Only 10 days to go

December 1970

sun 6 13 20 27
mon 7 14 21 28
tue 8 15 22 29
wed 9 16 23 30
thu 10 17 24 31
fri 11 18 25
sat 12 19 26

Have you voted to strike yet?

The signs are that tens of thousands of workers will be on strike on Tuesday 8 December as part of a national day of action against the Tory government's proposals to cripple the trade union movement.

Every day there is news of fresh support for the strike. Engineers, car workers, print workers, dockers, teachers, airport workers, shipyard workers in all parts of the country have decided to make a big drive to pull out all their members on 8 December.

The strike, called by the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions, cannot be too big. It must be the most important day of political action by trade unionists in the post-war period.

Is YOUR place of work discussing the Tory proposals yet? Have you and your workmates thought about supporting the strike?

You should. The trade unions face one of the biggest and most vital battles of their history.

The Tory plans will mean: Outlawing unofficial strikes, smashing the closed shop and threatening shop-floor leaders with fines and imprisonment if they campaign for strike action.

Only union executives that are legally "registered" will be able to call strikes - and even they can be "cooled-off" for 60 days if the government declares a national emergency.

But only 2 per cent of all strikes are official. That means that workers will be deprived of their fighting ability - to strike at the workplace against dangerous conditions or speedup or for more pay.

As inflation roars on, how can workers keep abreast of rising rents, fares and prices without the strike weapon at their disposal?

There has to be a massive fight by organised workers to smash the Tory Bill. Only the rank and file can lead that fight - so far only two union executives are backing the 8 December strike and the TUC is confining its protest to a London rally next January.

Fight for your rights! Call factory and workplace meetings now and vote for strike action on 8 December.

A quiet word of advice to red baiter Robens

Shut your coal hole!

'Outlaw strike pickets' says Coal Board chief

Lord Robens is at it again. The present £22,500 a year chairman of the National Coal Board has unearthed yet another 'Red Plot' to destroy the economy and inflict of a dreadful dictatorship on us.

Speaking in Hull on Tuesday to members of the British Institute of Management, Robens said: 'You are up against a conspiracy in this country and those of us who stand up and speak are called Red baiters who are expected to wink away. I will not wink away. I accuse the millions of this country, backed by a communist conspiracy, of trying to do what the Russians have and are able to do in this country and Western Europe.'

He complained that strike pickets were using new payment methods and were paid from factory to factory, in order to put together and threaten other workers into joining strikes.

Wild talk.

Robens produced not a single shred of evidence to back up his allegations.

In spite of his wild talk of 'violence' against the miners' strikes, no strikers were arrested and even police chiefs pull pull such his statement.

Robens' speech is a sign of how Radical sections of the employing class are becoming. As inflation threatens to get completely out of control, they cast about hystically for a scapegoat.

's That's been overdone. Black! Careful - mustn't tread on Enoch's territory. Ah, let's dress up the old conspiracy talk again. We haven't got a thing to America.

The familiar cliches - 'violence, intimidation, conspiracy, despondency.' There is violence in our society - the miners know it. The violence that maims and kills men in filthy and dangerous working conditions.

There is intimidation from bully boys like the AFIs who deny workmen a basic wage of £120 a week and who demand more work, more sweat from a smaller workforce or they'll close your pit and throw you on the scrapheap.

There is a conspiracy, organised by a tightly-controlled group of well-paid men. They're called the ruling class. Through the press and loyal mouthpiece newspapers like the BBC, they place the blame for the economy's problems on the shoulders of the workers.

And, yes, there is a dictatorship, a dictatorship of the ruling class! One per cent of the population, who own

Robens: sinister undertones to his speech

and control all the wealth the workers produce.

It is impertinent to dismiss Robens' rantings as those of a man who has become half-crazed by the pursuit of more wealth and profit. But there is a sinister undertone to his attacks.

'Seize Nettle'

He called for savage legal actions against the right to strike and picket, to break the provisions of the 1996 Trades Union Act.

If the government wants to seize the nettle firmly, it would introduce a very short Bill of very few clauses and it would withdraw the whole of the legal protections of the 1996 Act from workers who break the rules.

This would make their picketing illegal. It would be a restriction on trade and instead of police having to protect the picket lines they could dispense with them.

