After Post Office defeat rank and file must say: RETREAT

THE TORIES, big business and the millionaire press have been cock-a-hoop this week. They regard the walkout of the postal workers’ strike as a victory for their efforts to force down workers’ living standards.

UPW members returned to work with bitter feelings. They had stayed out for nearly seven weeks without strike pay and there were no cracks in their ranks. But they went back to work with little more than they had before the strike started. While prices rose at 10 per cent a year, the only straight wage increase they are so far guaranteed is a miserable 8 per cent.

There will be an inpout into their wages, but there is no doubt that if this suggests a further meagre rise in pay it will be in return for heavy productivity concessions.

Workloads will be increased and postal services will deteriorate further.

And the reduction in the workforce that will result will increase unemployment for all sections of workers.

Victory for the postal workers was possible – but only if they had received real support from the rest of the trade union movement.

Other unions did make donations and loans to the UPW. Many rank and file militants organised extensive workshop collections.

EMBARRASSED

But the trade union movement as a whole did not give the massive aid the strike deserved.

According to The Guardian, Tom Jackson intended to go to the TUC to ask for further help. But he was persuaded not to by unnamed union leaders on the grounds that the General Council would be “embarrassed”.

Even unions like the Transport Workers and the Engineers were not prepared to give the sizeable donations – as opposed to loans – that were necessary to ensure that the 90,000 strikers dependent on the union’s hardship fund could be provided for.

But the postal workers’ strike was not the flight of one section of workers alone. It was part of an offensive by the Tories to force down real wages of all workers in the public sector – except for privileged groups like policemen.

INCREASED

The postal workers’ dispute will not be the last struggle in the public sector. We have to make sure that their bitter experience is not repeated with the railway workers or the teachers.

In every union pressure must be increased to make sure that unity between unions is built to defeat the government’s offensive.

United industrial action by other sections would smash such plans. If the railwaymen had struck for their wage claims at the same time as the postal workers, the Tories could have been forced to give in to both.

An alliance of all unions with members in the public sector has to be built. Such an alliance would take effective solidarity action every time one section was under attack and would present a united front millions strong, to the government and employers.

The ghost of the post strike will haunt the debates at the recall TUC Congress in Croydon on Thursday. The retreat by the TUC General Council, its willingness to compromise with the Tories and talk of “amicable” resolution of disputes at the bar of the post strikers isolated and beaten, must be rejected and condemned.

The Industrial Relations Bill is part and parcel of the Tory-employer attack on wages and conditions. If it becomes law it will enable the bosses to crack down on shop-floor militancy and outlaw sympathy strikes.

MILITANT

The General Council’s recommendations should be voted down to allow the key unions to draw up a policy for militant industrial action to kill the Bill.

The rank and file of the unions have a key role to play. Nationwide support should be given to the official AUEW, TGWU strike on Thursday, backed by a massive lobby at Croydon.

And after Croydon the struggle must go on to force every union executive to commit itself to outright refusal to co-operate with the laws if they go through.

The labour movement has the power to win. The Post Office setback must not lead to despondency.

The mammoth demonstration on 21 February shows the strength of the united trade unions.

With militant policies and an active rank and file, both the Bill and the Tory government can be defeated.

Dave Percival on the UPW collapse: page 8

BIG TURNOUT FOR WOMEN’S MARCH

Full support for 18 March strikes

5000 supporters of the Women’s National to voice their demands for equal pay and Co-ordinating Committee marched through improved educational and nursery facilities, snow and rain last Saturday in London Report: page 2. Picture: Mike Cohen.

Czech socialists on trial

by Chris Harman

NINETEEN revolutionary socialists continue to face long prison sentences in Czechoslovakia. Their trial on charges of subversion resumed on Monday.

The real crime of the 19 – who have already spent more than a year in jail awaiting trial – is that they were associated with an organisation called “The Revolutionary Socialist Party”.

The party stood for the replacement of the present bureaucratic set-up in Czechoslovakia and the other so-called communist countries by workers’ control and the rule of workers’ councils.

Socialists who fight for similar aims in the West must give their full support to those on trial in Prague.

