The Coventry Employers were not content with this. They admitted in their report that workers and stewards would probably oppose MDW and stated: "The ultimate management has to decide whether or not they are prepared to assume control, and having so decided to impose firmly on the employees and their shop stewards to ensure the continued take-up of the new system." The motor workers were to increase discipline and the Coventry Report explained how valuable MDW would be:

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PHIL: The attitude of the people here is very unfriendly compared with Barbados. There, everyone says "Hello" to everyone else. Here you take a blank look as something personal, but you soon come to realise that the unfriendliness is genuine. But why?

In my first week I walked on to a train at one of the main stations and was surprised at how quickly the train left. There was no platform nearby, just a lot of people shovelling coal into the engine. I don't think I've ever seen that before. It's a bit like being in a science fiction movie, isn't it??

Trevor: We've been in this country for about five months. Poor little girl, she's been in the hospital for about a month. She's been having a lot of trouble with her teeth. It's really difficult to get to see a dentist here.

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GUERRILLAS SPOTLIGHT
PLIGHT OF HIJACKED ARABS

THE TORY PRESS has been filled with outrage at the 'terrorism' of the brave Palestinians who hijacked three aeroplanes and then became hostages for release of some of the thousands now rotting in Israeli jails.

But the press has nothing to say about the background to the situation 'hijacking' by the Zionsists of a whole country, Palestine, and the driving out of millions of people at gunpoint. As the Israelis drag in another 400 prisoners to add to the 3000 Arabs they already hold for the crime, King Hussein of Jordan gets ready to finish off the last 100,000 refugees of his own people Israel made homeless.

All the Arab governments, Arab countries and movements support him in this.

And the reason is simple. The Middle East is kept in peace and drained of its fabulous riches by a handful of rea[

Racial system

The same Western powers stand behind Israel and help it maintain its 40 year old war. It is beyond the expense of Palestine's original inhabitants to buy voting power.

In 1967 more and more Palestinians are forced to abandon their homeland in this struggle to return to a free Palestine. They have to find a refuge, to struggle on the struggle themselves instead of on a larger scale.

The Arab governments are prop[ the same thing. They don't want a national question answered by the Zionsists. They cannot afford any

by Stephen Marks

thing working for the to build up a new national question to cover up this fact with nationalist ideology.

The growing strength of the struggle has forced even some of the Arab governments to take refuge in the American and European 'peace plan'. This would set up a so-called 'Palestinian state' in the small part of Palestine and leave the rest of the Palestinians without a country.

To force this plan through Jordan's King Hussein has to eliminate first his own Prime Minister, then the Palestinian National Liberation Front which is fighting Amman and the refugee camps and getting ready for a final showdown.

In the face of this independent struggle the threat of separation only in Palestine against Jordan but against every Arab country. If the United Nations is supported by all the Arab governments and TUNO nations can expect a rough approach to goods deals from their leaders now from the coming year.

Welfare hate

THE ROAD to jail is paved with voluntary work. A 19 years old Arab has been released after 20 days in jail on bail.

The case of the man member was warned by his friend to keep his head down. The Trades Council and Socialists' Unions have the exclusive rights of the following the case.

Emilio as so far he can hardly understand why he has been locked up for a week and a half. He doesn't understand why he has been locked up for a week and a half. He doesn't understand why he has been locked up for a week and a half.

Cheque mate

MILLIONAIRE Aristotle Onassis, believed to be the main financier of the CIA's assassination of Mrs Jacqueline Kennedy, recently had a letter written on his behalf to the Greek government. The letter asked for a loan of 20,000 dollars to pay his taxes.

Says the Greek government that there was no licence anywhere near to keep his son's name. Ali as an aide, to the Prime Minister that Mr Onassis has a lot of money in the Greek country.

Sparks fly

THREE YEARS ago the Electricians' Union raised through a fighting scheme for electricity in the construction industry which involved a new and obscure principle. Upgrading the wages of the City and Guilds certification in the industry and the workers in the industry to be classes as a Technician and an electrician. The electricians were paid higher wages.

The scheme was halted as a breakthrough by the right wing union leadership and the employers association. The scheme was supplanted by an 'agreement' system of promotion based on skill. Just how effective the examination system on which it is all based can be is clearly seen in this year's exams. Six men who passed the City and Guilds B certificate.

Towy nations can expect a tough approach to goods deals from their leaders now.

Join the International Socialists

There are branches in the following areas:

SCOTLAND
-Edinburgh Chalmers/Dundee/Dundee

NORTH EAST
- Gateshead/Darlington/Darlington

NORTH WEST
- Bolton/Manchester/Manchester

MIDLANDS
- Birmingham/Croydon

VALES AND SOUTH WEST
- Birmingham/Middlesborough/Southport

SOUTH
- Salisbury/Dorset/Devon/Fowlers

EAST
- Cambridge/Endicott/Bristol

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

Name
Address

Send to IS, Coton's Garden, London WC1.
SHELL STRIKERS OUT FOR 8 WEEKS OVER SCAINS’ BUSINESS

ENGINEERS SHARE STRIKE PAY WITH SPARKS

EPTU expulsion 3 militiamen

PRESSURE

It is essential for them to maintain their authority, not to lose touch with the membership, because they need it not be able to prevent the spreading of the strike, or the only effective tactic that is to direct the work.