WHERE'S YOUR WRIT, DU CANN?

by the Editor

Mr Edward Du Cann, former Tory Party chairman, MP for Taunton and chairman of merchant bankers Keynes Ulman, told the London Evening News last Friday that it was "absolutely nonsense and rubbish for Socialist Workers to claim that he should have warned V&C and General policymakers of the impending crash of the insurance firm."

Keynes Ulman were bankers to V&C. Paul Foot wrote last week that the bankers sold all their shares in V&C five months before the collapse but continued to advise the firm on financial matters.

He added: "In other words, the bank knew that V&C was going bust and promptly sold all its shares at a good price. Meanwhile they continued to act as financial advisers to V&C without mentioning so much as a word of warning to policymakers or anyone else."

There is no reason to suppose that Keynes Ulman had any special knowledge of this company. This sort of thing is the responsibility of the Board of Trade or the British Insurance Association.

"The Association is always advising that you can take out policies with their members quite safely. They are the people who assume a public responsibility.

Here is an interesting insight into the 'business ethics' of a leading Tory big business. As chairman of a company advising V&C, he denies any responsibility to warn 500,000 policyholders of its impending collapse - a fact known throughout the City months before it happened."

Wry smile

And the 500,000 drivers who lost their insurance through the crash will have a wry smile at Mr du Cann's remark that the British Insurance Association, in which V&C was a member, advised on the safety of policies from its member companies. Mr du Cann went on to say: "One begins to wonder if one should mention the article to one's solicitor - or to the company's solicitors."

Doesn't Paul Foot see his writ, Mr du Cann.

But on one important point, we must apologize. If not to Mr du Cann, then certainly to the Tory MP. He denied the claim that he was one of the "richest men" on the Tory benches.

This is a grave injustice to Mr du Cann. He is, in fact, a millionaire, which puts him a cut above the average Tory MP. We apologize for any embarrassment or inconvenience our remarks may have caused him.

INSIDE STORIES

War-time fight against union laws: 3
Why Barbican bosses want a strike: 4
English Civil War: 6

TORIES' ATTACK HITS PAY AND CHILDREN'S REALITY

THE GOVERNMENT is out to cut the living standards of the ordinary people in this country. No other interpretation is possible of the miserable 9 per cent wage increase that has been awarded to the postal workers.

The 250,000 postal workers will find themselves with nothing like the money they need to keep up with price rises of 10 per cent a year by the time they have paid back a third of their increase in taxes to the government. They will be forced to cut back on their spending. And not just on those little luxuries that make life bearable after long hours of work, but on basic necessities as well.

What applies to the postal workers applies to millions of other workers who have been refused adequate wage increases. It also applies to the 81,000 whom the government have condemned to the dole queues. All are having to watch every penny as prices, rents, health and welfare charges shoot up.

Striking evidence of what this means came to light this week. Since school meal charges went up by a third a fortnight ago, half a million children have been forced to stop taking them. In working-class areas like the East End of London, up to a third of parents feel they cannot afford to pay the increased sums. On the other hand, in a middle-class area like Dalweth the figure is less than 10 per cent.

For 30 years, the old diseases associated with malnutrition were virtually non-existent in this country. Experts have said that the major cause of the change was free school milk and cheap school meals.

Now both are being done away with. No wonder complaints like tickets are in the increase in working-class districts.

The policy of the present government is deliberately to cut back on many of the gains working people have been able to make over recent years. It is doing so in order to boost the profits of those who own the industry of this country.

It is also important to remember that all the present government's measures were pioneered by the last Labour government, 'Sacrifices'...

The reason is simple. The present big business system will not work unless high profits are guaranteed to those who own industry. Today these profits can only be obtained by cutting living standards, by deliberately creating unemployment, poverty and malnutrition.

Ordinary workers gain nothing from the system. Wherever it demands 'sacrifices', we are always forced to make them.

We will only end that state of affairs when the working class itself controls society and takes the decisions. The need at present is to develop a united fight back against the different Tory attacks. In the process we can build a massive movement prepared to take direct action to end the big business system for once and for all.
The harsh lessons of arbitration

THE RESULT of the committee of inquiry into the postal workers’ pay claim, due to be published this week, is expected to recommend only a 9 per cent rise. This will mean that post officials have achieved a later raise than the other civil servants in the last 12 months. Nevertheless, many postal workers are looking forward to a big increase, as it makes it difficult for right-wing trade unions to control their members.

In the postal workers’ case, the arbitration was agreed to only on condition that the strike was called off. The union leaders accepted that condition. The arbitrators have estimated that the unions’ members are not in a sufficiently confident mood to restart a strike and therefore have little industrial power. Consequently they will offer the workers such little that their real buying power will be reduced.

Yet the postal workers could have won. After seven weeks of strike action they were as solid as at the beginning. The, true, the telephone system was operating in a virtually unimpaired manner. True, too, that the Post Office was losing money through the strike, but that is an illusion created by false letters and money on pay phones. But the profits of big business were being made.

If the postal workers had lasted out a few weeks longer, there can be little doubt that powerful groups like the engineering employers would have been forced to the government to end the strike by permitting an improved wage offer.

