**SACKINGS STEP UP JOBLESS TOTAL**

A GRIM FUTURE faces thousands of workers this week. They are among the 60,000 new redundancies that are part of the latest wave of redundancies. They will be joining the 700,000 already on the dole queue. And for many of them there will be no hope of getting new work unless they are prepared to move hundreds of miles from their present homes.

What the latest sackings will mean can be seen by looking at an area like Teesside. Already 10,000 workers are unemployed there. Now the British Steel Corporation has announced redundancies that will add more than 4,000 workers to the numbers - one in seven of its Teesside employees. ICT is to sack a further 1,300 in the region.

A similar picture exists across the region. In Northern Ireland, the West, and elsewhere. Even workers in areas like the Midlands, that have not been subject to unemployment from the war, are getting worried as employers have axed 50,000 jobs in the last three months.

The situation is not going to improve. A recent survey showed that one firm in 10 is to cut its labour force over the next three months.

### Hold down wages

Unemployment is not an accident. The Tories are deliberately encouraging it as part of the attempt to hold down wages and force up profits. Their policy is not to protect those with jobs worried, through productivity dealing, job evaluation and so on, while holding down the total number of goods produced.

Every success for the Tories in holding down wages increases and making employed workers accept productivity deals leads to a further increase in the numbers without work.

For example, under the agreement recently signed for power workers, those who want the power stations to suffer. They will have to work even harder to get the sort of pay needed to keep up with rising prices. At the same time the agreement will reduce the total number of those employed in the industry by 10,000 a year. In other words, it will add 10,000 to the dole queue.

Heath said recently that "Jobs depend on making it possible for firms to earn profits." This sums up the attitude of the present Tory government. The interests of the 2 per cent of the population who own 40 per cent of the industrial wealth are more important than the bleak future confronting hundreds of thousands of working men.

### Condemns thousands

But many of those who claim to oppose the government on unemployment offer no alternative either. Harold Wilson attacks the Tories, but when he was in government the numbers on the dole grew by 50 per cent. Trade union leaders also speak out against Heath's policy. Yet even the 'left' leaders like Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon sign productivity deals like the one in the power industry and condemn thousands more to join on the end of the dole queue.

Unemployment will only be fought effectively when a massive movement develops opposed to the whole basis of a society in which a small minority of big businessmen control the destinies of millions. We can help build such a movement by fighting now for the unity of employed and unemployed workers against the Tory offensive.

The key demands must be:

1. No productivity deals that reduce the size of the work force.
2. Work-sharing instead of redundancies and an overtime ban in any company announcing redundancies.
3. Work or full pay at union rates for the unemployed.
4. Nationalisation under workers' control without compensation for companies that close any of their factories.

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**SPOT THE SCROUNDER...**

Hard-up Liz finds it tough on £475,000 a year

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**THE ROYAL FAMILY** has joined the eight million families in Britain living in poverty. The impoverished Windsors are to appeal to parliament for an increase in the Queen's annual state handout - the Civil List. Of course, there are degrees of poverty. Elizabeth and co are in a rather different league to families struggling on £16 a week or married pensioners on £8 a week. At present the Queen's Civil List stands at £675,000 a year or more than £9000 a week.

This is not a joint income. Prince Philip receives a further £40,000 a year from the state, the Queen Mum £70,000, Duke of Gloucester £13,000, Princess Margaret £15,000 and Prince Charles £100,000. The Queen pays her staff from the Civil List and the remaining members of her family like the Duchess of Kent who do not get the aristocracy's version of supplementary benefit.

Inflation has hit hard at the palace. Prince Philip has been forced to give up his equivalent of the workers' fags and beer by selling his yacht Bloodhound. Palace staff have been cut by 15 per cent. If things get worse, Philip says he may have to give up polo.

It is thought that the Queen is after an increase that will bring up her Civil List payment to £900,000 - a rise of 65 per cent and just a little outside the government's ceiling of 10 per cent for wage increases.

What is missing from the argument in the press about the Queen's 'poverty' is her own 'private' wealth. She is one of the richest women in the world with an undisclosed fortune thought to be well in excess of £60 millions.

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**BRITAIN AIDS TERROR IN CEYLON**

According to the press at least 1,000 people have been killed in Ceylon in the last week. The government has proclaimed an 'emergency', sent troops and plans to shoot down "what it calls 'rebels'."

Guns and aircraft to help increase the death toll are being sent by our own Tory government.

