International Socialists say

KILL THE BILL

KICK OUT THE TORIES!
The way forward from 21 February

THIS WEEKEND will see the largest demonstration of organised workers in London for a generation. Tens of thousands will be marching down the Embankment on a demonstration sponsored by the official leaders of the union will stress that the action taken is 'not political'.

The idea that we are faced with a co-ordinated attack by the government on many of the gains working people have been able to win over the last 25 years is false.

The workers have a carefully thought-out strategy aimed at hitting us on several fronts simultaneously. The first prong of their attack is on the welfare services. By increasing the cost of school meals, by pushing up service charges, by doing away with school milk, the government hits at those sections of the working class least able to fight back - the sick and the young.

At the same time it is mounting a more bitterly fought onslaught on organised workers. It is trying to hold down living standards by forcing key sections of workers into submission, in order to set an example to others.

The council workers got a 15 per cent wage increase, the miners 12 per cent, the power workers just under 11 per cent. The government has been trying to make the postmen accept still less.

Thirdly, the government is intent on worsening working conditions. It hopes that workers who have difficulty getting a straight wage increase in order to keep up with rising prices will accept productivity deals instead. So the wage packets grow - but only if the workers work harder and accept that many of their workmates are forced out of work.

The Towy Bill is part and parcel of these measures. It aims to make the fight against them more difficult. The government believes that if the Bill is not accepted, strikes and attempts to organise a living standards defence and will make more readily put up with worsening conditions and productivity deals.

All these measures alone, of course, do not prove that the Bill is against the Bill and the fight to defend living standards is not political. The welfare state, working conditions, the government has no compunction about launching a political offensive against the working class. What is needed is a unified, political fight back by organised workers.

The industrial strength of organised workers must be used to resist the government's attacks. The one-day strikes called by the TGWU and other unions could be the beginning of such a fight back - although one-day strikes by themselves will not bring the struggle to a successful conclusion.

Rank and file workers in all industries have to be made aware of the significance of such action. Pressure has to be kept up on the union leadership to make them support and extend the campaign.

The building of delegate-based Councils of Action in each locality is essential. General strike is what is going on there. The government's efforts to decentralise industry as possible should be brought together to campaign not just against the union laws but also in support of sections of workers picked on by the government.

The government's attacks can be watered off, but only if there is a unified response from organised workers. This will not come about without our own leaders acting independently of society in which the working class for the first time controls its own destiny.

POWELL: NUMBERS GAME

ENOCH POWELL'S latest speech on immigration deserves to be treated with the utmost contempt by organised workers. At a time when tens of thousands of workers are learning that class solidarity is essential if they are to fight off attacks on their living conditions, Powell has deliberately tried to divide workers against workers.

Powell disagrees with the rest of the Conservative Party on the policies that big business needs to adopt in order to safeguard its interests. He claims not to be against trade unions and to oppose the Common Market. But his own policies are just as reactionary and anti-working class as those of Heath and Wilson.

Instead of anti-unions laws he wants 'a limitation in the supply of money' - which actually means mass unemployment. His only complaint about the welfare services is that they do not go far enough. What in fact he is doing is putting forward policies that the ruling class may accept at present, but which they cannot accept if their present attempts to push up profits fail. And he tries to put a complex complexion on these policies in order to confuse the lower middle class and many workers.

He is right to say that at any length of time with his policies, unless he is to blame himself for the frustration of the frustrations and discontentments which the mass of people feel. So he pretends there is an 'immigrant problem. But the immigration control is not accepted by him as the necessary part of the solution. Powell has never accepted the immigration law, and his leader by accepting this starting point. They speak as if there is a problem with immigration control. It is not so. Powell never argues about how many immigrants there are in the country.

The real argument against Powell is quite different. It does not matter how many immigrants he wants to see in the country. The workers are not responsible for the unemployment, the bad housing, the low wages and the miserable working conditions of all workers. It is the British ruling class - the small minority that owns all the wealth and with successive governments that have held down wages, cut into the welfare services, and broken promises about housing build.