Instead, the union executive called the strike off. They found that their holding was short of the £400,000 a week needed to sustain those strikers without any other source of money. Other trade union leaders went on strike. But even the so-called militant leaders like Scargill and Gear and the postmen are really just like the strikers. Despite the huge sums in their own coffers, they sat back and watched the postal workers. They were Trotskyists, and the postal workers were trade-union bosses. The CP and the Labour leaders had encouraged hundreds of thousands of their own members to push for improved wages.

But the postal workers had been betrayed. The CP leaders could have appealed over the heads of the official leaders to the rank and file of the postal workers. They did not do it. The CP’s Jackson and his executive preferred to trust the, tilleriacs of the government rather than to such an appeal. Ordinary postmen will now have to live on one and a half the wages that they were asking for.

All sections of workers must learn the lessons of the postal workers’ defeat. The same latter experience is not to be repeated elsewhere. A real fight against the Tories’ attacks on working people demands the creation of rank and file bodies in every industry and union that must push for united and militant opposition to the government’s attacks.

THE QUEEN’S MAIN

LEFT-WING MILITANTS are often asked why they reject the idea that socialism is a thing that has to come slowly. They are asked why we do not accept the public ownership of big business, etc. They are asked why we do not support the idea that when we call for direct action or for a general strike we are being “undemocratic”.

People who raise such questions would be well advised to look at some parts of the world today. The same world in which we live is the world of Stalin and Khrushchev. The world of events, which means that we can have direct action, or for a general strike we are being ‘undemocratic’. The world in which we live is one in which every day the Soviet Union attacks the “Zimmermann telegram” and therefore we must support the idea of the Georgia government.

Hardly had the government taken office than there was a balance of payments crisis. Wilson describes what followed. He now had reached the situation where his electorate would stand by him. The government did not have a mandate from the people was being told . . . by international speculators that the policy on which we had fought the election could not be implemented. The government was being forced to accept the Tory proposals that to which it had been opposed. . . . The Queen’s first Prime Minister was being asked to resign from his own party on a chapter of the history that was in itself the history of the day. The doctrine that an election in Britain was a farce, that the British people could not make a choice between policies. . . .

Now Wilson could hardly tell the whole story of what happened and continue to pretend that Labour offers a real alternative to the present state of affairs. The government is now faced with a situation where it has to order the public to accept the policies that the electorate was being told by the speculators was not actually strange foreigners but by large British big businessmen trying to make a quick profit. And secondly, that despite all his talks with the people, Wilson’s government, as he has said, did follow policies that prepared the way for those of the present government.

The Labour government’s failure to produce a policy that the majority does not provide any basis for introducing change to British society, however meagre. For while parliamentarians argue and debate, those with real economic positions remain in power.

What applied in 1944 stil applies today. Big businesses force the government to do what they want by not waiting to see who wins the elections. They will not wait for a government to come that will continue to pay their way until the working class uses its power in the same way. Until a massive movement prepared to do this is built up the sorry spectacle of the last Labour government can only be repeated.

SOUR GRAPEs AND MR JACKS

ACCORDING to A. L. Parkinson’s letter (11 May) the International Socialistic critics of the Communist Party are ‘sour grapes’. He says that they are attacking Communist Party member Bill Horrigan’s description of the FARC strike settlement as a victory.

To have called a strike, he says, would have been bad for morale. But the alternative to calling it a defeat is a lot to say the strike was a victory.

I wonder if Mr Parkinson considers the following: your grapes? Two months ago his local newspaper reported a mass meeting of the insurance sub-committee that was defeated by a mass meeting of the insurance sub-committee. The two meetings were repeated the entire difference is that in the second meeting the workers attacked the strike. In the first meeting the workers attacked the strike. In the second meeting the workers attacked the strike.

Sickening for me was less than Mr Parkinson’s letter, which was a son of the National Union of Students and Community Union was not invited to the meeting. In 1966, the meeting was under the chairmanship of Mr Parkinson. He said, ‘the National Union of Students will be open to the door and the Community Union will be open to the door.’

He doesn’t seem to realize that the Tory government has already been attacked by the Socialists and the workers. One reason given is that it is not in the interest of the Socialists and workers to make a success of the government.

On free speech. Mr Parkinson accepted the Tories were striking the opposite of the Mayhew and Immigration Relations Bill, which must be defeated. Mr Parkinson accepted Socialism was in a minority. Consequently, according to Socialism, socialism is right and not right.

I wonder if Mr Parkinson considers the following facts. Two months ago his local newspaper reported a mass meeting of the insurance sub-committee that was defeated by a mass meeting of the insurance sub-committee. The two meetings were repeated the entire difference is that in the second meeting the workers attacked the strike. In the first meeting the workers attacked the strike. In the second meeting the workers attacked the strike.

The trouble is that no elements of this variation are as much as the government is prepared to do. The party has to call a strike, and if the workers are allowed to stop work, the government has to take over. The government has to take over without the help of the Socialists.

