Stricken millions are told:

**WORLD CANNOT FEED YOU ALL**

Insulting baseline in the London Evening Standard based on statement by UN Food and Agriculture Organisation

But they could feed the hungry. World expenditure on arms is 700,000 million dollars a year. The USA spends 72,000 million dollars. India spends 50,000 million dollars. The USA has given up to 100,000 million dollars in aid to other countries. Britain has given up to 10,000 million dollars in aid to other countries. It could force Yalta to stop begging and supply food to Yalta. In the USA, in the 1974 budget it amounts to 60,000 million dollars. India’s aid expenditure is 10,000 million dollars. Right now there are 12 million mouths of surplus wheat in Canada...

The Government is determined to press home still further its attack on workers’ living standards. Already prices are rising twice as fast as wages. But this is not good enough for the Tories. They intend to cut real wages still further.

Their aim is to slash wage claims down to an average of 6 per cent by the autumn, although prices are going up by 10 per cent a year.

Employment Minister Robert Carr has called on employers to unite to impose such a policy on their workers. In the latest issue of the bosses’ magazine, the Director has written that employers should be ‘co-ordinating their wage bargaining and developing counter-acting power’. He is calling for the employing class to unite as never before to hit our living standards.

The government is trampling a path it wants other employers to follow. It has forced unemployment to the highest level for 50 years.

It has abolished welfare services that used to guarantee full maintenance to working-class children. It has forced groups like the postal workers to accept miserable wage increases.

Unfortunately, the official trade union movement has responded to the employers’ offensive by trying to hide its head in the sand. The TUC has concentrated its attention on begging the government to adopt different policies.

TUC leaders are on their knees before the Tory ministers, asking them to allow the TUC to police a policy of voluntary wage restraint.

Such an attitude cannot be in the interest of rank and file union members. British big business cannot solve its problems without pushing profits up still further and cutting wages.

But there is no need for us to accept such cuts. If the minority who have economic power in this country cannot provide full employment and decent wages, then we should fight to take that power from them.

Mr Carr is whipping up the employing class for a further unified attack on the workers. The vital need is to build a revolutionary organisation of workers that can take the initiative in organising a united working class fight back.

**Vital reading for all Socialists and trade unionists**

**The Fight against Racism**

by Mike Caffoor

5p a copy plus 3p post: 12 copies or more post free

Name

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Organisation

Please send: ___ copy/copies of The Fight Against Racism. I enclose postal order/cheque for £...
The vice of imperialism and the strangulation of capitalism has created the holocaust of East Bengal.

By Nigel Harris

The BIRDS have come home to roost. The next chapter in the unfolding tragedy of Bengali tribalism is now even more terrible than what has gone before.

The question is whether anything can or should be done to prevent the inevitable.

Grim prospects

The Great Powers all twitter and shout about the tragedy, but they seem powerless to do anything about it. The world of political power has created the holocaust of East Bengal, and for the moment the prospects of any political solution appear grim. Indeed, the situation could worsen even further in the face of new challenges.

The UN Peacekeeping Forces have been established as a result of the General Assembly's resolution, supported by the United Nations, to provide military forces to support the government of Bangladesh.

Yahya also offered to accept back along the lines of the previous offer, provided the United Nations was able to guarantee its withdrawal. This opened the way for a possible solution to the situation in East Bengal.

Back to streets

There have been reports that the movement has been suppressed, but this has not been confirmed. The situation remains unclear.

The vital necessity in the struggle against Pakistan and neo-colonialism is the movement in both East and West Bengal.

Bhutto ensured that the last attempt failed when the UN peacekeeping forces were deployed in the West to the greatest possible extent. It might well have been that the best peace agreement that could be reached in East Bengal would have been achieved there.
DOCKERS FACE THREAT FROM 'INSHORE SHARKS'

According to the press, the docks industry in this country is facing a major crisis. A number of docks in London have been shut down and there is much speculation about the future of the Mersey Docks and Harbours Board. The Dockers' Committee has been set up to deal with these problems.

COULD YOU explain how such things as the National Dock Labour Scheme affect dockers?

The Dock Labour Scheme, introduced in 1964, is unique in British industry. The Dock Labour Board, which is responsible for the take-over of dock labour, training and discipline, is made up of half of trade union representatives and half of employer representatives.