Eleven months ago a general election was won by a coalition of parties that agreed that they could introduce 'socialism' peacefully, without a revolution. Among those were the Ceylonese Communist Party and the Lanka Sama Suriya Party, which once claimed to be Trotskyist.

But in the last year, the government, refusing to wage a revolutionary struggle against big business, has been forced instead to follow a policy of attacking workers and peasants.

Now the government is using any excuse in order to physically liquidate those who demand a real move forward.

Socialists and trade unions in Britain must oppose the sending of guns to Ceylon for use against those combating big business policies. But we must also insist the opposite. The approach, preached by the Communist Party in this country as well as in Ceylon, of hoping to get socialism by merely filling out ballot papers for left wing politicians, just does not work.
Workers stage protest over 19th century conditions

GHANA STRIKERS ATTACKED BY COPS AS UK COMBINE

by Wenda Clegenhen

BRITISH IMPERIALISM still manifests itself today through attacks by third world workers. Two weeks ago, three Ghanaian workers were killed by the bullets of the company police of the United Africa Company in the biggest attack on a British firm in West Africa.

The victims were members of a 2,500 strong work-force of a subsidiary of the UAC, the African Timber and Plywood Company, based in Sansala, 35 miles west of the capital Accra.

Hardwoods are a highly profitable raw material that the UAC has been pillaging from the tropical forest of West Africa for the last four generations. In British schoolchildren are shown 'geographic' films, made by the UAC educational service showing how the arrival of the company is bringing civilisation and work to the ignorant natives.

However, since there are no stipps showing the armed company police which are killing the workers, the workers are housed in miserable huts.

VALUABLE

The workers of Sansala have similar hardships. The 1,000 strong timber settlements of the UAC in Nigeria. They are paid a few shillings on two pounds a day, cut the enormously valuable teak trees with hand axes. They use the saws, which pull the logs to the saw mill to work mechanical saws, which also cut the logs into planks, and in plants that process the remnants of the trees into plywood.

The company tries to justify the patently low wages by pointing to the Immigrants that are provided free of charge and to the rudimentary health service provided by the company, which is the workers’ body and soul together.

Such fallacies, the argument goes, promote a standard of living which would not get workers to the UAC with enormous profits.

Similar to the set up of the larger companies in Britain in the early 19th century, the workers are provided with a company shop. From this shop the workers have to buy provisions, the small things like tobacco and beer and perhaps an occasional piece of clothing.

Foremen may be able to accumulate enough money to buy a bicycle or a transistor radio. Because the store has a monopoly it can charge inflated prices. The time in Sansala was one of the main centres of attack by the striking workers.

The strike started after the national management, to improve the working conditions (day-by-day workers transferred to permanent work, shortening of hours etc.). These had been negotiated by the union last October.

Management, taken by surprise, denied that any such settlement had been made.

The rage and frustration of the workers was released. Thousands stormed the management compounds overturning cars, smashing windows and cutting telephone wires. They managed to break into the company store taking all the goods that had been forbidden to them. The workers, then dispersed.

GHANA wood workers: outraged by management policies

Glanton Dordell, a founder member of the American League of Revolutionary Black Workers, who was forced to seek asylum in the UK, has been killed in the shooting down by US government armed forces of an international government bonds.

Glanton was arrested on 15 March by a group of thugs who were not allowed to speak anybody apart from his automatic and no questions asked about the religious and political sensitivities of the Church of Sweden. Glanton was also killed in the United States by a group of thugs who were not allowed to speak anybody apart from his automatic and no questions asked about the religious and political sensitivities of the Church of Sweden.

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When unions broke the law in order to exist...

Most trade unions have existed for 150 years or more and can recount episodes from this early period of illegality — the time when to be a member could be criminal as well as heavy fines and imprisonment. There are many stories of meetings, held at midnight on the moors, or deserted barns, with out-runners to warn of the approach of suspicious strangers, of bloodcurdling oaths and initiation ceremonies. Some of the tactics, now employed on a large scale by the 干仗, are rather more modern than those of the 16th century Statute of Artificers. The Combination Acts of 1779 and 1800 merely strengthened existing legislation and simplified the procedure for gaining convictions.

Faced with this formidable challenge, trade unions then took a very different line to that of Vic Feather today. He told the recent Croydon congress of the TGWU that Robert Carr’s Bill would become law, we must ‘pull our socks up, convene ourselves in a thoroughly constitutional manner, and play the game. But Feather forgets that there would be no trade union movement now if the pioneers had behaved in this way. Members of the early unions were prepared to break the law.

