Unemployment: Tory figures hide grim truth, page 8

From PETER BAIN

GLASGOW: Clydeise is on the brink of the most momentous event in modern working-class history. Shop stewards at Upper Clyde Shipbuilders announced on Wednesday that they were ready 'at a moment's notice' to tell workers to occupy the yards if the government declared any closures or redundancies.

And a meeting of representatives of trade unions and Scottish TUC leaders cleared up for the moment the stewards' fears that the union officials would not back their occupation. Spokesmen for the STUC General Council stated that they would support the UCS workers if they marched into the yards in a bid to safeguard their jobs.

Jimmy Reid, chairman of John Brown's shop stewards' committee, said when discussing the possibility of government recommendations that the government's committee of inquiry presented this week: 'If the outcome is less than we are demanding, then let no one in any doubt, we will occupy the yards.' The yard workers say they will take over if there are any redundancies, or if any part of UCS is closed or 'closed off'.

The committee of inquiry and assorted government ministers and MPs have been asking shop stewards how the yard workers would react to partial closings, double-shifts, partial takeovers, and various other possibilities. They have been left in no doubt that none of those would be acceptable.

SELL OFF

There is also widespread suspicion that there are businessmen who might take over part of UCS, run it for a short period, and then sell off the machinery and land.

Reid told the chairman of the STUC, later told the press: 'I appeal to all trade unions throughout the country to give every assistance to shipbuilding workers should it come to the stage where they have to occupy the yards.'

The STUC's declaration of support for the occupation is a victory for the UCS workers. But that support should not allow the STUC to take over the leadership and control of the struggle.

Scottish unemployment rose by more than 12,000 in July. One-fifth of the men in UK unemployment took place in Scotland, which has one-tenth of the population.

This illustrates the seriousness of the situation, especially on Clyde. In addition, large-scale redundancies are threatened in Babcock and Wrencox, Singer, Glascow Metal and a number of other plants.

DEMANDS

It is important that these struggles should be linked to a general offensive against unemployment. The campaign for the following demands has to be taken up throughout the labour movement:

1. Full support for UCS workers and for a strike and lobby of the STUC on 20 August.
2. 36-hour week.
3. Ban on overtime.
4. No work-sharing with retraining centres where necessary on full pay.
5. No productivity deals.
6. Work or full maintenance.
7. Nationalisation of UCS, without compensation and under workers' control.

New army attacks in N Ireland

By Brian Trench

At 5.30 on Monday morning Frank McGlade, a member of the Belfast executive of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, was wakened by soldiers kicking at his door. When he opened it, a group of soldiers and Royal Ulster Constabulary men entered the house and started to smash cupboards and shelves.

McGlade challenged the Special Branch officers who was standing the road and asked him what law they were doing in. The answer was, the Special Powers Act.

This is the 'new phase' of British Army operations in Northern Ireland, the use of uncontrolled political and military repression under the Special Powers Act. This legislation, which has been on the statute books in Northern Ireland as long as the region has existed, reflects more accurately than ever the nature of the state.

Under its provisions, by ancient and primitive white-collar workers throughout the Six Counties were raised early last Friday morning.

More than 2000 troops and police were deployed in their ranks, which took place at 4:30am. Police and soldiers were armed, and other materials, mainly belonging to members of Republican Clubs was confiscated.

On Monday evening, in another raid, Des O'Hagan, a member of the NCIRA executive, was arrested in his home.

Behind this operation lies two main facts: the need by the British Army and the Stormont and Westminster governments to head off any attempt by loyalist extremists to take 'law and order' into their own hands, and the massive build-up during the past year of British intelligence.

Massive reply

In the Six Counties there has already been a massive reply to the new offensive. More than 10,000 people met in Belfast on Sunday to demonstrate their opposition. They formed a broad spectrum of radical opinion in the North, Protestant demonstrations are being held during the week.