The scheme has been a thorn in the dockers' side in recent years and they would dearly love to be rid of it. They claim that the dockers cannot afford to lose.

How have things changed since the introduction of the Dock Labour Scheme in 1967?

Under the original scheme, which operated from 1967 to 1976, the NLDB was the body responsible for recruiting dockers. The London Dockers' Strike Report brought about drastic changes.

It is to be put into practice in two stages. Phase I, which began in September 1967 saw the end of the dock labour system, an increased fall back guarantee of 75%, a reduced hiring rate to 147, and the introduction of fairly acceptable amenity blocks. But the piecework system and daywork systems were retained.

The employers have moved gradually, but one of the main things we were asked to do was to remove the wage (28p an hour). After long discussions, this was called in July 1970 which lasted three years.

The settlement gave us a full guarantee of £20 and £20 a week but a fall back guarantee left the rate at 28p. The employers were hell-bent on breaking further productivity agreements into the industry, and a year after the NLDB was set up the main benefit we received was the abolition of the piecework system which was replaced by the guaranteed wage.

Why don't you militants oppose Phase II, surely with a £36.50 basic and £32.50 in the case of the category B men—who are unable to do the most strenuous work—this is £69 per week? Is everyone laughing?

For a guaranteed £36.50 in the case of category B men, the NLDB has no guarantee of £32.50, nor of £28.50 in the case of category A men. It's £36.50, but for what work do you think we can make this happens?

I don't believe the Transport and General Workers' Union, the agreement was not accepted, the Seamen and Dockers' Union (The Blues) had refused to accept the NLDB, but had accepted the agreement weeks before it was implemented.

The higher basic wage was long overdue to the dockers without all the work we've done we would not have won the NLDB. Now it looks like we have done our work well.

In the next few years the bosses have slashed jobs in London to less than 12,000. This sparks for their offices of the employers have plans to slice this latter figure down even lower in the near future.

A recent article in the Sun that the NLDB is still going to be cut 23 per cent productivity was down 30 per cent and charges had been doubled. Aren't we fighting the dockers out of existence? In reply to the Sun (17 May) I'd like to say that the dockers have not seen a 25 per cent increase in wage. To do so, they would have to work a normal week, plus Saturday and Sunday, and before Phase II they were days of leisure.

Productivity may well have gone down, but so did many dockworkers go down with the trade in a result of the ridiculous jobs we had to work under the previous system to achieve a living wage.

At one time the dockworker had an outstanding opportunity of getting in the dock between the ages of 58 and 61, if he wasn't already trained through the piecework system.

All the thanks you receive from the employers if you're less active than you may have been years ago is a cut in wages to the B register rate.

As more docks close and more are threatened with closure, inland container depots are getting more cargo. How do you view this?

We've seen many closures within a short period and now we see in the Roberts are faced with the same threat. The long fetch of astronomical sums of money, and the trade could be redirected to inland depots where, by coincidence, it's not done by the retrained dockworkers, though in most cases, by members of the TGWU.

These depots are run by sharks who are answerable to no National Dock Labour Board, and in most cases there is grave misunderstanding and low wages. The TGWU should strike an agreement whereby the work should come under the Dock Labour Scheme, with the right minimum wages.

Coffin

There'd be no more need for the current pay and the untainted register. While the docks' share in trade is rising, the dockers' share is falling. It's about time the TGWU did something positive about this before we find the final knell has been struck over the dockers' coffin.

The Dockers' Phase II agreement comes up for review in a month. What do you think will come of it?

The employers have adopted the usual tactics of talking about rising costs and falling output, shipping the port etc. This is nothing new, we've always experienced these tactics.

The national press and the Port newspaper will publish these and the high rate of unemployment in an attempt to keep the claims low. But we've been caught like everyone else by rising prices so the cost of living rise should be a mere形式性, with no more string.

A new newspaper report claimed that the TGWU and the employers were plotting to ditch the NLDB. Is this a possibility?

Shop stewards' deputation to Jack Jones last summer raised this question, and we were given a complete assurance that the Dock Labour Scheme would never be tampered with by anyone and anyone would meet with great resistance. For me, that's OK.

Obstacles

Can you say how the Devlin package has affected union organisation, particularly in the introduction of shop stewards?