Moreover, the Socialists are the only party to have launched a national campaign in support of the workers. The Socialists are the only party to have launched a national campaign in support of the workers. The Socialists are the only party to have launched a national campaign in support of the workers. The Socialists are the only party to have launched a national campaign in support of the workers. The Socialists are the only party to have launched a national campaign in support of the workers. The Socialists are the only party to have launched a national campaign in support of the workers. The Socialists are the only party to have launched a national campaign in support of the workers. The Socialists are the only party to have launched a national campaign in support of the workers. The Socialists are the only party to have launched a national campaign in support of the workers.

In the past many militant workers have been sacked. But the Socialists do not do by the non-elected bureaucrats in the Communist Party.

Elections for the syndicates will be held in mid-May and this has also involved the controversy in the west of this country. As to whether the Socialist left should take to the subscriptions. The dispute has persisted since the 1950s, when some groups began to move away from a position of support that the entire left had held since the syndicates were set up in 1919 and the workers’ own organizations corresponded.

The correct strategy is not easy to work out. One prospect of forming syndicate posts might encourage a playing down of the influence of the own organizations. An interesting variant was put forward by the delivery men from Plymouth at the Congress of the Workers’ Commissions. They proposed that in the event of a strike the Socialists should choose their own representatives and signers on the pay, or to be their own organization, and that they should be trained in the organization by the officials of the local government.

But the main fact in the Commis- sioners’ cases was that there has been a more thoroughgoing campaign on the question of the syndicates and syndicates. This strategy has two main dangers.

One the suppression of the Communists is made easier by the official government. The Socialists have been able to operate in the sense that there is a danger of the militants being co-opted. The official government offers an invitation to the use of the official government. The Socialists have been able to operate in the sense that there is a danger of the militants being co-opted. The official government offers an invitation to the use of the official government. The Socialists have been able to operate in the sense that there is a danger of the militants being co-opted.

In any case the official government offers an invitation to the use of the official government. The Socialists have been able to operate in the sense that there is a danger of the militants being co-opted. The official government offers an invitation to the use of the official government.

Already Workers’ Solidarity is being urged by the British Ministry and the police. One reason given is that it is in the interest of the Socialists and workers to make a success of the government. Without a permit a strike is illegal. The result has been considerable, if not sufficient, to make a success of the government.

The last few years have seen a sharpening of the struggle over the control of the workforce. The number of strikes has increased from 1,000 to 5,000,000 this year. The government is using the next elections to force the Socialists to accept their own organization, and the Socialists are demanding the right to strike and an end to the anti-worker court.

The government’s effort to ban Work- ers’ Solidarity shows how far they are that the control will pass out of the hands of the official unions and into the workers’ hands.
World War 2: the ‘Home Front’ battle against Labour and Tory anti-union laws

In 1941, Kent miners at Better-汉堡 coalfield went on strike after the poor wages they got when working difficult seams, went on strike again. As a result of this, they were prosecuted. The Canterbury court gave three union officials 11 weeks' imprisonment, a thousand others received fines.

From cowering the men into submission, these sentences made them more obdurate, determined to go down the pits again until improved conditions were available, and their brother miners released from jail.

Faced with such a display of determination - as well as the prospect of sympathy strikes at other collieries - the authorities capitulated. They released the men from prison and never collected the fines.

The Betterhanger miners' victory is probably the best known, and most frequently cited instance of the strength of the Labour movement during the last world war. But it is important to realise it reveals only one side of the picture. In many instances, during the anti-union laws, the government frequently succeeded in inducing savage blows on trade unionism.

Dangerous conditions

109 miners at Comerton colliery, Notts, were fined, with the alternative of a month's imprisonment when they struck against a wage reduction. At Valleyfield colliery, Lanarkshire, the miners voted for refusal of work for refusing to work in conditions of the coal face made extremely dangerous.

In South Wales miners were fined for bad time-keeping caused by buses being late.

By January 1943, the New Leader, paper of the Independent Labour Party, reported that '5000 have been prosecuted and £500000 fine imposed under the Essential Workers Order and other orders.'

Finally, the wartime Labour Government has been described as 'dictator of labour.' He possessed an impressive array to use against workers. There were a total of 860 emergency orders in force at any one time, and many of them were in obscure language, that gave him virtually unlimited powers.

But the crucial question was not what was written on the paper. It was the class relationship of forces. Where organisation was weak, officials bent, then Ennin Emlyn used the law to impose discipline. But where the organisation was strong, he could not hamper the workers. In such a context, it was 'Bevin himself', rather than the miners, who was likely to end up with a bloody nose.

The best instance of this happening was not Betterhanger, but in the Lanarkshire colliery in October 1943. When five men were fined for failing to pay

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The repression war-time legislation was kept by the 1945 Labour government. Picture shows London dockers marching on the Old Bailey in 1951 to protest at the prosecution of seven of their strike leaders.

Total slaughter

To determine the dockers and cut off their leaders, the government arrested seven militants under Order 1358. But this had precisely the opposite effect to the one the government wanted.

The Attorney-General Sir Henry Brooke succeeded where the miners had failed. His prosecution led to a victory for the dockers. Angry dockers marched on the courts, and many of the dockers who were brought to trial had to work their sentences as they were released. In panic and haste, the government capitulated. They were released and Order 1358 was removed from the statute book.