IN THIS WEEK’S ISSUE

Race Bill page 3 Paris Commune page 4 Rolls-Royce page 6
Women marchers stress need for union action over equal pay

by Irene Bruegel

SATURDAY's march of 5000 people in bitterly cold conditions marked a serious development in the women's movement. It destroyed the myth of women's liberation as shrinking ultra-feminism.

The demands of the march for equal pay apply equally to women in the professions, teaching, nursing schools and first-class contraception and abortion were not directed against men but were related to the everyday work of women, particularly working-class women.

The failure to demand equal pay, the marchers did not see the fight primarily as a part-time or feministic campaign, nor was it seen as an isolated struggle. It was clear that the battle was being fought in a number of places involved also in fighting the Industrial Relations Act.

Mary Hobbs of the Cleaners' Action Group said the march was in support of women at their workplaces, emphasizing that women were workers and could not be divided. 'We are working-class women', she said. 'We work, our jobs are our jobs and the unions are in alliance and why does such an attack and dominated by unenlightened men, the fight is for the freedom of women to remove the fundamental inequities.

But women's liberation will not be won by the cheap 60 per cent of male earnings - or £1 2

Week for a 40 hour week in industry. Not only are women paid at a lower rate for the job but throughout industry they have the unskilled, lower grade, boring and lowly classified jobs.

The demand for equal pay must always be linked to a demand for equal opportunities.

Second class

The biological fact of childbirth is used as a device to keep women to their kind. The office and factory are second-class mentality. With only five-day working, the home remains the woman's world and women who suffer particular in their full-time jobs are caged and cannot escape, or they are מכנים in a means of denying the fact that a woman's place is exclu-

sively in the home.

The demands of the march were oriented particularly towards working women and working-class women. But the working women of the country will fight united with the women's trade unions were on 21st February, and the aim of the march was women's liberation as real.

While thousands of women's telephone workers have been marching weekly over the same demand, women's trade unions are playing a minor role in women's liberation as relevant.

Women's liberation has now come to the point where the occupation of work and women's liberation as relevant.

Women's liberation demands not must but must have power to work in public and private on the conditions that do not incorporate women's liberation is today not revolutionary.

LABOUR AND THE ANTI-THEFT FIGHT

LAST WEEK's editorial appears to contain a statement of Socialist Party policy. We agree with the view that the women's class can, if it acts in unison and militant way, get rid of the prejudices and police the apparatus to suggest what should replace it.

Similarly, we agree that the demand for a Labour government committed to socialist policies is impractical and that we could not be tolerated in the real nature of the Labour Party.

It is then proposed 'that workers should use the march in their unions to impose on any future Labour government a programme for women's liberation and correctly stated that such a programme was not a question of whether Labour should standanagan the independence of the women.

It is then assumed that the mass of workers in the unions could not be expected to impose such demands on the Labour Party and that they should be sent to their interests the Labour leaders are in the position of the ship's captain and if they are to be used to implement such demands, the Labour leaders lead to independence of the labour movement.

Where do the demands for Councils of Action come from? They come from the labour movement the 40s from the trade unions, the 1960s from the National Committee for the 25th and the 1970s from the National Committee for the 30th.

This where the need to build women's liberation into the movement comes in. We can draw enough workers into these organisation to fight around such a set of demands, then we would develop a force capable of overcoming the resistance of the women's trade unions, as is likely, turn their backs on the struggle.

Housebound women are needed too

WE ARE SORRY to see that last week's announcement of the Women's Day March 1971 was made by Imperial Chemical Industries for women workers. The National Committee for Women's Liberation is not composed solely of working women but also of students and middle-class women. Of course we want women workers and students to turn out for the demonstration but we were just as keen that the march should be advertised in the women's press. One of our aims is to involve housebound and middle-class women in the movement and to link housebound and middle-class women in the movement and in this way to promote a stronger and broader movement of the working class. What matters of course is not just to fight, but also build up the organisation to involve the women for whom the struggle is real, and for whom the struggle is really serious.
Maudling's race
Bill: please Powell, and split the workers

NEW IMMIGRATION PLANS GO HAND IN HAND WITH UNION BILL

by Paul Foot

Ever since he went into the Home Office last June, Reginald Maudling, well known for his past connections with property fraudsman Jeremy Hoffman, has been reflecting on a deep and distressing problem:
how to frame legislation on immigration that is more racist than the previous Labour government's.