Locally they met many obstacles under Phase I, but these were overcome and they settled down without negotiating powers, unlike the shop stewards in other ports.

Since the introduction of Phase II, all ports negotiate their own agreements. The review dates vary unlike the national agreement which we had previously, which cuts our power.

The sooner the national shop stewards committee is recommissioned the better. Most employers were trembling when this committee was formed.

Is nationalisation of the docks any solution to the problem?

To nationalise the docks would be easier than the Labour government made it out to be: the dockers have always run the industry anyway. There should be no question of compensation for the employers—they've had their pound of flesh and more over the last century.

How will the Industrial Relations Bill affect dock workers?

I believe that the IRB was introduced for motor workers and dockers in the main. If the unions agree to co-operate, once the dust has settled, we'll see if it is for a rough ride.

The port employers are known to be active supporters of the present government—and wouldn't hesitate to carry out their policies. We must be certain that the IRB does not affect the National Dock Labour Scheme in any way.

How do you see the future for dockworkers?

The employers have ensured that the power the dockers once held has been severely curtailed. The only way the employers can be given a caning these days is by a national strike.

With local strikes they can always redirect shipping to other ports. A few years ago London held the key to British trade, but with containerisation the employers have made sure that we don't hold that key any longer.

However I believe that the future for dockworkers in London is not as black as some people claim it is. There are many years left for London dockers and London docks, where we have always provided a service as efficient and fast as anywhere in the world.

A national link-up of ports is essential. We must force the TGWU into bringing all inland deposits and cargo handling into the NLDB scheme. This can only be brought about by a national effort. The dockworkers must be prepared to engineer himself in a battle to the last man.

Are we asking too much? Ask yourself how you would feel if the factory where you worked closed down and another one opened up across the road with the workers receiving far worse benefits than you did.
The 'revolutionary' who campaigned for people's capitalism by Paul Mattick

The Cornford saga: do you simply want to be swindled?

Bernie Cornfeld and his band of ex-Trotskyla and soft lefties lost 300 million to their swindlers very well. They went to Genoa because they had been robbed by other firms. Swiss financial law, offered everyone opportunity to encourage people in other countries to not come to Genoa. The whole money out of Cornfeld's fund rather than pay the victims. So Bernie's salesmen started to work - and among the skilled workers of the industrial world, as implied by their ideologically motivated - among the unions, the middle classes of the underdeveloped 19th century, and places like Brazil and Chile (especially the big businesses, lawyers, army officers and priests who had been swindled) the concept of the mass of the world, including Senator Fidellbrugh, Professor J.K. Galbraith and the socialist Pablo Castelnuovo. Our deliberations, trumpeted Roosevelt, made an important breakthrough for all humanity. And when Bernie Cornfield's works went to Genoa, he received a 25-minute audience with the Pope. There was, however, a little difficulty. Instead of being able to offer the victims of the IOS fund (and particularly Bernie Cornfield's lawyer friend, Ed Coutts) saw to it that as much as possible was stuffed back into the pockets of themselves (and latter) their victims.

With a little help from a few powerful friends...

Ed Coutts, moreover, was always looking for more and more exotic ways of making a fast buck. IOS went into partnership with a Dower millionaire called John King, who had found some interesting ways of selling away a fortune by pretending to drill for gas and oil in the Arctic. Some of Coutts's other brainwaves for investment included a film voicing a socialist in penal duniess, planned to appeal to people's natures and hope that Prof. Fiddler, who had been born in October 1880, and the political scientist of every penny. Some dollars was found in bank directors, salesmen.

Hole in the wall. And by now, enormous millions were needed to cover the collapse. A found and Ed Coutts went down the drain. Bernie, however, most of his life savings.
Paul foot's new book* is ostensibly about the A6 murder and the state killing of an innocent man falsely convicted of the crime. But even as Foot piles fact upon fact to shatter the 'successful' prosecution case against James Hanratty, the book becomes something more than a moving and well-researched plea for the record to be set straight.

Consider just two details from Foot's case. A key prosecution witness changes his sworn statement no less than three times in 10 days. His first effort quite clearly implicates James Hanratty and provides an alibi for Peter Alphonse, the other main candidate in the manhunt. But as police attention shifts away from James Hanratty, the same man revives his first statement, this time implicating the very man he had previously exonerated, Peter Alphonse, who had by that time become the named police suspect.