Already some sections of the ruling class aren't satisfied with the anti-democratic measures put forward by the Tories. They want even more vicious attacks on rank and file trade unionists.

Workers have to grasp the nettle, too. We can't sit back and watch the rules - rules drawn and framed by the bosses and the judges.

We have to organise our efforts to build a movement that will effectively shut the mouths of Robens and all the despotic and hideous of his ilk.

We have to do it, that the months and take away the trade union rights of every working man and woman in this country.

Big interest in IS conference

Tremendous interest has been shown in the conference called by the International Socialists to discuss a militant policy to defeat the Tories' anti-union laws and to democratis the trade unions.

Coaches, minibuses and cars will bring delegates from all parts of the country to the conference in Birmingham on Saturday 5 December.

The conference will meet in the Digbeth Civic Hall from 10.30 am to 5 pm. The morning session will deal with a debate against the government's Bill.

In the afternoon delegates will debate a policy for rank and file control of the trade unions. This will include a discussion on the role of full-time union officials and their accountability to their members.

Don't delay - time and places are short. Write for credentials now to IS secretary, 5 Cottons Gardens, London E2 6DN.
Curb inflation at workers expense

INFLATION, we are told, is a major problem. Few people would deny it. Every week prices rise. Every week a typical wage packet buys less than the week before unless action is taken.

Explanations of inflation can be read any day in the capitalist press. Wages rise faster than the prices of the goods they sell. So prices also rise, until the original pay rise is cancelled out. Workers react by demanding further wage rises. And so the vicious circle starts all over again.

How much more logical it would be, authoritative voices argue, if some policy could be devised that would plan wages and do away with this endless cycle.

But if it is important to understand that under the present system of society such schemes can never work to the benefit of working people, increased wages are not the cause of the present inflation. The most important strikes of recent months have been of lower-paid workers who have repeatedly got their prices and incomes policy and 'wage freeze'.

Further, there is the Increase in the number of cases where wages were rising more slowly than prices. Their pressure has not been the cause of the rising prices.

You have to look further afield for the origins of the present inflation. Two things are obvious: The US government is using the power of the state to almost unprecedented heights throughout all western countries.

More workers want more

This rise in interest rates probably makes the US government want to raise rates higher to the moneylenders. In order to protect their own profits they raise the interest rates. Public authorities wanting to build new houses and roads had to pay increasing amounts on interest repayments, and so raised taxes, rates and charges, further squeezing the population.

Once under way the process is self-perpetuating. Workers do respond by demanding wage increases to keep abreast of prices. But these are now only increased in proportion to the rate of inflation.

Under the present system of society there is only one way in which the inflation process can be stopped - the US employers persuading or forcing workers to accept a cut in real wages. This is what the Tory government is trying to do at the moment. It has been approved by the countries of the imperialist centre, which would be living standards through increased welfare charges, fares, postage charges, and so on.

Many people who see that such an approach is wrong try to suggest that there is an alternative one, which would involve only not keeping wages and prices rises in line. The trouble with such a scheme is that it just will not work. When prices are going up all over the world you cannot freeze them in just one country.

A broader policy is needed. Not an 'incomes policy', but a policy that tackles the roots of these problems in the ownership of society's wealth by a socialist government which could set interest rates could be cut right down - but only if the mass of the population intervened to stop a small minority using resources abroad for their benefit.

Such a policy will never be taken up by a Tory government, nor by a Labour one. It requires direct political and industrial action by the whole working class. The moment to build is now for a political movement of workers capable of arguing for and leading such action.

MORE BARBARISM IN VIETNAM

THE VICIOUS BOMBING of North Vietnam at the weekend underlined yet again the fact that the war in Indochina continues. The US government continues to burn, bomb, kill and maim. The Vietnamese continue to fight back with the meagre weapons at their disposal against the most powerful state in the world.

The excuse for the US action - that the Vietnamese had shot down an American plane deliberately flying over North Vietnam to spy - reveals the emperor's new clothes of the American rulers as out to prove that they have the power to do whatever they so desire, anywhere at any time. They want to show that it is impossible for anyone exploited by imperialism in any part of the world to fight back.

Yet the background against which the most recent incident has flared up is a situation of almost total collapse in North Vietnam. American forces are being withdrawn from Vietnam, although at a slow pace.