At the same time, the pressure from the Nationalist Right is increasing. Rafifi Foundation, a Unionist MP at Stormont, has said that many Unionists are convinced that there is a sufficiently strong will to 'stamp out the terrorists'.

In order to satisfy this movement among Nationalists and Unionists, the British Army will have to take further action against republicans.

The British Army and the Stormont and Westminster governments are entering into a spiral of escalating repression. It is true that 'officially the round pokers are off'—more accurately, the knock-knocks are on—there can be no doubt what the position of society must be. When republicans are under attack from military, political and judicial repression, socioculatists stand firmly on the side of the state.

The International Socialist intend to organise pickets on Army recruiting centres and barracks throughout Britain on 4 September to give force to the opposition to the Army's role in Ireland. Socialists should aim at the largest possible mobilisation in the campaign for the withdrawal of British troops from Ireland.

'Recognise Bangla Desh' Rally

Sunday 1 August, Trafalger Square, 2pm. All London IS branches must support with banners.
Behind the Chinese twists and turns

WHAT are the Chinese leaders up to? For years they have been demonstrating a new level of "peaceful coexistence" with the Americans above the needs of revolution elsewhere. Now suddenly they are going out of their way to be friendly to Nixon in the face of the twentieth anniversary of the Peking, although American bombs continue to fall on Vietnam.

The invitation is in line with other policies of recent months. The United States and Communist China have both been clapped through their doors of welcome to Yehya Khan by China—although the Americans have also refused to stop sending arms to West Pakistan. And in Ceylon the Chinese, like the Americans, the British, the Russians, the Indians and the Pakistanis, rubbed to offer Mrs Bandaranaike aid after she had wiped out revolution in the shift in Chinese policy must be most upsetting for those on the left who were left in by Mao's revolutionary talk. Now they have to decide whether they are for revolution, or for Mao's collaboration with Yehya Bandaranaike and . . . Nixon.

Elsewhere on the left, there is the danger of another reaction, to draw the conclusion from the Chinese leaders' behaviour that all revolutions inevitably become corrupt, and that there is little we can do about it. In order to understand why such an argument is wrong, it is necessary to clear the deck about the sort of society China is.

The victory of Mao Tse-tung's army in 1948 was an enormously important change. It showed that the period of Chinese warlords ended China up between themselves and pillaged its wealth for the best part of a century were driven out. But the victory did not make the regime any more democratic.

Their approach, instead of being liberal, was to build up the regime they built up in their own control. They use revolutionary language. But they have shown that they can build up an organized and liberal system that makes it easier for them to build up the dynasty they control than in international revolution. For instance, it is very different from the attitude of the Vietnamese in 1945 to accept a division of their country at a time when the western powers could have been driven out of the country.

The regime of the Chinese approach is on the left, which is perhaps one of the fundamental factors that make it easier for them to build up the dynasty that they control than in international revolution. For instance, it is very different from the situation of the Chinese in 1945 to accept a division of their country at a time when the western powers could have been driven out of the country.

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THE CONCLUSIONS argued by Duncan Hallas (17 July) do not throw much light from the analysis of the Common Market I outlined in the same issue.

In fact, it is not the case that the Common Market is much less a consciously planned system than some other countries. But the problem is that the Chinese regime, in such a consciously planned system. What is needed is real workers' revolution that is concerned with fighting imperialism internationally, especially in trying to expand bureaucratically-controlled industries in one isolated country.

BACK TO BACKBITING

THE SPLITS within the Labour Party leadership over the Common Market issue seem to be growing wider. George Brown has followed Roy Jenkins in making bitter attacks on Wilson. Mr. Heath, for his part, while advocating the Common Market, which Mr. Wilson has been defending, has also been engaging in the party conflict. The party is in fact in a state of open warfare over Mr. Wilson's policy. The party conflict, which has been going on for some time, has reached a new intensity as a result of the publication of the party conference report. The conflict has been fought out on two main fronts: the first is the issue of the Common Market, and the second is the issue of the role of the trade unions. The conflict has been fought out within the Labour Party itself, and has also been reflected in the Labour Party's relations with the trade unions.
Workers were first target for Yahya's bloody massacre in Bangla Desh

Says ABDUL MANNA

STRIKES, factory gate meetings and the forming of a workers' militia—this was how the small but militant working class of East Pakistan played a key role in the struggle before the West Pakistan army moved in. And today Bangla Desh workers are still keeping up the fight, keeping production in the faces of the National Standards making up half the strength of the liberation army.