Then as the police shift their tack again and go after James Hanratty anew, the key witness denies his second statement and swears the first is really the true one.

Foot simply poses the question: how did this man come to change his statements so readily and conveniently for the police and the prosecution of James Hanratty?

But even before the author presents an answer to this problem, his readers have already got there thanks to the powerful organization he has given to the facts. One cannot fail to conclude (as the author does) that the police were able to manipulate their witness to suit their line of inquiry at any particular time.

Establishing James Hanratty's innocence for Foot is the A6 murder also proved a thorny problem for police and prosecution. But sure enough a witness was brought forward to claim that James Hanratty confessed and told him "it was the woman I wanted" when they were in Britain prison together. Little did it matter that the man who heard the 'confession' was a known police informer, a bully and a liar.

Pay off

For the crime that took him to hear James Hanratty confess, this gentleman was expecting a three year prison sentence. Finally enough he was put on probation for three years instead. Again the reader has it in one...

It is the measure of Foot's achievement that this is true time and time again.

No one can fail to draw the right conclusion: that Hanratty was framed and then falsely convicted through the endeavours of a police force whose sole concern is to prove a case, to deliver the goods appropriately wrapped for the courts to produce secure and convict and later for the state to kill.

The two instances quoted above are by no means the most appalling in the book. Time and time again there are examples of the police deliberately withholding information from James Hanratty's defence.

Fearful

As it unfolds, the book takes on more fearful aspects. It becomes a study in microcosm of one arm of the state machine at work.

Later, at the Hanratty family campaign for a public inquiry to prove their son's innocence by probing the absurdity of new evidence in the case (including a series of confessions to the murder by Peter Alphonse, the first police suspect), the whole state machine is set to work to prevent public scrutiny of police action.

A Labour Home Secretary who had earlier favoured a public inquiry into the case, turns it down after a visit to a prison. Roy Jenkins (filed it I advised to let any sort of action on the sources of conspiracy against James Hanratty. Simply, it was too hot to handle.

Courage

It would be ironic if Reginald Maudling, current Tory Home Secretary were the man to allow an thorough investigation rather than another conducted by the police force itself.

The magnificent courage of the whole Hanratty family would at last be recognized. That alone would be no small victory. I think a public inquiry is still unlikely. Even now there is too much to hide. But such an inquiry could never be enough.

The state crime against James Hanratty, and indeed against all of us, can never be eradged. But it can be offset by a knowledge that men cannot come in the night or in the day and unleash a process of persecution against those who trust in the due process of law and are therefore powerless.

But Foot does not need to dwell on this undercurrent of his story. His book might speak in silence. But he speaks it, and therefore with an added sadness.

No reader can fail to be moved by this problem plea for a society free from a bureaucracy which strips away human rights and cover up, and free to live.

*Who Killed Hanratty? Cape £2.50

Two police identify pictures of the wanted man; who would you choose?

International Socialism 47

Revolutionary trade unionism: Jim Higgins, Greece four years after the coup: Nikos Syrriotis, Art in revolution: Robin Fior

19th 8.14 years
IS 83 Cornet Gardens London SE 8 EON

*André Gide (1952)
The brutal face of South Africa that Lord George won't be shown...

Lord George-Brown, the former Labour leader, is visiting South Africa on a trip that is, he says, intended for business and completely non-political. As he is feted in all-white hotels for all-white VIPs in all-white cities in a land that is 80 per cent black, he is unlikely to come into contact with the hideous oppression that is the hallmark of the apartheid system.

It is a system that breeds a dreadful power—that of the white man over the black man. In South Africa's 'black veld' countryside, the isolated farmer has the power of life and death over Afrikaner farmers. In the Excelsior Immorality case last year, one of the white farmers charged with 'unlawful sexual relations' with a coloured woman had been convicted two years before of beating an African girl to death. She had clearly tried to prevent him from raping her. He got a suspended sentence for manslaughter.

The death of Africans by beating is common throughout the country. The African workers who see such barbarities have every right to complain to their bosses to the police.