Withdrawal is not a product of the kindness of Nixon's heart. Such has been the complete failure of the Vietnam war that US military experts have tried to explain that the cost of keeping them down has escalated beyond a figure that even the immense military expenditure can afford.

But the US government does not wish to admit defeat. Forces fighting against its control throughout the world would receive encouragement. The popular uprisings in the Pacific are a case in point. And so the slow withdrawal is punctuated by murderous outbreaks of aggression - earlier this year the advance into Cambodia, now the bombings of Laos.

Socialists and trade unionists should not merely protest at the US actions. Reserved solidarity must be expressed with those still fighting to free their country from imperialist control.

At the same time we can draw heart for our struggles from the success of the Vietnamese. If they can force the massive wapeney of the US military to retreat, workers here should be able to tear up our government's anti-union Bill.

Union leaders back from US cars strike

NO SPEEDCUT GM PAY DEAL

by Karl Fischer

DETROIT: After eight weeks of strike, the United Auto Work-

ers General Union, following a 'confiden-
tive national agreement' with the General Motors Corporation on February 26, accepted a new pact negotiated by the UAW GM District Council, although 20 per cent voted against the deal.

The proposed contract is widely inadequate in virtually every area of importance.

The main issue is money. By the end of the strike, UAW President Leonard Woodcock had cut union's wage demand almost in half, from the 74c 6d originally demanded in September (while unionists were demanding 10s 6d) down to the final settlement of 4/6d an hour for 1975 and 5/1d for 1976 for most production workers, 4s 6d an hour for mechanics.

Since this 4s 6d includes the 2s 7d already owed to workers because of the losses due to inflation in the past three years, it really only represents only o.1 or 0.2 per cent a year, or only 5 per cent of the first year and only 4s 6d of the second year.

NEAT TRICK

The major victory of the strike is the restoration of the cost of living clause. It is on this basis that the union leadership will try to sell the contract to the rank and file. In reality this claim only means a return to what conditions were in 1963, that is, a 10s 6d COL precisely at the moment it was most needed. It's a neat trick for the bureaucracy it certainly can improve on: It bargain away it. Your bargain it away in 1967 get it back after the strike and then take another victory.

The other so-called victory is even more hollow. Woodcock went to the bargaining table in September demanding 15s 6d an hour for 30 years of service at £207 a month.

He was met with the key issue in the whole situation. GM could afford the 15s 6d an hour, income tax and consideration of the principle, but none of the conditions.

They agreed to retirement after 30 years but at age 58. A worker retir-
ing at 60 could lose £30 a week in the large drop in the amount of his pension.

Woodcock flatly rejected this proposal, which had been the demand. Woodcock accepted a retirement plan that is even worse.

It does lower the age limit to 56 during the last two years of the contract, but there are numerous gimmicks attached which are bound to keep workers in the plant longer.

For instance, there is now no cut in the pension at 62 when social sec-


ity benefits start. Under the new contract there will be. Also, there will now be, at 65, a cut of 4 per cent for each year before age 62 that a person retires. And if you retire before 58, there is an 8 per cent cut for each year.

The biggest blow is the union sell-

out on working conditions. The union bureaucracy knows that to fight for decent working conditions means


dramatically struggle on every factory floor, necessitating an active, involved rank and file.

That however is the thing the union bureaucracy most fears. For over 20 years the UAW leadership has been trading off working condi-
tions for wage gains, hoping the rank and file would be apathetic and passive in return for higher wages.

Working conditions in auto, always poor, have become intolerable. No contract, even with economic gains much better than this flabby Woodcock settlement, would be acceptable unless it improved the princible condi-
tions of the Big Three auto firms.

Instead the demand for an end to compulsory overtime is bought without comment. Nothing was done to open the rampant speedup of the line speeds and production standards on the shops.

Nothing was done to oppose the deterioration of safety conditions. Nothing was done to improve the stewart representation system or to improve the hopelessly inadequate grievance procedure.

We demand:

A. A steward for every forman, so that the ranks have adequate repre-


sentation with stewards who are close to the contract and control.

B. That line speed and quotas be sub-

ject to negotiation with rank and file as it was in the 1940s.

C. That grievances be automatically settled on the job for the workers if not resolved in 30 days.

SELLOUT

To settle for less would be to waste all the gains the unionists fought for the past eight weeks. The workers are not satisfied. The sellout at GM, despite everything, the battle is not over.