The magnificently working class victory - the final removal of all the anti-strike legislation was achieved in the Second World War - was accomplished not by honey words in parliament but by rank and file action. It is important that this lesson is remembered at the present time.

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MILITANT building workers on the City of London’s multi-million pound Barbican redevelopment are currently trying hard to avoid an all-out strike. This might seem a strange thing for well-organised trade unionists to be doing. But the efforts of the workers are directed as much as a refusal to comply with the whims and wishes of the employers.

Believe it or not, Turriff Construction, who are building one of the massive towers blocks to house the rich in the Barbican, would just love a strike. And at top level meetings of that company’s executive, the president of the board of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers, Turriff informed the trade unionists that he’d go along with the National Executive Committee’s wishes.

They would, said George Smith, CBIE, call an official strike of their members on all four Barbican sites.

The reason is that Turriff did not have enough money to go on paying the kind of bonus they had agreed with the trade unions. They were involved in a dispute with the City of London Corporation, and their architects, Chamberlin, Powell and Bon, over the release of extra funds for the contract.

The men would not be expected to work any less. Turriff would just reduce their bonus from an average £13 per week to £3 and the men would do the same work. The firm had no choice, they were told.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

The International Socialist is a democratic organisation whose membership is open to all who accept its main principles and who are willing to pay contributions and to work in one of its organisations. We believe in independent working-class action for the abolition of capitalism and its replacement by a classless society. We believe in the complete control of the economy by working people. We believe in the complete control of the economy by working people.

We work in the most practically-oriented organisations of the working class and are firmly committed to a policy of internationalism. Capitalism is international. The plant owners have investments throughout the world and owe no allegiance except to themselves and the economic system they control.

In Europe, the Common Market has been formed for the specific purpose of increasing the trade and prosperity of these multi-national firms.

The international power of capital can only be overcome by international action by the working class.

A single socialist state cannot defend itself, defeat capitalists of other countries and protect its workers without the aid of the world socialist workers’ movement.

In addition to building a revolutionary socialist organisation in this country we also believe in the development of a world revolutionary socialist organisation to represent the interests of all workers, whatever their nationality. This includes not only women, but also workers in the developing countries of the world.

If you agree with the aims of the IS, please join us.

The IS is a member of the World Socialist Movement.

THERE ARE 15 BRANCHES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

Scotland: Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen

North West: Manchester, Liverpool, Preston

North East:Stockton, Newcastle

Midlands: Birmingham, Coventry, Leicester

South Wales: Swansea, Cardiff

South West: Exeter, Plymouth

London: East End, West End

Greater London: Harrow, Ilford, Isleworth

Kent:

Greater Manchester:

Wigan, St Helens, Wigan

Isle of Man:

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SES WANT

In

profits -

to

on's

successful

ALONE

as, weeks ago, some of the rich and successful took the
courage to tell us that our most
couterpart had been found. The
authors of the report, the British
Auditors Limited, who have been
commissioned to investigate the
bookings and accounts of the
Barcan, revealed that the Barcan
had been running a "profitable"
trade, despite losses in previous
years.

The true cost of a decade -
the price which the Barcan's
management and professionals
paid - is now beginning to be
drawn out.

In 1967 the press launched a vicious witch-hunt against the Barcan management. Now the real truth is hidden up.

Anarchy

They were picketing Downing Street
- and their officials were told that
Mr Carr was "too busy" to see them.
Anyway, they were told, "We're
going to see the employers." But
another approach from an
investigation through the
National Economic Development
Office was turned down.

This may be not so unexpected with
the fact that the current NEDO
head would shortly join John Larg
in their new chief executive.

That is the fruit tended by those
who are entrusted with making the
system work - a little better. On the
Barcan, elsewhere, it is time to start trying
to get rid of the milking machine instead of serving it.

Luxury subsidised flats for City businessmen

Big business
killing the dream
of Covent Garden

NORMAN CASS

The daily charge for parking in the
Covent Garden car park will be
more than the average daily rent now paid
by tenants in the area or their houses.

2. HUGHES (S) Ltd, licensing its
micros from the fantastic profits, (and
government subsidies) enabling them
to use the latest 'boom bus' at least
two more developments to build big
hotels in the area and have cut out
planning permission for them.

The owners will take up so much of the
space provided from the wholesale
demolition of at least three-quarters of the
existing houses in the area. The cost of
an average room (plus breakfast) is
likely to be less than £2.00 a night -
which represents much more than
doubles what the average resident
in Covent Garden earns.

The hotels will be welcomed in
business communities over the
world. Some recent discoveries showed
that more than 63% of all hotels in London's luxury hotels were paid by
big firms - tax-free expenses.

3. A CONFERENCE CENTRE. The
Covent Garden has been described as
"the home of the one-man business", and
many craftsmen still operate in the streets
around the Seven Dials. They
will now have to make room for a
public conference centre whose rooms
will only be available to the biggest and
prestigious companies.