Revenge

They will be marked as 'uppity' Kaffirs—cheeky to the extent of turning to violence against the white man'. And even if the boss is convicted, as he was in Excelsior, the charge will have been altered to the lesser charge of 'mere condoning of a suspended sentence given. The farmer is then free to take his revenge on Africa union member. Occasionally a murder is so vile and brutal and so widespread that the norm for brutality even of the African farmers. In such cases the killer will get a few years.

Africans, on the other hand, are hanged for rape, whites, armed robbery, serious cases of house-breaking, sabotage, terrorism, kidnaping, child stealing and murder. Half the world's executions take place in South Africa.

Two particularly revolting cases of white brutality were reported in the South African papers last week.

Annoyed

One concerned Schalk van Staden, a well-known farmer of the Hartbeesfontein area. A former elder in the local church and a member of the Hartbeesfontein commando (a white military) he has the credentials of a good, standing Afrikaner.

Staden was annoyed when one of his ploughing hands said to him, 'If I was a boy, I'd turn up for work three days a week for three hours at a time, and dragged him to the farm house, where he locked him in the bathroom.

He returned with his own original instrument—a tortoise—a castration ring, made into a ring on the boy's testicles.

The boy begged him to let him out, but instead the farmer said calmly that it would 'teach him a lesson' and locked the door again. The boy, in a desperate, managed to escape through the bathroom window back to his family hut, where the ring was cut off with a razor.

The farmer reported Staden to the police. At the trial, Staden was also found guilty of 'using an African as a pole, beating him with a stick and further humiliating him. By removing his trousers and exposing him to his workmates.

He was fined £170 and set free. He complained that the fine meant that his two elder children would not have the money to stay on at university.

FRENCH STRIKES GO ON!

SW Reporter

The most important strike in France is that involving 16,000 workers in the Renault car plants. The workers in the Renault car plants were among the first of the steel and shipbuilding workers to accept a return-to-work agreement with management.

But the Renault strike has been only the tip of the iceberg. There have been the events in the Paris, Lyons, and other French cities.

Among factories affected have been those of the Renault Group, Boulogne (Isere), KODOL (Vincennes), and CIT (Keller). In Paris, the workers at the Puteaux factory and the Polytechnique (Paris) plant workers have been on strike in support of their colleagues. The workers have also been on strike at the Suez Canal, the Renault factories, and the National Factories.

But the present movement is different in a number of ways from that of 1969. This time the press has barely reported many of the strikes and lockouts. The workers have become more confident that they can continue their struggle for workers' rights and social democracy. They have also forgotten the General Strike of May 1968, when they achieved considerable concessions from the employers.

But the present movement is different in a number of ways from that of 1969. This time the press has barely reported many of the strikes and lockouts. The workers have become more confident that they can continue their struggle for workers' rights and social democracy. They have also forgotten the General Strike of May 1968, when they achieved considerable concessions from the employers.

Our Strike has been going on for almost six weeks. The original issue was the reduction in the so-called 'profitability' bonus from being worth the equivalent of a week's wage to less than the cost of four packets of cigarettes.

The 16,000 workers in the Polytechnique, an engineering factory in the Paris suburb of Rungis, prepared to shut down their plant to protest against the abolition of the 'profit-sharing' bonus and the sharp reduction in the cost of living. The workers had been on strike for a week before the national federation of workers' unions called a general strike.

The workers met with resistance from the management of the company, as well as from the state police and the government. But the strike continued, and eventually the company agreed to meet the workers' demands.

Poly strike

leader puts his case

OUR STRIKE has been going on for almost six weeks. The original issue was the reduction in the so-called 'profitability' bonus from being worth the equivalent of a week's wage to less than the cost of four packets of cigarettes.

A strike committee was formed. About the third of the members came from the local section of the French Communist union, run by supporters of Lutte Ouvriere and a few from the third union, the CGT. The committee has been fighting to stop the strike, but has not succeeded yet.

The strike has been very popular, and the workers have been very determined. The strike was called in response to the government's decision to introduce a new tax on workers' pay. The CGT leaders were determined to block the eyes of the workers.

The management has started to retreat and has offered concessions that will go nowhere near meeting the workers' demands. The CGT leaders have tried to get us back to work on this basis, but they have been unsuccessful. They have lost the majority of the workers. The CGT leaders have not only lost the support of the workers, but they have become discredited in the eyes of some of their own members.