They knew that to combine with one another to improve conditions was illegal. Nevertheless, they did not shrink from doing so.

Taunted

How they behaved depended on the relationship of forces. Where organisation was strong, then the defiance could be open and forthright. Workers even taunted the authorities to use their powers.

A Nottingham union declared: 'If you will find the jail, we will fill the bodies.' On the other hand, where the organisation was weak, 'taste your own' — keep quiet — must be the tactic.

No ‘drapery or delegation’ would approach the employer. A hint would be dropped or an unsigned note left around, outlining the men’s demands.

In skilled trades, where quality was paramount, the men would sneak away. Production stopped without the boss being aware who organised it.

Of course, this tactic did not always work. The authorities might discover the ringleaders because some man spoke too loudly and to the wrong people. Such miscreants could expect to be arrested.

Occasionally, more severe punishments were inflicted. In the North-east, cases were tried in the habit of working naked at the coal face because of the physical exertion and heat. At the end of a shift, the offending miner would find his clothes gone — an event that led to an acutely embarrassing journey home.

Fined

In North Staffordshire, one blabbemouth was ducted in a cesspool, it was said, 'to show the impurity of his conduct.'

While these kinds of action lessened the impact, they did not completely nullify the effects of repressive legislation. Newspapers between 1800 and 1840 contained abundant evidence of judicial brutality.

Thousands of workers were fined and imprisoned. Even so, the authorities were far from prosecuting every infringement of the Combination Acts that came to their notice.

by RAYMOND CHALLINOR

The Combination Acts were repealed — but state oppression continued: in 1887 troops and police viciously attacked an unemployment rally in Trafalgar Square on 'Bloody Sunday'.

Rather their decision was taken after soberly assessing the facts. The Combination Acts had to be repealed because they had become counter-productive. Their injustice was seen to be so stark, so naked, so monstrous, that it acted as an incitement instead of a deterrent.

Prosecutions inflamed workers' tempers, disrupted industrial peace, and made employers' tasks more difficult.

Parliamentarians in 1824 were impressed by the testimony of men like Francis Place who told them that the Combination Acts induced working people to break and disregard the laws. They made them hate their employers with a rancour which nothing else could have produced.'

Heartened

Place also gave ample evidence to show that, while a union here and there might have been destroyed by the Combination Acts, they had done nothing to arrest the development of the trade union movement as a whole, which was growing stronger daily.

Militants at the present time should be heartened by this knowledge of the past. They should not be demoralised if the Industrial Relations Bill becomes law.

For Robert Carr will discover that it is far more easy to get the Act through parliament than to get it applied in practice. He is confronted by a working class that is bigger, more powerful and has greater solidarity than it had in 1824.

Prudent

Contrast this attitude to that of the union leaders in 1825, when parliament threatened to re-introduce the Combination Acts. The Webbs, in their book, The History of Trade Unionism stated: 'Doherty, the leader of the Lancashire cotton-spinners, in the heat of the agitation, declared that any attempt at a re-enactment of the Combination Laws would result in a widespread revolutionary movement.'

Prudently, parliament thought again. The Act was never reintroduced.

Leaders like Doherty not only showed how to fight anti-union legislation but also how to prevent it reaching the statute book. Our present union leaders have not got that spirit but the mass of ordinary workers have the power to make the Tories think again.

International Socialism 47

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Revolutionary trade unionism
Art and revolution
Review of two books by Lukas

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Press and Tories blame workers for inflation: the truth is rather different

by CHRIS HARMAN

EVERYONE knows what inflation means. Rising prices are hitting all of us all the time.

Official figures show that the cost of living is rising at 8½ per cent a year. Anyone trying to estimate the real extent of the increase should start with the John Lewis chain of stores recently warned that shop prices would go up by 10 per cent this year.

Press commentators, television spokesmen and government ministers all put the blame on one cause: rising wages are responsible for rising prices, they claim. "Greedy workers" are to blame, they say, "socialism" is to blame, "the end of the road" is to blame.

But all this is just not true. Even the representatives of big business will admit that what the real forces are that have pushed up prices but only when they are writing for one another and not for a mass readership. One publication where they discuss such issues is the Review of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

Imports

It is located at the present upward surge of prices in the period 1964-69. But it argues that in those years, however, the rise in wages costs and in wages per head was not the main factor behind the rise in consumer prices. The Review pointed out that the growth of imports which increased by 2½ million in the period was a major reason.