Many local agreements are yet to be concluded. Many of these include important issues involving working conditions, shop floor rules, etc.

Now, more than ever before, the need for rank and file committees of auto workers at the local and shop floor level is more urgent than ever. Auto workers in large numbers have placed their trust in their trade union leadership, and that trust has been rewarded by the wretched settlement.

But it is not too late to pay out for auto workers in America today is to build their own rank and file committees to fight for their real needs, organize the workers into the whole bureaucracy and fight when and where the bureaucracy refuses to fight.

more Classy-eyed millionaires

IT COST a cool £560,000 for Pil-


kingtons to make its long-

delayed Stock Market appearance. In other words, each of the 32,500 workers unwillingly chipped in £17 each for the privilege of letting the rich deal freely in the company's shares.

I'm prepared to bet that a fair proportion of the enormous bill went unnotified to any of the workers. Certainly no expense was spared for the Pilkingtons' shareholders' dinner in the Goring Hotel for a private session with Lord Carrington and Lord Hailsham.

It was the same, I gather, for the representatives of the big institution investors, directors and the like, who in quiet meetings up and down the country, are eating diet of good food, wine and the atmosphere of the Pilkington Brothers.

I think such a reputable monopoly as Pilkingtons, acknowledged leaders of the glass industry, need to take some trouble to persuade investors to buy its shares.

It's a pity that such a question nagged at the mind of every stock market punter in the land. "What

Lord Harry: winning investors about the workers?" For the one thing that few investors will invest in Pilkingtons is its long record of happy labour relations - happy, that is for the family which probably contains more millionaires than any other in the country.

But it may take more than words to convince the hard men on the stock exchange. Lord Pilkingon brought smiles to the faces of the City workers by his. hew boast that all the 'troubleshooters' have been sacked.

Scopics in his audience were wonder-

ing - at least one hopefully - how many remain.

Arthur Millium
Tory cuts are a threat to your teeth

by MICHAEL SILVER, secretary dental

INCREASED dental charges have been among the least discussed of the government's welfare cuts. Yet they will have a disproportionate effect on working-class families.

A full adult course will have to pay half the total cost of any treatment at the dentist with maximum charge of £10.

Children will be able to claim exemption from the cost of treatment — but only if their total family income, before deductions, is less than £20 a week. And they will have to submit to a means test.

A minority go for treatment regularly every six months and can take the time off work to do so. The new charges will be too high to cost them between 10 and 30 shillings each time.

Many more than at present will simply put off going until the need is urgent. By that time the treatment required may be very costly.

**Keep away**

For example, if you wait more than five years, quite simple attention is likely to cost between £4 and £5. You won't even know in advance what the total cost will be.

If your dentist decides you have to have a large filling instead of a small one, it can suddenly double or treble the charge. If the filling becomes infected, the cost will rise accordingly. Gum treatment will cost £2 15s. and crowns and dentures £5 15s.

Many more than at present will simply put off going until the need is urgent. By that time the treatment required may be very costly.

**Aches and pains**

Millions of workers and their families will suffer in the long term from the government's measures. Their teeth will deteriorate and the pain will increase.

Their mouths will be full of a variety of irritating aches and pains. Their overall capacity for enjoying life will fall.

Finally a piece of advice for Socialist Worker readers: go to the dentist before 31 March. The treatment started by that date will be at the old prices.

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**Deeper tendency**

This does not mean that we support the line of some anarchists and Maoists. We do not seek uprisings with the police, sabotage or assassination.

These are the acts of desperate men — of individuals rather than the class — and consequently, as Trotsky pointed out, do not further the class struggle.

It is enough to arm oneself with a revolver to reach the goal, then to what end are the endeavours of the counter-revolution? If a patch of powder and a slab of lead are ample to shoo a dog from a potato, then what need is there of a class organisation?

There is no reason or motive in scaring entitled persons with the noise of an explosion, what need is there for a party? What is the need of meetings, mass agitation, elections, when it is so easy to take aim at the ministerial bench from the parliamentary gallery?

"Individual terror in our eyes is inseparable precisely for the reason that it lowers the masses in their own consciousness, reconciles them to impotence, and directs their glances and hopes toward the great swenzer and anachronist who will some day come and accomplish his mission."