The militancy of the Polytechnique workers and the role of the group of revolutionaries in the factory means that the strike is far from finished. Whether the result, it will remain a hard lesson for the boss and a rich experience for the revolutionaries in the factory.
Laughs and lolly from corn porn

WHILE the battle of the filthy books raged and the Whitehouse gang were sharpening their knives for the next slaughter on TV, there were at least two areas of popular entertainment where much was generally glossed over - and no one seemed to mind. The first was comedy on TV, the second being, using the same talent, the Carry On series.

Take, if you don't agree that it purely is a coincidence that Carry On Up The Jungle. The company is assembled for a formal dinner in the thick of the forest, during the meal a large snake sashes under the table. The Carry On, as played by Joan Sims' skirts.

She gives the appreciative look around the table, but can't decide to whom she owes the honour. The initiative takes a more intimate - she flashes smiles, purrs with gratification, wriggles a bit and finally registers amazement at the presence of the creature. It is.

Two more

Then the thing becomes too much. You've gone too far! she exclaims, and proceeds to croon. They all stand up. Now by the white excitement of the scene the hammer has disappeared inside and with a scream she realises what, not to put too fine a point on it, is up.

The latest in the series, Carry On Henry, has been based by Talbot Rothwell on a newly discovered man named Henry VIII (St James) and in fact two other versions, Carry On Maggie and Carry On Windsor. Written by a certain William Cobler, the m.a. is originally a student in an invention of Thomas Cromwell's. But now the whole thing is known to be Cobler's from beginning to end.

James Fenton

The Carry On films have a puffy attractive face and their motherly figure, and still passing for it after she's had all the trouble she's had getting it. The new film is the 21st movie, and it is a great deal better than usual, with almost credible sets and much more plumbing and plumbing, whipped from the BBC's umpteenth quality Elizabethan series.

Little bit

The theme is the English hatred of France. Henry won't congregate his marriage with Marie because she makes on eating garlic in bed. So the only Charles Hawtrey gets his little bit in instead, and everyone have of impregnating the queen. There's terrible inflation.

Cromwell is Chancellor and raises his money by means of the SEF, Sex Enjoyment Tax

Everyone boasts on their form about how long they get in a week. You can imagine the level of humour "My lord, the Queen is in labour!" - "Don't worry mate, they're all training for it."

The Carry On films for their ribaldry and their sense of proportion. If you look at American equivalent, it's bound to be a gross and expensive job. Start the Revolution Without Me is a good example - filmed in Versailles with Susan Walker as guest star. It's very funny but the point of the Carry On is that peasants and the back end of Paris - will give you the same, if not a better, return.

Blandishment

UPROAR and outrage in the latest issue of the Bulletin, magazine of the journalists' union. Letters from all over the country demand the resignation of editor and long-time Communist Party member Allen Hunt, who has been confirmed as the editor of the Bulletin.

CLIVE JENKINS has 'built up his union, AMUS, by proudly proclaiming that he will safeguard and widen the wage differentials' of white-collar employees over those of manual workers. From the shop floor, his own life style seems to maintain a substantial difference from the average AMUS member.

Miles away

IT IS often after that Sir Miles Thomas, ex-BOAC chairman and head of the National Savings organisation, is out of the news. Indeed he is famed for his sympathy with a campaign against subversive militants in industry and the general decline in moral standards in society.

But Sir Miles has not exactly been keeping the headlines recently on at least one subject of outstanding public interest, namely his relationship with the Pair of Shoes Club in London's West End. This is believed to be the only socially exclusive club of its kind, and it is understood that the club is owned and controlled by the Mafia, and Sir Miles is a major shareholder in the club. It is also understood that the club has been denied membership to the Paddington parties. Only to find that it is the immediate past president of the Paddington parties, who has been denied membership to the Paddington parties.

The trouble is that Sir Miles is also an expert on the Paddington parties, and it is believed that he is the main supporter of the Paddington parties. It is also believed that Sir Miles is the main supporter of the Paddington parties.

The situation is complicated by the fact that Sir Miles is also a member of the Paddington parties, and it is believed that he is the main supporter of the Paddington parties. It is also believed that Sir Miles is the main supporter of the Paddington parties.