In other words, workers were not getting a bigger share of the national income, but the government raised 'indirect' taxes (such as VAT, customs duties, etc.) in order to pay for international deficits and also to cover the rising costs of foreign goods. And the Labour government was supported in these policies by the Tories.

Workers put up with rising prices for two years before fighting back. The Review points out that it was not until 1970 that wage costs made the running. The rise in the pace of price inflation in the two earlier years are the proximate cause of the later rise in wage rates.

Substantial

The claim that workers pushing up prices by rising wages are responsible for inflation is wrong for a second reason. The fact that substantial increases in wages of the mass of people could take place without prices being pushed up is clear from the fact that the economy was in recession. More than 700,000 people are at present unemployed. Many factories are not running at capacity and many are working only two or three days a week. The result is that massive quantities of goods that could be produced are not being produced.

The Times (22 March) published a report that calculated how much this lost production was. The conclusion is staggering. The economic losses of the period of about £4-6 billion less than it would at full employment capacity.

In other words, every man, woman and child in this country, if production and wages had been in line with potential output could have been a clear two pounds a week better off. But if instead of fighting back the Tories have fought to control the economy.

So far, successive governments (Labour and Tory) have forced up prices, and have stopped the extra that they could have produced and would improve living standards. They have been the main reason why inflation on workers who fight to keep up with rising prices.

Importantly, marginalized workers are the main victims of inflation. At the same time, in its own way, the present economic crisis has also been brought about by the fact that the country is producing much less than it could.

In 1970, at the height of the oil crisis, British Steel was producing only 75% of its capacity. If that could have been exploited to their advantage, the workers' movement would not have been in the state it is now.

In April 1973, the government, without consulting anyone, decided to bring in running a new inflation, as was the case with the present government.

The current crisis, therefore, is not only about the wages policy, but also about the economic policy. It is a crisis of the whole system.

At the same time, the workers' movement has a great deal to learn from its own experience. It has to learn how to fight in a much more determined way.

Living standards: boost them

JOE ROSS

The left Labour movement has so far failed to grasp the significance of the events of the past few years. For the first time in its history, the Labour movement has a real chance to make an impact on the policies of the government.

The first and most important point is that the government's economic policies are the result of a conscious decision to prevent the workers from regaining the ground that was lost in the 1970s.

The second point is that the government's policies are not just a result of the events of the past few years. They are part of a much longer-term strategy to contain the workers and keep wages down. This is why the government is trying to keep the public sector wage claims down to 3%.

The third point is that the government's policies are not just a matter of the economy. They are also a matter of politics. The government is using the economy as a means to gain political power.

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Socialist answer: take the wealth from the minority

ALTHOUGH workers are not to blame for rising prices, the policy of the government has for stopping inflation is to cut real wages. Its other policies – like increasing health charges, rents, bus and train fares — only add to the cost of living.

As in evidence, a policy automatically produced massive new payments of goods that could raise real living standards.

TUC, too, is as responsible for inflation as the government.

The reasons are simple: the owners of wealth would move their money abroad if there was the slightest danger that profits and interest rates were going to be reduced. They would do this if they thought that their policies were being followed that might result in a rise of imports. In either case, they could cause a balance of payments crisis within days.

Massive amounts

Government controls cannot stop such movements. Those who own the key industries also control the massive amounts of imports and exports. The only way to limit such movements is to stop the spending of the wealth of the country's borders every day.

TUC, of course, has no plans to organise such a massive inroad into the power of the government. That is why it provides no real alternative to the continual zigzag of workers' interests to the requirements of the running class's hunt for profits.

Only when a mass revolutionary organisation of workers has been built will be able to fight rising prices and the other aspects of government's policy like unemployment. The present struggle against the government's attacks on living standards can begin to bring together those forces that can build such a movement.

WE ARE a lot in the press about "public opinion". We read that public opinion does not agree with strikes, that public opinion believes Britain will join the Common Market. In fact, however, public opinion seems to be an entirely different issue that is placed in the editorial columns of the newspapers.

Newspaper editors have their own opinion on political issues. Reporting the results of the polls is often done in such a way as to give a more positive line of the polls, as the case may be, in order to build such a profile of the thoughts of the population when in fact the companies carrying out the polls are not always entirely free of bias,

The results of the polls are accepted as the absolute measure of the thoughts of the population when in fact the companies carrying out the polls are not always entirely free of bias.