When we have a socialist Britain in which the mass of workers make the decisions, these problems will be solved. We need a positive programme from anybody who wants to come to Britain and help our collective effort, not a positive programme from anybody who wants to come to Britain and help our collective effort.
NEW MOVES TO HARASS AND INTIMIDATE IMMIGRANTS

Tory ‘aliens’ Act is new move to split workers’ unity

LAST WEEK it was widely reported that several Pakistanis had landed on a lonely beach at Sandwich in Kent. They were said to be ‘illegal immigrants’. Such landing parties of tired, lonely men have been prominent in the news last year. The BBC produced a programme which exposed the ‘black marketing’ of people on the continent and in Britain.

The immigrants are trying to come into the country to earn enough money to keep their families back home. They suffer trials and harrowing journeys in their attempt to meet with degrading examination by the authorities. They are then shipped back like pieces of cargo to their own country.

Yet even those black people coming into Britain with the required visas and entry permits with defeating behaviour, spoiled like criminals and subjected to scrutiny and suspicion by hostile immigration officers or police, they are sometimes kept in special detention centres for several days or weeks.

Even more shocking is the fact that more than 1000 Ugandan and Kenyan Asians with British passports, citizens of this country, have been harassed and victimised by their own government. Refused entry to this country, most of them were hauled about like shuttlecocks from country to country before being allowed into Britain on a visitors’ permit.

In the Oxford dictionary, ‘alien’ is defined as something that does not belong, that is repugnant. Proposals are being dragged up by the government for publication that would classify all immigrants, whether they come from the Commonwealth or not, as ‘aliens’.

The new proposals would mean that anyone who was classified as alien would have the automatic right to stay here, to visit or to work without certain conditions and restrictions.

Police registration

An alien would only be allowed to stay in this country at the discretion of the Home Office and would only have his work permit renewed yearly, again at the discretion of the Home Office. - a very permissive, as Rudi Dutschke says.

An alien would have to register with the police at certain intervals so that the authorities would have a record of where each individual is and is doing. There is also a condition requiring that each alien report for a medical examination.

These proposals, if made into a Bill, would bring together the already legislatively and administratively successful Immigration Acts of 1962-68 as the foundation for the proposed immigration legislation.

An alien would be registered with the police and, on the slightest suspicion of disorder would be kicked out of the country.

The legislation might well be compared to the virus-patrols in South Africa. The powers of the authorities would be greatly increased and a considerable boost would be given to the racists in this country.

There is a clause in the proposals dealing with ‘citizens of the Irish Republic’. They will be in the same position as Commonwealth citizens under the Bill - classified as aliens.

Although they will not be subject to immigration control, they will probably have to register with the police, and their position will be just as unstable as that of other aliens.

Obtaining British citizenship will be made more difficult by the Bill. This can only be granted after five years stay in this country and after the work permit and after the work permit has been renewed every 12 months.

Only those with good character, which may be judged as the authorities see fit, or those immigrants with sufficient knowledge of English, would be allowed to gain citizenship.

Deter militancy

One certain effect of such legislation would be to deter newcomers to this country from joining unions, or showing any sign of militancy.

Mr Vithal Sharma of the Joint Council on the Welfare of Immigrants, said that it was possible that in 10 years time a repress

On strike 9 months

PELYMOUTH: 90 workers at the Fine Tubes engineering factory have been on strike since 15 June last year over a pay dispute in one of the most bitter and long-drawn-out industrial battles ever known who are not British citizens.

In spite of severe financial hardship the strikers are determined to hold out until they force the management to take them back.

The strike began on ‘eight months’ negotiations for a substantial pay increase broke down last September, with union officials and engineering employers righting a "T'is said as signed.

There was an unanimous vote for strike action at the factory that supplies precision tubes to the aircraft and nuclear power industries.

The management deny there is a strike and say the men were all sacked.

The wages range from £3.17 to £4.18 per hour to £5.00 to £6.00 before the strike. The average wage for female work at the factory has been given as a 10 per cent increase.