Working class organisation and political action are the only weapons in the struggle for socialism. Because we have such a powerful armament of ideas, we have no desire to resort to violence and do so only when forced to.

We are a proliic people. We will even be glad to see someone in a socialist Britain ...

We'll send him down the mines.
Disease: the scars of the system

The union tries...

"INHALATION of coal dust causes no damage to the lungs of coal miners, and gives even protection against the development of tuberculosis." — J S Haldane, Director, Mining Research Laboratory, Birmingham University, 1923.

"TT MUST be admitted that medical men, by their ill-informed compliance, have a heavy load of responsibility for bearing the present high incidence of occupational diseases among coal miners." — C M Fletch-er, British Medical Journal, 1948.

The doctors lie ...

"A RECENT parliamentary question elicited the figure of 33 per cent. of medical inspections of patients suffering from chest troubles freely than Oxford or Cambridge and a further 13 per cent from grant-aided schools. Professional schools draw from 3 per cent of the population." — SOCIALIST MEDICAL Association, A Royal Commission on medical education.

"The average worker...

ITEM: A severed and maimed, smooth, and shining machine... A worker's body is wound against the machine, and the other is wound against the worker..."

ITEM: A power station worker spots a fire in the boiler and makes a desperate attempt to get it at last. He fails to do so."

ITEM: A man with the body of a man and the face of a machine..."

There are these three accidents from this year's record harvest of the dead and wounded on the factory floor. The Factory Inspectors' report on 1969, published last month, reveals an upswing of 3.2 per cent in the total of 222,900 accidents.

The rising trend in reported accidents, which began in 1963, made its single biggest jump last year. The total now stands at nearly 70 per cent above the figure for 1962.

Two accidents

The present rate amounts, in flat statistical terms, to the fact that those who work in the factories are the victims of two disabling accidents during their working life. Every week of the year, 12 workers are killed or maimed..."

The Tories haven't even bothered to deplete the report but the Confederation of British Industry has acknowledged that the position is deteriorating and estimates the losses 'to the country' is now over £600m a year.

What consolation it is to the 664 families whose dead just does not come home from work one evening no one bothers to ask..."

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Why it is that medical men, by their ill-informed compliance, have a heavy load of responsibility for bearing the present high incidence of occupational diseases among coal miners."

George Dobson is a 67-year-old miner who has pneumoconiosis and has been out of work for five years on a 50-a-week pension.
Worker can expect to be disabled twice in his life

Dr Gerry Dawson

£100 - £132 12s per centane - the utter corruption of human values under capitalism is more than usually clear.

The demand for an occupational Health Service, which has been continually put by Labour and Communist Parties as well as by many medical organisations, is now further away than ever. The new system of 'community medicine' advocated by the Todd Report must, it admits, limit the scope of the services demanded of British industrial medicine and we do not expect any major changes in this respect in the foreseeable future.

Safety standards on the shop floor depend very largely on the strength of workers' organisation and, in particular, the right of elected representatives of the men, usually the steward, to have direct access to this factory inspector when he visits the factory.

A study made by members of the Socialist Medical Association in Birmingham of over 100 union branches (the EPTU declined to co-operate for political reasons) showed that despite much lip-service from management and union officials on better safety, its practical application was forced second to the need to earn a decent pay packet, without regard to life or limb.

The doctors write: 'Many men have written excellent comments, but it is obvious they cannot afford them, cannot "stick them out" for fear of victimisation. The economic cost of safety measures should not be allowed to weigh against safety and accident prevention. Management closes its eyes if it slows down production.'

A question of priorities

Safety delegates

The TUC is on record, repeatedly, to obtain legislation concerning the right to elect safety delegates at the works place with:

1. Power of instruction of their department.
2. Right to set up safety committees.
3. Right of safety delegates to accompany factory inspectors on visits to the factory.
4. Advice of factory inspectors to be available to the safety committee.

These oft-repeated recommendations might have a little more meaning if militants to the TUC didn't spend so much of its energies flitting with seductive "production," 'high wage, high output' schemes that hinge on weakening the power of stewards.

The number of safety committees is increasing under voluntary initiative, primarily from the trade union side. The November 1970 Ministry of Employment Gazette found a 34 per cent increase on the previous year (not including construction sites where they are most urgently needed).