Lesser men would have taken fright at the task. The Labour government had cut the rate of black immigration into Britain by more than 50 per cent. They had ensured that only the most skilled workers were allowed into Britain and that the families of those already here were held up from entry by a bureaucratic insistence on entry vouchers.

Scouring in headlong flight from Enoch Powell, they had written racism into the law.

The Commonwealth Immigrants Act of 1962 was better than the Kenyan Asians Act, which broke specific pledges to the Kenyan Asians that they could be

The Ford strike: black and white solidarity against the bosses that the Tories want to smash

Hypocrisy laid bare

Nevertheless, Maudling has performed his task superbly. Nudged and bullied by the Prime Minister and the other Monday Club sympathizers in the Cabinet, he has produced what is probably the filthiest and most overtly racist immigration legislation yet drafted.

For years we have been told that the immigration control rests on

The second, more fundamental, is to create 'two nations' within the working class, to establish a substantial body of workers whose rights before the law are not as strong as those of the indigenous white workers, and which will therefore be more prepared to break strikes and accept low wages and poor conditions.

Between these two groups of workers may hope Maudling and his hitherto-in the Home Office, those will be permanent friction and race war. The fight against what Perry predicts, they imagine, will be weakened. The Industrial Relations Bill, for one, will passeas easily.

The liberal press, by and large, has deserted away from any race-based criticism of the Immigration Bill. The Labour Party reaction to it has been pedantically lukewarm. The labour movement had better wake up to the real motives behind the Bill and fight it with the same enthusiasm as they are fighting the Industrial Relations Bill.

Deport whole families

If so, the new immigrant will be harried all his life by the prospect of deportation.

Political or trade union activity regarded by the Home Secretary as "not conducive to the public good" would be more than enough to ensure a black man's passage and that of his family out of the country.

Despite all sorts of bureaucratic restrictions, it is still the right for the families of workers already here to enter this country free from control. Nothing in the new Bill ensures such a right.

On the contrary, paragraph 37 of the instructions to immigration officers says that these families of immigrant workers should only be admitted if they are "not likely to be a charge on public funds".

If a man is likely to lose his job for instance (and which worker in Britain can prove to an immigration officer that he is definitely not likely to lose his job?) his family can be deported without his ever

Such measures will ensure still tighter control over and harassment of black people by a police force already corrupted by racist ideas.

The Bill has been written with two clear aims. The first is to appease Enoch Powell, the National Front and the growing support of both in the lower ranks of the Conservative Party.

Weaken union fight

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Paris 1871: when the working class took power

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO this month, the working masses of Paris did not take the initiative and rebel, but on their own account, in their thousands, in solidarity with their French comrades, in defiance of the state, in support of a defensive war against the Prussians. The French workers organised, took to the streets, and carried on a fight for freedom and human dignity. The story of the Paris Commune is a story of the struggle of the working class for its freedom and independence. The Paris Commune is a monument to the power of the working class and to the potential of the working class to organise and resist. The Paris Commune is a lesson in the power of the working class to take control of their own lives and to build a better world. The Paris Commune is a reminder of the power of the working class to change the world and to build a better world. The Paris Commune is a reminder of the power of the working class to change the world and to build a better world.

Outlawed

Alongside a rapid development of the economy - mainly around the railways - the regime stifled all independent thought and led a relentless and destructive state and military bureaucracy. While indulging in all sorts of counterfeiting democracy, the Bonaparte regime outlawed such elements as the press and freedom of assembly. But the labour movement was organised. Bookbinders led by the future communist leader Veltchen were among the first to go on strike. Workers were under unionisation. The trade union bank had been formed to give loans to strikers. The Paris Commune came in 1867.

But Bonaparte had other plans. Dreaming of glorious empire, he sought to take - or fake back - what he had won at the battle of Prussia. And he had war and jingoism on the mind. It was taken up with enthusiasm in Paris and elsewhere.

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The workers ruled

We are told that the Commune was the expression of the development of the working class. It was not. It was the expression of the workers' desire to escape from the grip of the capitalist system.

The truth is that the Commune was a short-lived experiment in democracy. It was not a realization of the working class's desire for freedom.

The Commune was a failure. It was crushed by the forces of the capitalist system. But it was a failure that inspired a new generation of revolutionaries. It showed that the working class was capable of fighting for its freedom.