On strike 9 months

REPORT ON GINNY WEST

A Kenyan Asian forced to ‘shuttlecock’ between Britain and Africa

No entry

The racist Tories’ new move to split workers’ unity

Koko, 21, would be allowed into Britain.

Now, Koko has been refused entry - and not waiting a young woman to be left alone in India away from her family. Mr Patel’s wife and the other children have been forced to stay over there with her.

Almost in tears, Mr Patel explained the position he was in. He had no recourse was to contact the FCAI to see if an appeal can be made.

There are many cases of distress even worse than Mr Patel’s. Yet even those immigrants who manage to get into this country legally, and settle down with a job, face victimisation by racists like Enoch Powell.

Slanderous

‘Immigrants are filthy’, they take away our jobs and our houses, they live like parasites on the Welfare State’, she says one of the nonsensical and slanderous statements made by racists.

In this way, wealthy Tories like Powell divide the working class and turn their attention away from the Welfare State, the capitalist system.

It is a fact that black people who come to Britain to work possess more wealth than they get in return. Just like any other workers, they are exploited, but doubly so because of their colour.

THERE ARE BRANCHES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

SCOTLAND

Alloa/Dundee/Yorkston/Edinburgh/Glasgow/Perth/ Dumfries

MIDLANDS

Birmingham/Coventry/Northampton/Leicester/Nottingham /Nottingham

Wales and South West

Cardiff/Bristol/Cardiff/Caterham/Swansea/Plymouth

NORTH

Bradford/Liverpool/Darby/Doncaster/ Sheffield/Timperley/Luton/Wark/Stockport

NORTH WEST

Bolton/Macclesfield/St Helens/Wigan/Penrith

EAST

Cambridge/Marlow/Milton/Lincoln/ Lowestoft/Luton/Norwich/Colchester

GREATER LONDON and HOME COUNTIES

Acton/Angel/Brixton/Bermondsey/Charlton/Croydon/Dagenham/Ealing/Enfield/Ealing/Erith/Fulham/Greenford/Harrow/Hampstead/Henley/Hillingdon/Ilford/Kingston/London/Bromley/Lewisham/Mart/Premier/Theed/Richmond/Stoke/Newington/Southall/Newham/Tottenham/Trinity/Tufnell/Weston/South East/Ealing/Harrow/Lewisham/Redbridge/Shoreditch/Tottenham/Walthamstow/Westminster/Wning/Winchmore/West

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PETITION WON’T KILL BILL

THE RESPONSE of the General Council of the TUC to the most recent version of the Industrial Relations Bill is to say that the workers’ rights in the fact 40 years has been weakened.

All they have done since the Trades Disputes Act was first published in 1906 has been to hold a meeting where the TUC leaders say their modification to the bill is an attempt to improve the trade union movement. The TUC has published a pamphlet and spent £25,000 to support the campaign against the bill. The TUC leaders are therefore not in a position to say that the TUC’s policy is one of industrial relations.

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In this connection, not only the action, but the inaction and the arguments about the action become in themselves unfair industrial practice. If the employers are able to get their own hands on the trade union movement, then it is the employers who will be able to put pressure on the TUC to negotiate with the employers.

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The trade union Charter would take power from shop floor
An interview with STAN STARKEY, PTA shop steward at Ford Halewood

IT HAS BEEN SAID that the government intervened before the Ford dispute to persuade management to offer only 8 per cent. What do you think about this?
In the second half of last year the press indicated that the government was keeping a "watching brief" on future pay claims and these included Ford and Chrysler. We know that government officials met Ford directors before negotiations took place and it is quite certain that they insisted on influencing the size of the offer.

What do you think about the current political offensive by the Tory government?
It's my belief that Ford workers are significantly more aware of the political situation this time and its implications. We have the Pilkington struggle still fresh in our minds - this was a local issue which affected us deeply. Since then of course there have been the council workers, the miners, the power workers and, currently, the Post Office workers - these issues have helped people to appreciate the government's general offensive and the way they wish to pursue. Their line appears, more and more obviously, to reduce the norm for increases to an 'acceptable' 8 per cent.