Luxury flats

4. HOUSES. The plan envisages an
increase in the total population of
Covent Garden and the total num-
ber of houses there, although most of
the existing houses will be destroyed.

Unfortunately for the existing residents however, the housing enlarged
to nothing to do with them. There will be
room for half a dozen of the
wealthy private residences, at an average
rent of £15 a week upwards. Even in
few houses built by the council, the
rates alone are expected to equal the
total of rates and rents currently being
paid by Covent Garden tenants.

As for participation, it is no longer
exists, except for the dead which oppos-
its the development, has been ignored.
Westminster Council has been bought
off with a promise that it can develop
Publicity for its businesses.

Lady Dartmouth, the scounge of
ON, Colourful, and all things vulgar, has been brought in to introduce the
most monstrous and ridiculous vulgarly yet
proposed for London. The plan now is to
make some unwritten act an extension to
Covent Garden into an ugly, glittering
locale for businessmen who work in central
London and who need cars, motorcycles and hotel "rooms
flats" near their work. This is the people
who meanwhile there will have to get out and
wait a few years for a chance to live in
rooms with similar comforts and security.

The people of Covent Garden are
everywhere. The London Transport Board
has already established an office in
the area, and its senior representatives have
been elected by the opponents of
the scheme in each street.

There is a fire and a militancy in
the area not seen for decades. An intrepid
shopper shone during the meeting on
22 April. If they put us
to go, they'll have to throw us out.
The left and the call for real democracy

The English Civil War was basically the revolution that brought the middle class of merchants and genteel political and economic groups to fight this war alone. They needed an army, demonstrations, and mass support, especially in London and the other towns. They did not see their own struggle as a narrow class fight—which in essence it really was—but as an appeal to all Englishmen to defend the principle of ‘liberty’ against the ‘tyranny’ of Charles I.

Both town and countryside were working with discontent at this time. The rapid social change of the 16th and 17th centuries had turned many peasants into poor smallholders or wage labourers. Many independent small craftsmen had become journeymen (working for a master) or outworkers (producing in their own homes for piece rates) dependent on big employers.

It was from these small groups that the Levellers were born. They called themselves, as those independent small craftsmen and peasants who feared that they might become wage labourers—that the appeal of the middle class revolutionaries was answered. They saw ‘liberty’ in a very different light, however, from the merchants and gentlemen. And they produced two new political tendencies which were against all that the middle class was fighting for—namely, the Levellers, a radical democratic party, and the Diggers, a communist action group.

The Levellers, especially, provided Cromwell and his friends with the left-wing support they needed in the early stages of the Civil War. In 1647 the army leaders openly allied with the Levellers in order to put the more right-wing leaders in parliament out of the running for any communication with the king, only to denounce the radicals once their victory was assured.

The strength of the Levellers in 1647 came from their influence in the New Model Army, the crack fighting force which was the basis of the war. Cromwell believed that in order to defeat the soldiers the must know and believe in what they were fighting for.

High level

Since he saw religion as the main issue, Bible-reading, prayer meetings, sermons and lay preaching were encouraged in his army. Whether they had been taken from some text, they spread the men of the New Model soon became accustomed to freedom of thought and discussion. Since religion and politics were so closely connected in the period, and since there were several Levellers from London in the army, the Levellers had no difficulty in finding followers.

The Leveller group had begun to form when John Lilburne, ‘Freeborn John’ to his close supporters, was a young son who first became involved in the religious operation to Arch-bishop Laud when he was apprenticed to a London cloth merchant.

His courageous defence of religious freedom, despite persecution, had so much in it that he was a controversial figure for every sort of individual liberty.

When the right-wing parliamentary leaders tried to dissuade the army without paying its arrears, the soldiers organized their resistance with Leveller help. They elected representatives, called agitators, and forced Cromwell and the other generals to discuss with them in a directly elected Army Council.

The soldiers’ demands went far beyond their armies of pay, far beyond even religious freedom. They had been told they were fighting for liberty and for the rights of parliament. Now they argued that parliament could not defend their own liberties unless it was elected by them.

The new constitution drawn up by the Levellers, the ‘Agreement of the People’, was debated in the new Army Council, with the Leveller spokesman—Dr. Wilks, the Leveller speaker—John Lilburne and the soldiers arrayed against the other generals to discuss with them in a directly elected Army Council.

It was here that the army leaders showed their true colours. To them, only men of property had political rights, and the call for a democratic parliament seemed to threaten property itself. They quickly ended their discussions with the Levellers and smashed the soldiers’ mutiny which followed.

Party failed

After this defeat, the Levellers turned to their most brilliant, if hardly their most successful creation—a revolutionary party. Their members in London were organized in cells within the army. A central committee of 12 was elected. A central treasurer collected subscriptions (4d to 5d per week, depending on income), and allocated the funds to purchase pamphlets and leaflets.

Party members organized demonstrations, unfortunately mostly at the funerals of those who fell victims to the new regime. Leveller women organised their own petition and demonstration, in support of their ‘husbands’ liberties’.