The scope of such committees, their independence of management and their powers to act on hazards regardless of concern for profit is not specified. For it is a question, perhaps the most important, of worker's control, of the balance of class forces in the shop floor.

A doctor writing in Socialism and Health (the journal of the Socialist Medical Association) says:

'Speaking at an AEU branch in Slough, I heard of the safety committees set up by the men, the efforts to achieve power for their committee and the effects this is having on health and safety.'

'Of course they want legal backing - legislation and an occupational health service. But theirs is the only way it will be achieved, through political pressure.'

'Any man fell into an unlabelled drum of phenol - and died. Now the factory concerned has introduced special tape to mark the danger.'

For socialist health workers as well as trade unionists, the battle to stop the shop floor slaughter is part of the class struggle whether we like it or not. Medicine, of all the bourgeois professions, falls over itself to show its freedom from class or class considerations.

But when a doctor in the steel industry wrote: 'We are working under conditions (losing nearly £5 in wages) because his eyesight is no longer perfect, rather than attempting to compensate a man whose eyes have been ruined by hard and unhealthy conditions, or when a pot-bellied judge orders a fine amounting to £12 per cent for a base guilty of allowing 22 workers to barn to death, class medicine and class justice are clear to see.'

The fact that nothing worth calling real industrial health is likely this side of socialism should not stop us campaigning for.

Shop floor safety committees. An increase in the numbers and powers of factory inspectors.

An occupational health service. Total opposition to productivity deals that increase danger.

Workers' control

But the key remains working class confidence and control. A steward on a Manchester petrochemical plant where an explosion and subsequent death of a 16 years old worker sparked a one day protest strike earlier this year, put it like this: 'The truth is, under capitalism, you'll never get safety in construction.'

A really safety conscious firm would just go out of business. Short of workers control, health depends on the level of organisation on the job.

'You can see it in the accident statistics - there are less deaths and injuries in the well organised part of the country. We need more training, but most of all we need to develop the confidence of the lads so that they'll feel strong enough to refuse to work in unsafe conditions at any time.'
The meaning of Marxism

A weekly column by Duncan Hallas

The reasons for Marx's belief that periodic and increasingly severe economic crises are inevitable under capitalism can now be considered. The driving force of the system can be summed up as a tendency to accumulate capital.

Competition between capitalist concerns forces each firm to attempt to expand its share of production by converting surplus value into capital. This can be done by increasing output, reducing costs and so to push up wages. To minimise wage costs more sophisticated and expensive machines are introduced and extra mechanisation is introduced. The productivity of each worker and hence the amount of surplus value extracted.

An unwanted consequence of this mechanisation is the relative stasis of the relative stasis of the profit per worker or rise in the organic composition of capital. This downward pressure on the rate of profit.

The immediate cause of slumps is not this long-term tendency but short-term fluctuations in the rate of profit. Of course every actual slump has some particular causes of its own but certain causes are always present. In the event of a boom of labour demand for labour rises, output increases and so does capital accumulation. There is a growth in the addition of additional machinery and equipment. Unemployment shrinks so does the most important check to the upward rise of wages and so the rate of profit tends to rise.

But as soon as this depression touches the point at which the surplus value of the capital is no longer supplied in normal quantity, a demand for capital appears and capital no longer covers the production costs. This results in capital accumulation, as a slump, and the rate of profit in wages checks a recession. (Marx)

In fall of demand

The result is a recession, which is first felt in the heavy industries making capital goods. Departments I and II of the Marxian analysis of the working of workers in this department begins to fail to cover and so on a sale fall in demand. This means that the demand for raw materials begins to fall and so spreads the recession to the sector of industry making these goods.

Marx calls this sector Department III, the sector which deals with things for which there is no actual demand. They are generally capital goods for the一手ness of the classification by Marx.

Unemployment rises until the wage level of the boom have been reduced to the level at which the rate of profit starts to rise again. A new boom begins.

This is a very simple model of the way in which such a cycle occurs. It is an oversimplification of the mechanism, but the more levelling elections in the coal industry are the only means to further to the rules allow.

Hysterical rift

But the Communist Party - much the biggest organised element in the coalition - is now counting 80 per cent of the local election committees will make sure the government only distributes indifferent between the three parties and the constitution. Of course, the new Minister of Labour is from the Communist Party.

The hysteric of the left has little justification in Allen's action. It is just in fact that the left parties have not done enough to reduce unemployment.