As happened last year, Ford has come up in the middle of the offensive. The government no doubt feels that a victory over the Ford workers would really give them a free hand. Ford workers have - and are not avoiding - an added responsibility to all workers to see this claim through successfully - and we will.

As a shop steward, how do you think the proposed Tory industrial legislation will affect you, your work and the men in your shop?
This bill is a really grim piece of work. If it gets through it would certainly reduce the effectiveness of the shop-floor organisation at Halewood. It would tie us down to contracts like the Ford Blue Book, which is an iniquitous document. We should no longer be able to act on immediate, burning issues where we know what is wrong and how it can be remedied. What little flexibility we now have would be wrested from us.
To talk on the one hand of democracy and then relate it to the secret ballot is something I find totally unacceptable. It is my belief that democracy is based on informed opinion and it is quite unnecessary to introduce the need to second-guess the views of the workers. Action could only be necessary in conditions where someone is interested in making it simple for a certain kind of voter to express an opinion that is in line with company thinking.

Must be ignored

I am thinking of the situation that the Bill envisages with regard to your shop stewards. I think the unions - further comment is probably unnecessary because this Bill has already been called the 'Scabs' Charter'. It should be clearly understood that the Bill is aimed at trade unionists. We must not have part in accepting this legislation - it should be completely ignored.
Only leaders of the weaker union could see any advantage in the Bill, but a clearer line is being pushed by people like Hugh Scanlon and Jack Jones, ie Non-participation. Obviously union leaders are now running a hard line because of the indications from the shop-floor. This is probably why the TUC is now moving. Whether this will lead to out-and-out action against the Bill is another question.

The Wilberforce Inquiry: "Provision would not have helped"

That is why it is essential that every trade union leadership is forced to:
1. Refuse to register.
2. Refuse to accept state-imposed secret ballots on call-off periods.
3. Refuse to have anything to do with the tripartite and courts set up under the Act.
4. Make all strikes official.
5. Make it official policy to black goods and respect picket lines in defiance of the law.
6. Continue to fight officially for 100 per cent trade unionism and against a state-policed agency shop.

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THE GOVERNMENT'S attempt to make the anti-union Bill law can still be defeated. But only if it is made clear that the mere passage through parliament of the law will not be the end of the struggle against it.

The organised trade union movement has to announce now that it will not accept the law as binding.
If the main unions refused to accept the constraints imposed by the law, the Tories would face a terrible dilemma. They would not want to face the massive conflict with organised workers that would result from any attempt to imprison trade union leaders.

A new power in the law is being handed to the government to act against trade unions, to take on major union leaders, but it can take on major union leaders, but it can be used to make the law and not stick there. The National Standards Road 1, 1976. The government knows it cannot take on major union leaders, but it can hit at isolated shop stewards.

The bedrock

Rank and file organisation is the bedrock on which the rest of the trade union movement stands. It can only be opposed if union leaders make it clear that they take full legal responsibility for the actions of their members.
All strikes have to be made illegal. The law will then coincide with the massive strength of the unions and not hurt isolated individuals.
The law will also be backed up by blacking of goods and the respecting of picket lines as illegal.

What is the result? Simple. When picketers try to stop lorries entering a factory, the individual drivers will be told that if they turn back, they will be breaking the law and may be large fines. Usually they will be frightened by the need to obey the law. In such cases the law will make it almost impossible to take strikes in small, previously unorganised factories where the management are willing to introduce scales.

The famous strike at Roberts-Arened and the present strike at Fine Tubes in Plymouth are two examples of strikes that depended on the solid-arity shown by delivery drivers. The new law would have made immediate victory for the employers in both cases.
But if the Transport Workers' Union were to order their members to respect the strike, then the law would have to take on the isolated driver but the full power of that union. And if the union leaders defied the law, the government would be put in the goad. Would they dare to put Jack Jones?
The law will make it illegal to collect money in support of 'illegal' strikers. The law is to tidy up individual collectors in particular ways.
The union leaders must once more take responsibility for such unions themselves by urging their members to take such collections.