But the Leveller party failed, and Lilburne suffered exile, prison and death. The forces of the middle class revolution were too strong for them, but it must be said that their social force was adequate enough for the people. The people they attracted were mostly members of a declining class—the small craftsmen, and to some extent the larger peasants—who were not alone subjected to the power of capitalist manufacturers, merchants and landowners.

Their highest value was small-scale economic independence, which they regarded servants and most wage-earners as having ‘lost their birthright’ by selling their independence with their labour power. They wanted a society of small, equal and independent producers, and saw democracy as the only way to preserve it.

When discussing the extension of the vote, the Levellers held freely of ‘votes for all’, but when forced to be more specific they usually denied that ‘all included servants, wage-earners living in their masters’ houses—holders—sometimes all wage-earners—or people receiving poor relief. Added together, these formed a large part of the poor population. Women were never included—and, indeed, the Levellers sometimes stated that even the poorest man had ‘property’ in his wife and children.

Better chance

The working class that existed at that time was small and weak. Scattered in small workshops or producing goods on their own, they were relatively unimportant and garrets, the workers could have little idea of the force of collective action.

When they supported the Levellers, as many as at least in London did work- ers seem to have accepted the view that ‘they had somehow fallen from the ideal state of economic independence, which was the Levellers’. They hoped that Leveller democracy would give them a better chance of regaining this state.

The Diggers, a group led by Gerard Winstanley, appeared to the same sort of people with the same problems. But Winstanley saw that the political solution of Leveller democracy was not enough. Quite clearly and correctly, he pointed out that economic inequality was the root of all political evil, and that ‘by the same token the abolition of all private property is the last and greatest of all the methods of solving the all private property in the last and greatest of all the methods of’. Winstanley’s vision of a communist society was very detailed. All land was to be farmed co-operatively by groups of families. Their production was to be brought to common stores, where they would return in return the necessities of life and the tools and materials for the crafts they would need.

The education was to be free and available to all, and given in such a way that there should be no distinction between useful and useless ‘slys’. Hard-working citizens over 40 were free to retire and stand for ‘politicals’ by a democratic parliament and local government bodies.

Of course these ideas were to be refused to work for the common good, and conspiracy to restore private property.

In order to achieve this happy society, small groups of Diggers set out to take over the common lands (which were called ‘commons’ as private property) in the hope that others would follow and they would be an example. When everyone could see their system was the best, the temptations would be persuaded to give up the rest of their land.

If the Levellers’ organisation fore-shadowed many future parties, from the Chartists to the Labour Party, it is not hard to find parallels to the Diggers’ direct action by force of ‘example’ strategy. From Owenite communities to happy communists, the few have to transform society.

Apart from their novel methods, the Diggers’ ideas shared the social weaknesses of the Levellers. Their communion depended on the vision of a society of hand-to-mouth producers and producers.

The failure of the Levellers and Winstanley did not reject progress in trade and industry. In fact, they thought that the sharing of knowledge and technology ‘people’ rights’ and the greatest possible development of the productive power of society, with all the marvellous achievements of modern industry and, in fact dependent on the growth of large-scale capitalism and the expansion of mass working classes.

Our tradition

The small producers had to lose their independence, in order to become the working class, for society to progress. Now, in our own time, the capitalists are not being overthrown by the organised working class so that these achievements can benefit the whole of society, but the progress of that percolates through the trade unions. The Diggers and the Levellers were easily smashed by the forces of the ‘revolutionary’, the waged working class. They were not working class parties, but they were a part of the working-class tradition.

Only the organised working class can change them by realising true democracy and real communism.

Important reading on this vital period of English history

Eduard Bernstein
Cromwell and Communism
—socialism and democracy in the English Revolution
£1.00

Christopher Hill
The English Revolution
—a short Marxist analysis
Cromwellian and Puritanism
—a series of essays on the background to the Civil War
Puritanism and Revolution
—a series of essays on the background to the Civil War
Reformation to Industrial Revolution
—an economic history of the period
£1.00

NEXT WEEK: A closer look at the ‘Lord Protector’
Johnson
the ring of truth...

IN A SOCIETY that placed great stress upon 'virility', it is inevitable that the so-called 'sport' of boxing attracts great attention and interest. The sheer number of superb specimen of both sexes is astounding and the enclosed action on the ring is a sport for the faint of heart.

The most brutal fascination of the fight is the white and black faces. When a fight is over, the spectators often have involved themselves too much in the white and black boxers. So vital does this need for racial identification appear that in every box that All-fight, Feaster was nicknamed 'the great white hope'.

The film of that name, The Great White Hope (AA), deals with an ironically similar situation. It is the story of Jack Johnson (in the film, a different name), the first Negro to win the world heavyweight championship and the breaking attempts of white America to destroy a man capable of defeating him.

Degraded jobs

The film shows Johnson winning the crown, flaunting it in the black quarter of Chicago and taunting the whites of America for its few and futile limitations. It was, in fact, not too bad, he openly associates with a white girl. There are many similarities in the film to the obvious yet nonetheless vital relationships between sex and boxing, spiced with the usual racial commentaries.