The workers ruled. They fought for their freedom and their humanity. They showed that it was possible to escape from the grip of the capitalist system.

National Guardsmen - the shock troops of the revolutionary masses - man a street barricade during the Commune.

Abolished

The Commune was abolished by a vote of the people. It was a victory for the working class. But it was also a victory for the capitalists.

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Next week: the Commune's example inspires the Russian revolutionaries
The Rolle-Royce crisis has symbolized for socialists the recent weakness of capitalism. The bankruptcy of Rolls Royce has been symbolized for thousands of workers not just because of the immediate impact那是 failure of the firm but also because the family of the corporation collapsed. I interviewed TEDI KEY, who works at the Rolle-Royce Parkway British works, and it is also newly elected secretary of the TWU and FORD. 

What is the background of the current crisis?

Armstrong Sauer, a Swiss com- munist, states that the role of corporations in society is to control the market and the workers. This can be seen in the current crisis of the corporation. The company has managed to sell its financial assets and has done so at a low price. This is a sign of the power of the financial market and the role of corporations in society.

The crisis of the Rolle-Royce is a result of the current economic conditions, as the company has been unable to sell its financial assets. The company has been forced to sell its financial assets at a low price in order to keep its financial stability. This is a result of the current economic conditions, as the company has been unable to sell its financial assets.

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**CINEMA**

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MIXED UP is the current mood of reaction in a growing hysteria against 'permissive' values in television and cinema.

Socialists fight vigorously against the blue-pencil-waving philistines who, given a government prepared to give them the chance, will witchhunt and book-burn in the best Nazi tradition. But while we demand no restrictions on the limits to which we writer, the limits to which we can write, we have a government prepared to give us the chance. The only difference lies in the depth with which the movie moguls will descend to boost their sagging profits.

Jovey tells the Valley of the Dolls is a visual-aid version of the dog-eared 'most two-page' adaptation of the staple reading of army barrack rooms.

Between the sheets

The story centres on an unlikely group of West Coast hippies — well-dressed, well-endowed, short-haired and well-scrubbed — who spend their lives either between the sheets or at parties where the expression 'gave me a stiffy' takes on a new and deeper significance. With well-timed regularity, the dialogue stops every 10 minutes or so to allow any two of a rotating team of performers to take part in an activity variously described as 'banging' or 'screwing'.

The theme is a deep one in a sense that is far wider than the one used by the dramatist to convey his expression: its attitude is sex is a cheap, salpa and materia love, but the real crime of this celluloid travesty is its complete contempt for any style or discipline.

'Almost like the beard in the sense that he is far worse the one used by the dramatist to convey his expression: its attitude is sex is a cheap, salpa and materia love, but the real crime of this celluloid travesty is its complete contempt for any style or discipline.

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Dangers of depravity

But just to give the whole 90 minutes of a rubbish bill of health from the industry's moral watchdogs, the film ends after a gay and Jimi Hendrix party, which is essentially a fascist murder of the leading contenders to be a Billy Graham-style sermon about the dangers of depravity and fleshly delights.

Mickey's black eye is bad for different reasons. Based on Guy Vivat's novel, it is a bitter spoof on Hollywood with Myron Breckinridge as the political alternative, which turns him into Myra. She sets out to revenge herself on men in general and movie producers in particular for the artistic rape of womanhood in the movies.

That much was clear to me but the rest was total confusion. Aachen's editing makes the rest impossible to follow, with the cast looking as bemused as the audience. The saving grace was the wine but I was unable to get over the feeling of despair from old Laurel and Hardy films. Those were the days — when stars were stars, comedians were funny and cinema organs row and fell to announce the arrival and departure of the ice-cream ladies.

Roger Protz

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**THE LABOUR PARTY's working-class roots are somewhat withered these days. A militant Manchester power worker, invited to speak at a suburban party meeting on the industry, found the assembled comrades not in a groovy Co-op Hall or Workingmen's Club but in a ratty private house standing in a large ground. He was rounded for his views — 'founding the country in tarnation' — and last December's work-to-rule — 'damaged the party's electoral hopes'.

Temper.ceilers cooled when a maid entered to serve coffee and the master of the house had the good grace to offer the speaker a lift home — in his Rolls-Royce. 'But it's not new,' he was at pains to stress. 'It's four years old.'