This style of reporting may well be a newspaper and it is certainly misleading the bulk of the population by highlighting a small section of the population who have become conditioned by the results of the opinion polls to the extent that they are acting in accordance with the realities of the polls. A summary of the facts and figures will produce a small error in the results.

Small print

This small error is usually referred to as the "sampling error" and is often printed with the results of the polls. The results in the small print at the end of the article are usually more accurate and reflect the true picture of the population.

The questions asked in the poll are such that they cannot be answered in any manner as to be readily understandable by the majority of the population. The questions are often put in such a way that the respondents are not sure what the question is asking or how to answer it.

For example, one survey asked people to choose between a "yes" or "no" answer. There is no "don’t know" option. The results are often used as a percentage of the total number of people.

The trouble with this approach is that it is often the answers of the people who do not answer the question that are classified in this way. People’s views are often more complex than this kind of answer allows, yet the government decides the entire policy of the country on the basis of the one word answers.

Not their own

There are several ways of selecting a sample of people to be included in the poll. Two of these are:

1. A random sample in which each interviewee is told to go out and interview, for instance, 10 housewives, 10 workers, 10 shop workers etc.,

2. Random sampling in which range of people are chosen to be interviewed.

The results of these methods lead to inaccuracies unless they are rigorously controlled. Public opinion polls are used to test public opinion. If the results of the opinion polls is that assumptions are made about the opinions that the people interviewed are based on the research of the survey.

A large number of people may have their own opinions but when confronted by a semi-official-looking person, complete with clip-board and tape, ready to record down what is said, they may state views that are not their own. Sometimes, the people answering the questions are not members of the family answering the questions, but are the owners of the house or the family members of the occupants.

Shop prices soar — and the government offers wage increases that amount to a cut in workers’ living standards.

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10 BOOKS

6 Colins Gardens London W1
The police and the death of Stephen McCarthy

by John Telfair

ON 16 NOVEMBER 1970, Stephen McCarthy, six months on the run from Bontol, was standing at an isolating, North London, bus stop with two friends. Constables Klissho N305 and Leonard, N450 arrived. As a result of what happened that night, Stephen died.

The police version is simple. Either before or after PC Leonard grabbed Stephen, he slipped and hit his head against the bus stop. Not one of the thousand people the police claim to have interviewed could confirm this story. It has been supported by other policemen.

Stephen’s companions and two girls at the bus stop saw it differently. Stephen’s arm was twisted behind his back, and Leonard crushed his head against the stop. Bleeding, he was taken to the Royal Free Hospital and received head stitches. The following day he was remanded to Wormwood Scrubs.

The family heard of Stephen’s arrest through rumour, and at the weekend his sister went to Upper Street police station. He was at Ashford Remand Home she was told. He wasn’t, he was still at the Scrubs. The following Tuesday, he appeared at Old Street Magistrates’ Court.

Stephen was pale, didn’t smile, had his head inclined and was dead in his left ear. He was suffering from a perforated ear drum, an exacerbation of an ear condition that he had had for years — as prison medical records would have shown, had anyone bothered to read them.

Later at his inquest a pathologist stated that a blow on the head such as Stephen had received could have activated and worsened his ear condition.

The family were worried. On 25 November they wrote to the Governor of the Scrubs and asked for a medical examination. They received a reply 12 days later, from Mr Walker.

Stephen, said the letter, was ‘fit and cheerful and would get medical attention if he needed it’. In fact he was already being treated for his ear trouble. But then Mr Walker was hardly to blame. He hadn’t seen Stephen, he hadn’t even written the letter, just signed it. When it came to the Coroner’s court the file of the letter had been lost...

Medical travesty

Stephen’s treatment in detention was a medical travesty. Six doctors had seen him by the time he was sent to Dover Detention Centre. The last certified his fitness for the centre — but he went straight into the medical wing on arrival. None of those doctors read his prison medical records.

Unconcerned, he was transferred to the Brook Hospital, and had several operations on his ear and his brain. He died on 25 January.

Eight policemen testified at the inquest. Each said Stephen had been ‘all right’ after his arrest, that he had said he ‘tripped’ and fell into the stop. Stephen had been unwilling to sign any statement. The girl who testified was a local journalist who was released when he claimed his signature was a forgery.