The law can be amended. But only if
MACHINES 'demand' shift workers, employers 'leed' profits and workers can become 'victims'. A recent statement sums up the spirit of the recently published report of the Price and Incomes Board on 'Hours of work, Overtime and Shift working'. "In fact, the report points out, the 'bosses' interests clearly in mind but it contains information of interest to workers. Two major points emerge - that overtime and shift working improve productivity and are increasing.

The report points out that Belgian, French, German, the Swedes have all the laws that regulate the number of working hours that employees work. The laws may need to be changed, but they exist. In Britain there is no such legal protection for the 5 million shift workers who work in Britain, young people and children. But even if the laws are changed, shift work is likely to become more widespread as more and more employers are granted 'exemption' orders allowing them to employ women and youngsters on nights.

Myth exploded

In 1965 the exemption orders covered only 4,289 women and 18 under 16 years old. By 1967, 14,147 were permitted to work night shifts. According to the PIB report, 'there is little evidence of any decrease in the number of women and young persons employed in shift work among other European countries.

The myth that British shift workers are a unique situation in Britain is exploded in the report. It shows that actual working hours for men and women in shift work exceed the average for every other European country.

On the other hand, the report points out that workers in Britain are entitled to at least 10 days' holiday a year, but not to a holiday in years of over 1,800 hours paid. However, the report shows that the average number of workers in Britain is over 2,700 hours paid, while the average for other European countries is over 3,000.

The report also points out that the 'exemption' orders allow employers to work shift workers for more than 10 hours a week. This is not the case in other European countries where the maximum working week for shift workers is 40 hours.

It is clear that the report is biased in its favour of the employers. But the report does get it wrong in its conclusion that shift work is beneficial to the economy.

The report concludes that shift work is beneficial to the economy because it 'permits workers to be employed for more hours of work than is possible with a normal five-day week'. But this is not the case in all countries. In the United States, for example, the maximum working week for shift workers is 40 hours.

Shift work damaging

In another section of the report, the PIB points out that shift work is damaging to workers' health and well-being. It states that 'shift work is damaging to workers' health and well-being because it is associated with a higher rate of accidents and accidents which are more likely to be severe. Shift work is also associated with a higher rate of heart disease, cancer and other diseases. Shift work is also associated with a higher rate of accidents, with accidents which are more likely to be severe.

The report points out that shift work is a cause of stress and stress is a cause of ill health. Stress is a cause of ill health and stress is a cause of illness. Stress is a cause of illness and stress is a cause of ill health. Stress is a cause of illness and stress is a cause of illness.

Stalin's zigzags helped Hitler and Franco to power

In the 1930s, the demand for workers in the factories was so great that some of the factories were operating at a loss. The bosses were making so much money that they were not interested in the welfare of the workers. The bosses were making so much money that they were not interested in the welfare of the workers.

By this time most of the party's activists were in concentration camps and in Italy. But there were still many who remained true to the party's ideals. The leaders of the KPD began to understand that Hitler's victory was in fact a decisive turning point.

The CI, accordingly, swung over to the far right. Alliances were sought not only with the 'social-fascists' of yesterday but with liberal and conservative anti-fascist parties. The 'popular front' was the order of the day. Revolution was definitely out.

Significantly, in Spain 1936, a coalition of liberal, moderate, conservative, social democratic and communist parties won a general election. The army, supported by the extreme right, revolted. On 17 June General Franco announced his mission to 'save the nation'. On 24 June working class risings, led mainly by anarchists and left socialists, broke out in the cities.

In Barcelona, in Madrid, in many other towns, the army was defeated and workers' militaries took control. Within a week it was clear that there were only two real forces in Spain, the troops loyal to Franco and the organised workers.

In these circumstances the Spanish CP, following the line of the CI, set out to create a coalition government with the representatives of the 'social-fascist' parties. The last thing Moscow wanted was a revolution that would upset the governments of France and Britain.