Wage cut

Allen Social Democratic party not the British government in the post-war period. This period is marked by a series of policies aimed at reducing unemployment and the rate of profit.

Wage inflation is the product of Capital's mass of surplus value. Surplus value is the excess of the value of the commodities produced by workers in a period of time.

If the government is to achieve wage inflation it must reduce the share of workers' wages in the total value of commodities produced. This is done by reducing the rate of profit.

Allen does not have much time in which to produce results. Allen is in recession, with some 30 per cent of its productive capacity unused. This was after years of failing to achieve power through guerrilla warfare anywhere in Latin America. Allen has now few supporters in the region. It is said that he has threatened to withdraw his support from the Chilean guerrillas, the MRK, and so it is unlikely the MRK will back Allen's boat.

The initial stage of this programme is vague. Where it is specific, the government has neither a solid enough majority in the assembly to enact its aims, nor enough organised popular support outside the assembly to strengthen the establishment into power.

Allen want to make more equal the distribution of income in Chile. The government, at the mercy of the 10 per cent of the population that takes half the national income. He wants to freeze the thousands trapped in miserable slums around the cities and give them jobs. He wants to give a share of the wealth to the half of Chile's children that suffer from malnutrition. And he wants to break the stranglehold of foreign capital and local monopolies over Chile's economy.

To do this, the mass of the people must be brought into the fight for the cause, to the people for their own benefit and to the people for the benefit of all people. The Popular Unity coalition created election committees and up the list of workers and peasants' organisations to make sure that the people of all classes would see the Assembly and the ruling class that the people have the right to have a say in their own government.

But this goes very far beyond the stage of political parties in Allen's constituency. Allen has been at the centre of Communist efforts in the country. The more petty elections in the coalition are playing an important role in this.

Allen Social Democratic Party is not the British government in the post-war period. This period is marked by a new political climate in the region.

The hysteric of the centre and the hysteric of the left has little justification in Allen Social Democratic Party's action. It is just in fact that the centre and the left parties have not done enough to reduce unemployment and the rate of profit.

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Bronco beats the royal ban

WHEN THE FILM Bronco Bullfrog opened recently at the Cape Town Poly in London, it received favourable press reviews. Every city there were long queues of disappointed people who couldn’t get in to see it.

Ten days later the film was taken off in Britain by Cheltenham’s culturally more acceptable Three Sisters. Buffed newspaper reporters were told that Princess Diana was graciously granting the premiere of Three Sisters with her presence and that “this was the only date Her Royal Highness could fit in her crowded diary.”

So Bronco Bullfrog had to go. So much for the customer always being right.

Fortunately, Bronco Bullfrog being shown at various other cinemas and readers should make every effort to track it down and see it, if possible. It’s a small-scale budget and shot starkly in unflattering black and white but the film portrays the life and problems of a small group of teenagers in London’s Slendro.

Bored and frustrated, the group develops an inevitably into petty crime and conflict with the police. Often awkward and inarticulate, like the boys themselves, Bronco Bullfrog manages to effectively communicate the utter lack of hope or meaning that is their life. It’s the film’s “hero” main problem is in his girl friend’s disapproving mother and this forms the central conflict. He leaves his family and gets away with her, realises that this is no solution and all returns to “face the music.”

On the run

But before he can do this, he involves himself in his best friend’s friendship in a senseless fight with a policeman. The film ends with the boys on the run from the law with a grim future ahead of them in the swinging, permissive 1970s.

Bronco Bullfrog wisely offers no solutions to the problems it poses. It is an unsullied working out of the dilemmas of these young lads.

Politics of any form or variety plays no part in their lives. One of their main problems is their inability to become involved in any meaningful social activity whatsoever. They perceive their problems to be private and personal and find great difficulty in even relating to each other in this group.

The film does have its weaknesses. It’s a bit slow and it might have made a much better documentary (its plot is, to say the least, a little thin) but it is honest and unprejudiced.

It is well worth seeing. But Princesiana should not go to see it, in a much publicised visit on Monday.

Martin Tomkinson

NOTICES

OVERSHADOWING all else on television in the past week has been the transatlantic debate. The impact of the news pictures, the tragic immediacy of the reports of the missing, escalating figures of the dead and dying, are an emotional fact in the world’s best and its worst.