Forced to stand trial on a trumped-up charge, Johnson flees America for Europe. His race to Europe is a magnificent, yet not overlooked by director Martin Ritt. 50 years later, he is still the black fighter who has dethroned the world's champion. Poverty and humiliation drive his wave to Germany to the point where he deliberately 'threw' a fight in order to avoid the bloodlust of white Americans.

The parallels with Muhammad Ali are startlingly clear, and not overlooked by director Martin Ritt. 50 years later, he is still the black fighter who has dethroned the world's champion. Poverty and humiliation drive his wave to Germany to the point where he deliberately 'threw' a fight in order to avoid the bloodlust of white Americans.

The film is distinguished by a quite remarkable performance by James Earl Jones as Johnson. In the ring and in defeat, in victory, Jones stamples his characteristically unlovingly and unerringly on the film. It is in this film that he brings the uncanny reality to the screen.

Martin Tomkinson

THE GREAT SHIPPING SCANDAL

What is the cause of the growing number of collisions between giant oil tankers that pollute sea and beaches? Don't miss this major, exclusive story in next week's paper.

Biting remark

The dreadful attacks on young children by security guard dogs has not brought a change of heart to the men who supply this 'service' to business and property owners.

Said Mr Derek Boyce, manager of Guard Dogs and Security, last week: 'We don't train our slave dogs. We just make sure the ones we use are not vicious. If you break in, the dogs—they work best in pairs—will have you.

They will tear you to pieces if you resist. There is no point in a dog which just barks or grabs and holds you. This is rubbish and I'm sure B.C.R. will have you.

They are wild. They run wild. They receive no training. Training in very expensive'. So it is, Mr Boyce.

Grave story

SEEN on a gravestone in a field at Sandwell Park, near Lancaster, where one of the first cotton boats landed.

'Here lies POOR SAMBO, a faithful Negro who attended his Master from the West Indies in 1760 on his arrival at Sunderland.

"Full sixty years ago the winter's wave

Has thundered dashed this break and barren shore

Since SAMBO's head laid in this lonely grave

Lies still and ne'er will hear their tumult more

But still he sleeps till the awakening sounds

Of the Archangel's trump new life imports

Then the Great Judge his approbation founds

On not MAN'S COLOR but his WORTH OF HEART?"' H Bell, 1796.

In other words, there are no pass laws in Heaven: a fact to please R Mandela and sunnily backstairs.

ONE viewer's humour is another's emperor's new clothes. I am writing about the Ronnie Barker. Ronnie Barker. Ronnie Barker. (BBC) (Saturday) with some trepidation knowing that some of you probably spend 45 minutes rolling around the floor in helpless agony. I have carefully reviewed the show for three weeks running and have actually chuckled, let alone laughed.

With the trumpet blowing and flag waving from the BBC for this news, I would have expected something fresh and original from the two comics, and yet sketch after sketch is stark and hackneyed, the punchline semblance of a smile rather than the bite of the send-up classic serial, Midsomer. In particular, Bill Nighy will not be lost in those who know their Cockney rhyming slang.

As for getting it all together, it is more for homosexuals to have to hear, week after week, a man in drag doing the routine of someone flapping a limp wrist or clutching their chest at the mention of the word 'pasty'. The giving of homophobia is the boldest and most courageous of comedians who dare to make fun of it couldn't keep away from it. They could have, of course, not should have been so unoriginal as to put the matter of a pasty on television in the face of the man who is, after all, a pastie. And even the needle on Evelyn Waugh's Shield of Honour war. (Could we see that again, dear BBC, or can it 'ratings' make you change?"

There is nothing original about Callan. It is from the anti-Bond tradition with a few added touches of Team Dirty. Yet, there is something new about it. From the very best things ever on television in the film adaptation of Evelyn Waugh's Sword of Honour war. (Could we see that again, dear BBC, or can it 'ratings' make you change?"

N O T H I N G BODY talks about Callan, the spy series that ran quite a pull following its first show and now getting a rerun on ITV (Thursday). It is brash, snobbish and violent, a ludicrous portrayal of the '_Secret Service' engaged in battle with communists and ex-nazi.

What the series looks at is the quality of the acting and writing. What is the best guess that Edward Woodward should have achieved fame for this series when he was still up for the best things ever on television in the adaptation of Evelyn Waugh's Shield of Honour war. (Could we see that again, dear BBC, or can it 'ratings' make you change?"

There is nothing original about Callan. It is from the anti-Bond tradition with a few added touches of Team Dirty. Yet, there is something new about it. From the very best things ever on television in the film adaptation of Evelyn Waugh's Sword of Honour war. (Could we see that again, dear BBC, or can it 'ratings' make you change?"

Loud-mouthed, 'working-class' yobs who insist their superiorities and disobey instructions would never be allowed to zwart such a tightly-disciplined, carefully-trained and disciplined group of the real secret service.

And even the 'message' that Britain uses methods as nasty as the feats 'probably lost in the welter of little truths' about an act of killing.