Under pressure from Russia, the Spanish republic's government was pushed further and further to the right. The left wing social democrats were pushed out as being too radical. The anarchists and independent left wing were expelled. Stalin did not want a pro-Hitler Spain and so arms and volunteers were sent to the republic on condition that they continued to support the government. Eventually the 'social-fascist' republic was crushed and the Communists were expelled. It was far later than 1939.

Moscow 1943. To please his US and British allies, Stalin formally disbanded the Communist International. The carve-up of Europe between East and West was being planned. Part of the deal was the assurance that the western CPs would be spared. The deal was a fatal error.
Striking view of society’s fringes

AT LONG last, after Warner Brothers had delayed its release for well over 12 months, Performance has reached the cinema screens (The Warner, Leicester Square). Violent, obscure and full of ambiguous symbolism and imagery, the film is an attempt to portray English society in 1971 from one unusual angle.

The two protagonists of the film, Turner (Mick Jagger) and Chaos (James Fox) are a former pop star and a hoodlum on the run from former mates. Both had been happily married, but have since lived distinctly on the fringes of society. The acrobats are obscure, but the character shows striking resemblances to the men who formed the Krey and Richardson gangs. He ‘enjoys his work’ too much and this eventually causes the rift with his superiors.

Provocative

Turner owes a lot to the Beatles, although at times it is hard to decide whether in fact Jagger is actually acting or simply living out his own lifestyle. Much of the film is both striking and provocative. The world of the professional gangster is shown accurately and fairly sensitively. The violence is present but it is tightly controlled and no attempt is made to indulge in the cruelty and mangled bodies. Equal is the life of the failed pop-star is built up both meticulously and credibly. The elaborate, ornate decorations, the mini-plantation of hallucinogenic drugs, the fashion, all of it in one of not only two girls in Turner’s bed, meaning could be of interest. But it is all just so, suffused with a weary boredom about the whole problem of having to exist.

Dropped

Yet, in the final analysis, the film must be said to fail. It fails because it does not know what it wants to say and where it wants to go. In time and again, one senses that a point is about to be developed and then it is dropped swiftly and abruptly. At times, the director seems to be ignoring the two worlds of gangster and pop star but as soon as the viewer anywhere near expects, he drops it like a hot potato and brings it in the blood of colourful but largely unconnected images.

This is a pity, because Performance has tremendous possibilities. Visually, extremely provocative, it is a film that has character and promise, but ultimately disappoints. As with Fellini’s director seems to have allowed his personal whims to dominate.

But it is also a stimulating and disturbing piece of work and for that reason alone it is well worth seeing.

Martin Tomkinson

During the postal strike, short reports may be phoned to Socialist Worker on 01-723 0179. If this line is busy try 730 2368.

ROCKET COLUMN

GREAT HILARITY in left-wing circles this week at the modelled ignorance and anonymous listing forth from the Parish of St Andrew’s, the Walcoon with St Ann, London Office of The Times.

Lord Thomson’s revamped top people’s paper is taking a look at the revolutionaries’. The aim is to dismiss socialist organisations as small, inept, without influence and with politics totally unconnected with the real world — which could suffice as a reasonable description of The Times itself these days.

The articles are written by reporters with little enthusiasm for the task and even less knowledge of the subject. Most of the facts are culled from the witch-hunting pamphlets of the far-right and are several years out of date.

Socialist Worker is a monthly paper (we know it’s a good read, but it can’t take that long) and the International Socialists are called an ‘entryist’ organisation in the Labour Party, an assertion that will bring some concern to both Transport House and IS members.

The workers go to same lengths to prove the relevance and rigour of the Communist Party compared to other left organisations but even this effort is shot through with hilarious contradictions:

‘Unlike the splinter groups, it [the Communist Party] does not bombinate in a vacuum — it has planned to achieve power through constitutional means. This is to advance step by step through domination of the unions, to domination of the Labour Party, to domination of the government. The plan may be hopeless but it is at least logical and takes account of political realities in Britain.’