About the world’s worst, there are the news on our screens just a few hours after it happened. At its worst, because it is all so grisly and so quick.

The appalling facts have scarcely had time to register before the media men converge into a new gear, gains cheerfully and says: “In Australia, Geoff Boycott is in his way to another century...” or “Latest bookmakers’ odds on the Miss Sweden 20-1 favourite.”

Indictment

Even worse, the grisly copans on TV followed by the honeyed words of the commentators that tell us the soft pleasures of central heating, Finland Frozen Fish Fingers and Peroni Whitestems, always a sick indictment of our own society with its eight million below the poverty line, but so much ticker in a whole world riven by disaster and starvation.

If only we would reach out and stop the folly machine, say for humane reasons. The headings are all the commercials, forget about cricket and beauty contests, and get down to a real analysis of what has happened in a brutal way.

But that would mean interfering with the ‘schedules’, affecting the moment and annoying the advertisers. There I go, getting all subversive again.

The unfolding pictures of the lives of human beings are echoed on my mind. A few years ago there there would have been an outcry against such horror being brought into millions of living rooms. We are more used to that. We are used to horror. Perhaps an up-to-date definition of socialism is a society in which just one television picture of a person dead from violence or starvation will spark off a great roar of outrage from the electorate.

Boring

Outrage seemed confined last week to Miss World. Kim Novak summed up the shrivelled attitude to women at the time of Marilyn Monroe. The only one to put a note of protest of some kind in the beauty contest was Dina Merrill, a young American who spoke up for the death of her sister, Lee. Her speech was without the usual monotony attitude to women shown by such contestants, it is so full of suffering and unsexiness. I say this on past experience so this wouldn’t bring myself to watch this time.

Yet another reminder to watch the Jean-Paul Sartre serial The Roads to Freedom (BBC 2 Sundays, repeat Saturdays). With the approach of the second world war the serial has really hit its stride and is the standout programme of the week.

BBC’s Omnibus on Sunday gave us a sensitive and moving account of the story of the tormented Italian painters, as the long and uproarish story of how Miss World ended in its usual manner. It’s actually far from being a culture valliance.

David East
ELECTRICIANS 
VOTE IN 
CRUCIAL FLECTION

CASTLE: new recruit for left?

Will the government introduce further legislation to give us the 'freedom' to drive on the right in the land we have to decide not to pay our taxes and duties?

A further paragraph says: "There would be corresponding provisions to protect people working employment."

The new act may be in the form of a bill or a resolution. The government is to hold a meeting on the issue.

Woodcock: What would you do if the shop struck against demands for pay?

"We would not accept," he said. "We would be prepared to go on strike."

Compelled

Trade unions must realize that they will be in trouble if the Bill is not defeated.

There are many objectionable features in the proposals, including the right to impose procedures 'agreements' in certain cases. This means that we can be compelled to work under provisions which we have not approved or agreed.

Industrial reform is not the only end to which the government has made notice that it intends to change the balance of power in our society. Mr. Carr's challenge is part of the government's whole political challenge.

That union answer must be political too. This is the way to win."

Carr - The New Statesman

Malcolm Reid

Teaching job: yes

by Duncan Hall, secretary ILT/AA Action Committee

Layoffs hit Ford body plant

Women prepare

British Women's National Coordinating Committee has agreed to start preparations for demonstrations during the week before International Women's Day on 8 March next year.

The campaign is being co-ordinated by the SWP and is for full employment and rights for women and men.

Women prepare

The International Socialists, a group of feminists, is planning a demonstration to demand an end to discrimination against women in education and industry.

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NOTICES

8 SOCIALIST WORKER 28 November 1970

SW Reporter

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No strikes clause

ON MONDAY, EPTU leaders signed an agreement with the Electrical Contractors' Federation that promised there would be no sympathy strike by craft members of the union in support of technical and clerical staff.

30% of the agreement says that the union 'undertakes not to authorize members of the craft section of the union in a further area of interest to any group affected technical and administrative staff employees.'

The agreement also bans the use of the strike weapon, and the clause is needed to ensure that the EPTU's strategy of action is not undermined.

Women prepare

The International Socialists, a group of feminists, is planning a demonstration to demand an end to discrimination against women in education and industry.

The campaign is being co-ordinated by the SWP and is for full employment and rights for women and men.

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