‘Natural Causes’ was the Coroner’s only recommendation to the jury. He dissociated himself from their rider, ‘negligence by the prison authorities’.

A protest meeting was held in Islington attended by 500 people. Eighteen people were arrested afterwards, including a local journalist who was released when his credentials were shown. The family intend to prosecute Klissho and Leonard, and want a public enquiry.

‘It won’t bring him back,’ said Mrs McCarthy, ‘but it might make it better for the other kids of Islington.’

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Pollution: a threat to our survival

FREE ENTERPRISE, we are told, leads to competition. At present industries seem to be competing to see which can poison most in the shortest time.

Workers are well aware of the suffering caused by pollution, generations have been reared on a diet of sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide and fluoride, though the houses and politicians in their residential suburbs and out-of-town mansions were able to forget the poisoned atmosphere of the industrial zones.

The vast majority of the 4,000 people who died as a direct result of the London smog of 1952 were pensioners, workers and housewives from the slums.

Acid rain

Not that pollution is still confined to a few industrial regions. Last year it was reported that traces of toxic pesticide had been discovered in the snows of Antarctica, while the Scandinavians complained that poison gas clouds from British industry were burning their rain acid and damaging the forests.

Tony Cliff

Russia—A Marxist Analysis

£1.05

Tony Cliff

JS Books & Ottone Garden London E2 8DN

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Meaning: a threat to our survival

Now the poisons are everywhere and even the aristocracy are taking note with the threat to the expensive claret wines of the Bordeaux district from an expanding shell refinery’s firth and the near extinction of Atlantic salmon.

Recently a group of public analysts bought a random selection of produce over the counter, and found prohibited concentrations of pesticides in our apples, leek, milk and potatoes.

Pollution comes from many sources:

Lead pollution from the air makes daisies become deadly pastime.

Cheap way

British firms hold their own in the race to the grave, and the nationalised industries have hardly done better.

The National Coal Board has ruined miles of the Durham coast by dumping dust and slag straight into the sea. What of the local fishermen?

‘Pushing the waste over the edge of the Whiteleas tip is like pushing dung into the sea. We won’t make any money out of it,’ said a Durham County Council spokesman. Meanwhile, Edinburgh’s Tory council is busy dumping 50 million to 300 million gallons of untreated sewage daily into the Firth of Forth.

In 1974, the Lothian River Purification Board was asked to install the installation of a sewage treatment plant by 1973, in the interests of public health. Edinburgh’s Tory council was flouted by giving priority to building a police headquarters and an opera house.

‘Free enterprise’ and ‘healthy competition’ mean that any capitalist firm which spends a bit on pollution control will suffer. Banning pollution, like banning war, is bad for business.

‘Why does Brighton have to spend £10 or 15 years on the clean-up when other towns which have received the same amount of toxic pollution do not?’ These are the words of a left-wing radical but those of Dr H F Fraser Darling, Vice-President of the Conservation Foundation. Yet according to Robert Boote, Chairman of the Council of Europe’s Conservation Committee, ‘if men really tackled the problem, 95 per cent of air pollution and 20 per cent would be eliminated...’
Man above the law

ONE of the most important functions of all art is to accurately reflect the state of society, its ideas, morals, tensions, loves and hates. But to be successful as art, such reflections must remain honest representations and not mere pegs for the artist's particular obsessions and fears in the bottom.

What marks out Investigation of a Citizen Above Suspicion (Camer Poyly) from so many similar but inferior films is its measure awareness of the real complexities and difficulties of reflecting a society in turns.

The central character is the chief of the police a popular and long Italian city. He is thorough, brutal and successful. He is a man of wit, and yet he is vulnerable.

His mistress, who is fascinated by crime and murder, takes him with her inadequacy as a lover and as a man, and he becomes him unfavourably with her lover, a wild, youthful, captain of police. The police chief is driven mad with jealousy and rage, the woman herself conscious of the public service to which they impose themselves in order to give.

Mr. Cariou's film is a familiar and well-worked theme. But it is only a sub-theme of the film, just one ingredient in a mixture of political intrigue, blackmail, sexual perversion and murder.

Big opportunity

The police chief is a man obsessed by a very simple idea — the necessity of suspicion of the randomness that one can become head of Political Intelligence in the prime minister's office in his own murder. This is his big opportunity to put his ideas into practice.