End of paragraph, start of new sentence: ‘Politically, the party is in no position to openly seek power...’

The Queen: royal salute

The Queen royal salute decline...

The writers also assert ludicrously that there are 23 warring Trotskyist groups in Britain. This information might be of use to innumacists. To update Irving Berlin: ‘If you’re worried and you can’t sleep, just count the trot groups instead of sheep. And you’ll fall asleep counting your blessings.’

In the Northern Ireland police state, strenuous efforts are being made to push the Ulster TV exhibition, designed to prove that the region flows with golden opportunities for businessmen as well as Catholic workers’ blood.

The Stormont government has put out the word to Westminster that it would like The Queen, as defender of the Protestant faith, to royally open the show later this year. Westminster is understandably cool on the idea and the word from the Belfast ghetto is that it’s Queenie comes She’ll get the biggest gun salute she ever had.

Seeing the point

HOLDING THE COUNTRY TO RANSOM: the changeover to decimal money this week has given

some interesting examples of people who really hijacks the people.

The old tanner was kept in circulation in order to ease the transition and to avoid an immediate rounding-up of its equivalent, 25p to 3p. No objections were raised until the banks closed down last week for the big switchover.

Then came the word that the banks would refuse to handle 6pence, a piece of blackmail which will quickly kill the coin and lead to further price increases.

The absurd tip coin is likely to get the same treatment and all prices including tip will be rounded up to the next penny. As prices rise, workers will quite rightly stay out of wage demands and will be condemned by the bankers and financiers if the new system is driving you down, just remember that everybody that was consulted — business, commerce, even the government — wanted the basic unit to be 10p. 10p plus 20p plus 20p plus 20p make up of 100 pence.

But the Bank of England alone screamed, cajoled and threatened in defence of that absurd finish, the pound.

The Bank won and we are now lumbered with a system that is not decimal at all, will give the green light to profiteers and sharks to push up prices and profits and eat away still more at workers’ living standards.

IN SPITE OF the pleas of poverty from both within and without, the increased handouts they have received this week from the government (that is, from you and me), the BBC and the commercial

have enormous resources at their disposal.

When an organisation like Rolle-Royce occurs it should be possible to mount a major operation, to employ several dozens of workers to dig deep and present a well-documented analysis of the situation. Goodness knows, Socialism has its alibi almost non-existent resources can present a coherent report, we should expect perfection from the BBC, which is financed directly by the viewers, and ITV, finnanced indirectly by adding the cost of advertising to the companies’ products.

Back to The Week Special was a dismal effort. There was no back away to the background to the R-R crash or the repercussions within the Tory rank and file.

PETERED Out

After a quick trip around a Derby housing estate and the problems facing redundant workers, comes to the crunch to sort out with the woes of small businesses who are about to be bankrupted by the ending of their licences. The most dismal of all the Derby workers perceptive and informed opinion was that everyone, workers included, was responsible for the closures.

There was no coverage of the more militant response from R-R workers in Glasgow and Bilston. It was a studio programme and only too typical of the way the telly bosses abuse their captive audiences.

THE ITV documentary on lesbianism last week, called The Important Thing is Love, broke new ground with women speaking to the camera with the whole of their lives. In the past homosexuals have usually appeared as ‘crazy’, as ‘not normal’, as having a total darkness or with their backs to the viewer.

And at the end I felt that the programme had scarcely even addressed the issue. I am not suggesting, as some reviewers have, that the programme was a total failure but how homosexuals achieve sexual fulfilment I am concerned at the basic assumption that homosexuality of any variety is ‘odd’ or ‘different’ or ‘doesn’t work. There are unfortunate family relationships.

Condemned

The programme failed completely to point out that modern society condones homosexuality because the early capitalist class great stress on the joys of child-rearing in order to ensure a growing workforce and, with the aid of the church, vilified men and women who partook of sex for more enjoyment. I would expect not just socialist sympathisers and homosexuals who make programmes such as The Important Thing is Love, to rigorously pursue the attitude that people who deviate from the ‘normal’ might be able to join the structure of society and that all the encouragement to seek the maximum pleasure from human interaction, free from the prying economic eye of the state or parasitic humbugging in their own interest.