SIR W. C. S. BARTON (B/W) was devoted to the famous French weapon. He appears to have yet to read and work, nor to be encouraged to do so by this quite dreadful work. He appears to have yet to read and work, nor to be encouraged to do so by this quite dreadful work. He appears to have yet to read and work, nor to be encouraged to do so by this quite dreadful work. He appears to have yet to read and work, nor to be encouraged to do so by this quite dreadful work. He appears to have yet to read and work, nor to be encouraged to do so by this quite dreadful work. He appears to have yet to read and work, nor to be encouraged to do so by this quite dreadful work. He appears to have yet to read and work, nor to be encouraged to do so by this quite dreadful work.
By Dave Peers

630 FITTERS at the Tyneside shipbuilding yards of Swan Hunter returned to work on Tuesday after a six-week strike for wage parity with the boilermakers. The fitters now have the same basic rate of £2.57 a week as the boilermakers, but parity of total earnings has not yet been achieved.

But the fight for parity continues as the ship repair yards, where 360 fitters are still out, have already been offered parity of earnings with the boilermakers by late June but the question of an interim payment has yet to be settled.

The repair yard fitters have now been out nine weeks and their mood is high. If, as seems likely, they do achieve equality of standing with the boilermakers, this will be a tremendous step forward and should help to remove the sectional riddles that have dogged workers in ship building.

Unity will be vital in the struggle ahead for there are now clear signs of a falling off in orders and shipyard work. All unions will need to stand together to defend their jobs and living standards against the employer's offensive.

Only last week, a Tyneside government spokesman stated firmly that no more government aid would be forthcoming for this 'tame deck' industry. Shipyard workers are demanding guarantees of future work and an assurance that government aid will be forthcoming to provide a basis for the fight ahead.

SCAB PHONE SERVICE BUSTED BY BREAKDOWN OVER ENGINEERS' PAY

By Fred Pearson, BISAKTA

APART from the complete obstruction of traffic in Newcastle, Tyneside is now at war with the Steel Corporation engineers. More than 1,000 machinists are on strike, and the Steel Works and Garvestone yards have been thrown into confusion.

Before the present dispute began, machinists had accepted a 10% increase in pay and another 10% as a wage claim for 1975. But for the last nine weeks they have been locked out and not allowed to work.

The dispute began at the Steel Works and then spread across the River Tyne to the Garvestone yard.

It is possible that another 10,000 steel workers in the area will be involved in the strike in the next three or four years. BSC has already announced that another 2,000 jobs are under review. Hartlepool, which is already described as the Jarve of the 1970s, is to lose more than 600 jobs in one of the steelworks.

BSC and ICI employ over half the workers on Tyneside so the whole industry is affected by the strike. The Steel Corporation engineers have been locked out for more than six weeks and have been replaced by strikebreakers.

The new work is being carried out by the Steel Corporation engineers but the strikebreakers are working for lower wages.

The strikebreakers are working for lower wages but the penalty clauses in the Steel Corporation engineers' contracts are so severe that many are unable to work.

Incompetent

The strike is a victory for democracy and workers control over the steel industry.

The Steel Corporation engineers have always been regarded as one of the most inefficient and incompetent groups in the steel industry. They have been responsible for the worst of the work stoppages and have been out of work for more than six months.

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The Steel Corporation engineers have always been regarded as one of the most inefficient and incompetent groups in the steel industry. They have been responsible for the worst of the work stoppages and have been out of work for more than six months.

Ford engineers condemn Scanlon

ENGINEERING UNION delegates from all Ford plants condemned their General Secretary, Hugh Scanlon, on Monday for his part in the "no strike" agreement that halted the recent dispute. Only one delegate voted against the motion that condemned Scanlon for his participation in secret talks with the company to prevent the organisation of secret ballot in opposition to the Scanlon call for a "peace" agreement.

The motion added that Scanlon's activities disregarded the democratic processes of the union. The delegates called on the AEU executive to ensure that such "shameful events" are repeated, prevent the imposition of secret ballots and to promote the involvement of the union members in the formulation of agreements.

SUPPORT FOR FINE TUBES

Workers at Fine Tubes, Tyneside, on strike for 47 weeks, have won support for their struggle from Tyneside Trade Unions Council and local Labour MPs. The council has agreed to call a rally in support of the Fine Tubes workers, while Labour M.P.s have pledged to bring the case to the attention of the Government.

Levyland locks out 2000 in bonus row

NOTICES

RAIL, FOOT on the Postal Workers and the Post Office Employers since September. Notice: Monday 17 May, 8am.

CARMARKER—Scottish meeting for workers Monday 17 May at 8am, 12th Floor, Carlton Hotel, Edinburgh. (Organised by: Union of Scottish Postal Workers)

Hindoostan—10th anniversary of the Hindoostan at 9am, 112, Gordon Street, London WC1 (Organised by: Executive Committee of the Hindoostan)

NEWSPAPER—Mon., 15 May, 8.30am, Park Hotel, Edinburgh (Organised by: Newspaper Workers)

DUNDUR—24 women workers have been sacked from the GMWU (Great Western Motor Workers' Union) at Whitevic, a car parts firm of Hogg and Ross in over a year's time for alleged theft. The GMWU refused to negotiate with the union, the following notice from the GMWU issued as a result of the strike.

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