In the usual fashion, he disencoun-
ters moral degradation, hypocrisy and the growth of communism. But he is satisfied with his one driving idea that he devises a near-fatal game of Russian Roulette.

Having committed his murder for what appears to be the essentially private motive, he proceeds to use the crime as a trial test of his victory over other power. He gives his subordinates clues after clues to his own guilt but they blunder along blindly like the well-trained machines they are. He becomes so infiltrated with their inefficiency that he finally confesses to them.

But his assembled, distinguis-
hished minds are not seduced to confession and destroy all the possible evidence. They plan with him — the fabric of society, the good name of the police force — and all demand that he retract his confession.

And so he retracts. Society needs him as a guillotine upholder of their traditional chauvinism, his idea is lost through. The abstract principle of authority has triumphed against the individual.

Inevitably, any written description of this reality-defying film can do no justice to its imaginative power and tantalizing complexity. Equal to and reminiscent of Kafka's The Trial and Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment, it is one of the best films of the last decade.

Martin Tomkinson

- AND HOW LONG HAS PUSY BEEN A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY FOR CUTTING UP DOGS?

THE UNFREE PRESS was at its best last week, trampstepping the latest outbreak from Mr Tim Fortescue, Tory MP for Gatton. Readers may recall that during the Ford strike, Fearless Fortescue alleged that Ford's Halewood plant was a cesspool of anarchy where the workers played football all day, pinched parts, booted on the night-shift and refused to allow foremen on the line.

The allegations, came, the MP, from workers at Halewood. Of course, they couldn't be named for fear of reprisals. The lack of any evidence to back up the charges did not deter the Fleet Street tycoons from giving great prominence to Fortescue's distortive remarks.

Seeing your name in headlines acts like strong wine to weak heads. The Gorton Gomer returned to his subject last week again, coincidentally as the Halewood men were carrying on their strike for parity in defiance of the practice of telling off from the AUEW and TGWU.

The tabloids screamed in enormous headlines last week: "Frightened Men of Ford's" (Mirror), "Sack the Wrecker" (Sun) and "Violent Police by Ford Bosses" (Sketch). The first two threw overboard the time-honoured tradition of Fleet Street of distinguishing between news and comment, bringing the impression on their front pages that Ford's bluster was hard fact.

The further allegations of bribery and corruption at Hale-

wood were too much for the liberal labour staff of the Sunday Times. On Sunday, Eric Jacobs and Philip Knightly demolished Fortescue by stressing his second refusal to name his informants but saying they believed that only one of the nameless trio actually worked at Halewood out of a workforce of 12,000.

They added that it would be difficult to go to work drunk at the plant because of strict controls on the gates, that a security staff of 80 made theft equally difficult, that the strange shift hours might enable the morning shift to kick a ball around during their break when the fortunate Fortescue might be contemplating his first sherry of the day and that the strict domination and control of the measured-day-work system made "idleness" virtually impossible. And the final indignity was to politely tell Tired Tim that he had wanted to declare "subversion" papers to be at the root of the troubles, he might as well get their names right. The malignant Mephisto of comic papers named by the MP is called Big Flame, not 'Blue Flame'.

He must have confused it with a firm he'd been to see.

FINAL FORD WORD: one of the warm-hearted pictures in the "no-strikes pay deal was that the workers could have New Year's Day as an extra holiday. Nice, except that for the next two years, AYD tells on a Saturday and a Sunday.

Nonsense

THE LIBERAL PARTY's indig-
nation at the National Census now being conducted is concerned with the state's growing intrusion into the privacy of the individual.

Fair point, but the aim of the census goes beyond mere government desire to huddle around a battery of baffling forms.

One aim of the latest census (£10m) exercise is to find out exactly how many colourless immigrants there are in Britain and how fertile different race are, a sickening piece of racist ligesty-pokery that will be used to great advantage by the Smethwick gusler and his Klan.

The volumes of statistics produced after the census are gobbled hungrily by business, small and big. Forms are happy to pay a fat fee for information that tells them where to find pockets of 'inactive female labour' and areas where salesmen might profitably sell washing machines and other costly items.

Although the findings are "secret", it is possible for businesses to match up each district of the census — about 200 households to one 'enumeration' paper with the electoral roll and actually work out each individual household, its income, expectancies, background and likely purchases.

So the census is more than a mere infringement of our liberties. It is a device to intensify racial divisions, to open up pools of cheap labour for unscrupulous employers and to place unwary housewives at the mercy of smarmy salesmen. But if you feel like refusing to fill in your form, be warned — you can be fined up to £50.