Arise, ye starvelings.

**COLLAPSE**

of fascist rally: the "Triumph Square hate session promoted by the National Democratic Party for the end of March has been canned. The alleged reason — difficulty in stamping up support because of the party strike. The real reason is the fear of the massive counter-demonstration planned by the left.

**Boombifying**

A FEW YEARS ago one of the private security outfits, Complete Security Services, wrote giving employers details of one fascinating branch of their activities. The firm's manager, Lingsport, worsted for: 1. To supply undercover agents — a man planted among employees to provide a complete appraisal of any unhappiness. 2. To follow vehicles used by employees in the course of their work. 3. To investigate thefts, frauds and embezzlement. 4. To report on any person suspected of causing disruption or instilling the business community that spends so much time scrutinising about strikers acting like highwaymen.

One inmate of Cotswolds joined a long queue at his insurance brokers and saw bewhiskered, elderly working-class motorists, had driven for 20 years without an accident, forced to double their premiums to get cover from other companies. Like values decreasing on a certain car, the other firms quickly boosted their rates as soon as V&G collapsed.

The brokers were chipper, of course. They had been selling V&G like mad because of the 175% per cent rate rise that they have been described as any moral responsibility to pay back lost premiums. Arch villain of the piece, of course, was the appalling John Davies, Minister for Land Drugs, who has been described as a precise collapse for six months but had it stung up for fear of damaging insurance generally. Come back Emil Savundra, all is forgiven.

**Read up**

FOR TWO months now 32 members of the AUEW, mainly Indians and Pakistanis, have been on strike at a small North London plastics firm, Larice Ltd. They are demanding the reinstatement of six sacked colleagues. It is a strike over basic trade union rights but it is doubly important in that it helps to destroy the myth that immigrant workers are hard to unionise and reluctant to strike.

Khulna International Socialists have produced a pamphlet. It is a little pamphlet on the strike. Copies are available at 5p each from 13 Pandora Road, London NW6. All proceeds go to the strike fund.

The series 'The ABC of socialism' has been discontinued.

David East
Rail talks hit pay deadlock

S W Reporter

INDUSTRIAL ACTION will hit the railways on Monday unless British Rail offers a better deal than an insult to its 190,000 workers.

Leaders of ASLEF, the footplatemen’s union, voted unanimously on Sunday to ballot their 29,000 members to walk out from Monday if the management failed to improve on an 8 per cent pay offer by Friday.

The members of the National Union of Railwaymen, the body representing the managers, voted at their meeting in London on Wednesday to continue talks as long as the BR offer remains below 9 per cent.

The union is demanding a new pay round and for the men to be moved to other jobs if BR fails to meet its demands.

The deadlock comes as British Rail is facing financial problems, with the company losing money and facing criticism for its poor service.

The railway workers are demanding a better deal to improve working conditions and respond to the challenges of the changing industry.

UNION ALLIANCE IS KEY LESSON FROM UNION COLLAPSE

Ruthless bosses have been forced to act, and it is time for the rail unions to recognise the need for unity.

The collapse of the UPW UPW has shown how important it is for workers to stand together and demand a fair deal from their employers.

Several striking unions have already made important gains, including ASLEF and the RMT, but the collapse of the UPW UPW has shown that more needs to be done.

The rail unions need to work together to demand the money due to workers and to stop the railway bosses getting away with it.

THE WILLOUGHBY TUC leaders to reach a compromise with the TUC on the new pay and conditions that will be outlined in their Economic Review. The talks will be held on Monday, with a view to reaching a deal before the 4 April strike.

The General Secretary of the TUC, Alan Fisher, said on television on Monday that the TUC were still discussing what to do about the proposed strike but that the meeting would be held on Monday.

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THE COLLAPSE OF THE UPW after more than six weeks of strike is one of the worst examples of worker solidarity in the history of the British Railways.

Although the government is bringing in legislation against the strikes, it is determined to clamp down on the strikes and to try to restore normal service as soon as possible.

The government has already imposed a ban on the right to strike and has threatened to use the police if necessary to restore normal service.

The government is also determined to bring in new laws to make it easier to bring in strikes in the future.

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Although the government is bringing in legislation against the strikes, it is determined to clamp down on the strikes and to try to restore normal service as soon as possible.

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