Strip away all that stuff and you're still left with a new West End play. It all boils down to something called "Corn polling" in the end - why not cut the cake and admit it?

David East
BLASTFURNACEMEN in the British Steel Corporation were sent back to work by their union last Friday after just four days on strike. Their claim for a 35 per cent wage increase and returned with a verbal agreement that the steel bosses would talk to the unions.

Most Blastfurnacemen are on a basic weekly wage of less than £16 – but the union has pledged not to take any action of strike action to improve their conditions. No scab pay and conditions, even though BSIC has given no indication of what its new offer is likely to be.

Many Blastfurnacemen started the strike and if anything has won from it. They were badly prepared, with no attempt to mobilise the rank and file.

The strike of the NUB 15,000 members work on Ternside and the union’s head office at Stalybridge in the centre of the region. Yet general secretary Unicorn Smith, who was sent to Ternside blast furnaces or union offices, let alone the other areas of England and Wales.

At Cleveland works, just minutes driving from the union’s head office, 100 blastfurnacemen decided a week before the strike that they would not support it. But they received no visit from Smith or any other official. They did not join the strike.

Workers at Skinningrove, North Yorks, were preparing to return to work. But the plant is due to close down and the prospects for re-opening are not very promising.

There was no action of any official or unofficial body. Nothing was done other than these arguments. The situation was the same at the best of the plants, in Doncaster, also that Smith was chipping away at it. And the mass meetings before and during the strike, no vote to come out and no attempt to mobilise.

Dunlop was used for organizing members and were told not if they would put up a challenge.

But despite the lack of preparation by the union, the strike of the Blastfurnacemen supported the strike and were ready to go back at the same time as the steel bosses. There was a big gap between rank and file leaders and workers who had united with 15,000 members concerned in the strike.

CRIITICISED

The NUB has no tradition of militancy. This was the first official strike since 1926. In 1969 it was strongly criticised for its refusal to support 100 Blastfurnacemen who struck at Port Talbot in South Wales. Henry Smith, the official who was sent to Stonelake to organise the strike, was not there.

The NUB did not have a short strike in order to be the first to negotiate with BSIC, rather than face the inevitable that the main union, BISRA, may get the worst. The unions never explained to the members and the strike that the strike was not going to happen.

The steel industry faces a major crisis as the UK and Europe, and the government, plan to close plants and make thousands of workers redundant. None of the industry has announced any fight against the closure.

Move for public sector unity

LEADERS of 17 unions in nationalised industries will hold a meeting in London to discuss the possibility of setting up a joint nationalised sector union in the wake of the defeat of the Post Office strike.

Welcome step

The unions concerned will be cir-

uled with a list of questions to see if they can agree on common pro-

cedures for setting up the joint union. The meeting will be held on Tuesday.

Calling for action to aid jobless

SW Reporter

GLASGOW – One man in 10 has no job this Christmas, according to a new report, which reveals the extent of the jobs crisis.

A start was made last week when the Labour government launched a £100m training programme for the unemployed, but many others will suffer.

The report, published by the trade union, stated that the government had promised to cut unemployment by 25% by 1974, but this was not a way to deal with the crisis.

The unions called for action to aid jobless workers and cited the example of the 100 Blastfurnacemen who went on strike and were later defeated.

The report also highlighted the situation in the nationalised industries, where workers had to take direct action to protect their jobs.

Bengalis on the march

A THOUSAND Bengalis from all over the UK gathered at Trafalgar Square in London to demonstrate against the discrimination faced by the Bengali community.

The march was organised by the Bengali Society of the UK, and was supported by many different groups, including trade unions and political parties.

The demonstration was held in response to the recent attacks on Bengalis in the UK, which have caused widespread outrage.

Bengalis on the March

NOTICES

COMMITTEE party demonstration in support of the strikers at the Post Office. The demonstration is being held on Saturday, 13 June, at 2 – 5pm in Trafalgar Square, London WC2.

TOTTENHAM AND Sceptre are holding a demonstration in support of the West Ham Bus Strike. The demonstration is being held on Sunday, 14 June, at 2 – 5pm in Trafalgar Square, London WC2.

NOTES

Committee party demonstration in support of the strikers at the Post Office.

TOTTENHAM AND SCEPTRE are holding a demonstration in support of the West Ham Bus Strike.

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