David East

THE COMMERCIAL channel seems owned with the "唿呼" hero, the man who claws his way to power, having reared a thick painted influence littered with destroyed oppositions, dictators and friends and cast-off bedmates.

Perhaps the obsession is a reflection of the style of the average television tycoon or the human and the inadequate or existence of the average television writer, but the end result is as far as the viewer is concerned is the feeling that the characters on the screen are in a state of high anxiety. The squalor, the maiming, the love in a dog-eat-dog society, is the implication, so just sharpen your teeth, Fido, and get stuck in.

The stabling of The Power Game has given way to Man at the Top, a television, its loud and bed-

ventures of Joe Lampson, the unapologetically and equally unpleasant and interchangable John Braine. While Lampson has a well-

dwelling, pernicious and versed with two more characters from the same mould, Hine (ATV, Wednesday) and Budgen (London Weekend, Fridays).

I have not yet managed to see Hine but it is enough to say that he is a self-affected and casual narrator for you to get the drift of the series. Budgen, a diarist — or at least the first instalment was — and I have little hope for its improvement.

It comes from the stable of Ken Warren, the man who, last year gave us a stomach-churning serial of Castle that told of the happenings of a man in the upper reaches of society and his bane of an unhappy bunch of small-time crooks, drunks and determined inhabitants of the demi-basement who lived, of course, in a country flat.

Since, Warren has turned to writing a twice-weekly Sunday Mirror Mirror that has quickly become required reading for its radical approach, its toughness and uncompromising support for such groups as the young men, postal workers and its hilarious attacks on the petty prejudices of the middle class towards young men and women, to which Budgen belongs.

In my view, then, that Mr. Waterhouse ponders to those name-racketing middle class prejudices with which he is paid to do television.

Besides another small-time crook, just out of prison and just back into it as a victim of the police. He has an abandonee wife, a mistress who has borne his child and a 'Hagueish' sidekick. Budgen shows his gratitude to a van driver who gave him a lift home from prison by planting him in a few days later but due to the incompetence of his assistant, puts the wrong vehicle and lands up with a load of illegal pornographic literature.

The series cannot decide whether to be serious or amusing, with the result that the seriousness is interlaced by lumpy bunches of gags that, for the variety that includes, with the thick Paddy, an acid biker, a harmless and an effeminate film producer. The action, direction and acting are very wooden and uninteresting and Adams, the constable, appears to mimic his part, as though he were repeating his latest recording.

It would be absurd to claim, let alone, that the new television show, that all working people are paranoid — it is they who have their warts. It would be pleasant and to the point if he would take some of his finger points and their scars from time to time in television drama.

David East
Get tough policy at Ford

by John Pinder,
Metal Stamping and Body Plant shop steward, Halewood.

When Ford's Halewood workers went back to work last week they were greeted with a talk on the management's new ideas of discipline.

Starting with the petty things, each member of the permanent staff was shown the list of rules to abide by. For example, sandwiches are to be eaten only in a special 'tea area'. The canteen - widely used for brekkie before the strike - now opens only at 8.30am.

But in addition to restrictions of this kind, management informed shop stewards that they can no longer move freely from department to department. Now they must have a pass signed by their foremen.

The general opinion in the plant is that management were simply trying to take away some of the stewards' power and bring the men increasingly under the control of the foremen.

COLLABORATION

This is the end-result of a ballot rushed through democratically and with absolutely no time for any discussion. The management's latest attempt at American-style strike-breaking is a farce.

It is significant that it was concocted by the union, management and government collaboration as a blueprint for future agreements to be introduced under the Industrial Relations Bill.

At Halewood, the vote was 2,514 for, 2,190 against the deal. This was only a 35 per cent turnout, and the majority voted not with pen but with contempt.

IND l/NOM 

ing in the working-class democracy of main meetings and resorting to the use of a disgraceful ballot to ensure their own way. In the end, the agreement was imposed on the workers and the discipline imposed on the individual shop stewards and foremen.

The Ford agreement marks a new step in the employers' offensive against trade unionism as we have known it. The whole of the ballot is a mockery.

Many more industrial and white-collar workers have joined and now form a majority of the membership. The main debates were on 1965 as an example of the modernisation of the union.

Meetings were called with the union leadership to discuss the attempts to co-ordinate their efforts and to fight the management's new code of discipline.

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