Various experts paraded their lack of expertise, for obvious selling point was made by a taxi driver who said they didn’t like making love with men, do they? He was asked, he then added ‘but neither do I.’

David East
Police arrest pickets

SW Reporter

BIRMINGHAM: Seven pickets were arrested, four of them Lucas shop stewards, by police on Friday at Auto Tech in Aston.

The strike started three weeks ago when the company refused to recognise the AESU.

The police charged the pickets with obstruction. When one picker from the factory ran to a phone to contact the legal union office he was dragged inside and charged with "disorderly conduct".

The police arrested the picker after telling them that he would only allow four pickets on the factory's gates and that this had been agreed with the local union secretary. Norma Cardwright, Carighart's role has been disgraceful throughout the dispute. At meetings of the 16 remaining strikers he said that the strike should end and that no 'blocking' of products could be arranged because it would be illegal.

Cross picket line

He is a leading right winger in the Birmingham area with a non-militant background. When workers at British Leylands Transmissions factory struck on 1 May, he posted a letter of Strike he turned up on the picket line with a loud speaker and urged workers to cross it.

A campaign to help the Auto Tool strikers has been launched by all the unions and their supporters are being held. A mass picket was arranged for yesterday and a picket line was held on the factory.

The illegal arrest of the seven pickets is obviously a result of the police's offensive against the strikers. The strikers are on strike in support of the Industry

Solidarity request

It is clear to socialist that the presence of was instrumental in maintaining the racist regime while lending it credibility in the world.

If Miller had been aware of his opposition he would have aligned himself with the revolutionary organisations that are in a state of war with the colonial régime.

Students organisations throughout the country are asked to support the occupation by solidarity resolutions.

Students are coming under new attacks by the authorities, local councils and the South African government. This is shown by by the Table Daily Telegraph editorial calling for a boycott on all union activities.

The rate of students is tied to that of workers. Any change in the balance of class forces in the student movement. The conviction of students is reflected in the attitude of the authorities to students.

INDUSTRIAL ALLIANCE MUST BACK POST STRIKERS

Poly students say: Kick out Smith's stooge

SW Reporter

STUDENTS in three polytechnics in London are taking militant action against the appointments.

The appointment of Professor Trenock Miller as director of the Polytechnic Institute of London (a merger of North-West Polytechnic and North-East Poly) will be stopped by an occupation on Thursday. The students have given the government no call for a general assembly of all students and staff to reconsider the appointment.

Miller, who succeeded Mr. Walter Adams of LSE as principal of University College of North London, has already been pilloried by his students.

He is reported to have betrothed three African women who had followed him from the City University. He is also said to have been involved in a sexual relationship with a student who had been promised a job.

NO CRACKS AT FORD

by Colin Beadle, Dagenham Body Plant, TGWU

The FORD STRIKE remains solid. The three week old shutdown shows no sign of giving way. Ford workers at the Dagenham Body Plant are calling for fresh talks without incidence.

The strike is the biggest and most united ever taken by Ford workers that might rise above the backs of theearlier workers' wages. The Ford strike is a company with the highest profits.

Last week the management published another statement of the "continuing conflict of Ford workers at a loss in 1981". These press advertisements, each costing £3,000 a week, are not intended to mediate, but to do the public a service by telling it why Ford is resisting and offering a pay increase. The real reason is because they can't afford any more.

As the dispute continues, so Ford's stance becomes more and more obvious. It is most convenient for the unions to break off negotiations. The strike is much stronger and the cuts in wages are still on the horizon. The cuts are still on the horizon.

TUC meeting suggested that each separate union should register under the new laws, should be allowed to sign legally binding contracts and be able to charge union members.

These suggestions are totally inadequate, together with a provision for the Employer Bill Fund to create the law unenforceable for commitment. The Employer Bill Fund around the whole trade union movement.