These points were made by Abdul Mannan, a leading Bangla Desh trade unionist on a visit to Britain to raise support from British workers for the struggle in Bengal and for the blacking of Pakistani goods.

Like the rest of the country's 75 million people, the four million workers of East Pakistan voted unwittingly—last December's elections for Mujibur Rahman's Awami League were part of a power programme of home rule—not even independence—for the province. butcherily exploited as a colony for 25 years by the landlords, gentry and capitalists of West Pakistan.

Homes destroyed

When the army moved in on 25 March to smash the people, it made the workers' quarters the first target, together with students and members of the Awami League. More than 100,000 workers were killed, and the workers' quarters in industrial centres such as Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna were completely destroyed.

Mannan explained why the army

Interview by Stephen Marks

made the working class, small though it is, one of the chief targets for its pre-emptive attack.

As early as the end of February and the beginning of March, it became obvious that the elected parliment would not be allowed to meet. The regime of General Yahya Khan was not prepared to hand over power to the Awami League majority. The workers began to organise. Once the army moved in, the workers made meetings at every major industrial concern. The workers decided to prepare to fight back.

"They decided if everybody faltered," says Mannan, "if the students faltered, if the politicians faltered, the workers will not falter."

From 1 March there was a general strike, which from 7 March was replaced by a boycott of the West. In most industrial centres the unions had bought fields to use for open-air meetings.

Here or at the factory gates at the end of each shift, meetings were held at least daily until the army was driven back.

Military training

An armed workers' militia began to be formed. The nucleus of this was the defence squad the workers had set up over the past 20 years to protect strikers and pickets against the armed police and the army during disputes.

RAHMAN: victory crushed

Many workers had some military training from the Pakistani equivalent of the Territorial Army, especially during the 1965 war with India. And the trade union council had given trade union and military training to some of the defence squads.

"So they were prepared," says Mannan. "They knew their power, and the army's fear of it. When the army struck, they fought back. And today, Mannan claims, half the Muktijuddha [Bengali liberation army] are workers.

Since the army moved in and started its butchery, there has been an almost total stoppage of production. In Dhaka, the capital, only 10 per cent of the workers are at work.

Bengali seamen 'booked for hell'

by TONY CORCORAN in Newcastle

IT was early April when the Cunard-Brocklebank Mwana sailed into the Clyde for dry dock repairs. Three months earlier she had left Chittagong with 40 new crew from the East Pakistan port.

No sooner was the ship docked than Cunard sold her in a lightning deal. The Bengali seamen were now 'up for grabs' and they were declared redundant. So, as required by International Shipping Articles, Cunard were obliged to return them to their port of embarkation.

Because of the Bangla Desh emergency, however, this was impossible. So, the seamen were divided into sections in Pakistan and billeted to the docks in Karachi.

The sailors were horrified at the thought of being booked for hell. They feared a bloody reception in West Pakistan's capital.

Cunard were not pleased. They hoped the Home Office would relieve them of their unwanted contracted men by refusing them leave to stay in Britain.

Thanks to the campaign of the Tyneside Bengali Association and Chris Mullard, Newcastle's Community Relations Officer, thisploy failed and the seamen were granted leave to stay until August.

But Cunard are now trying another mean trick. They allege the cost of maintaining the seamen at Simpson's Hotel, a glorified doff-house in Hebburn, is crippling.

Leave destitute

So from 1 July the firm are deducting the 8.50 a week board from the men's wages. They are paid only 15s. a week and they have worked only three months.

As they have already received £10 of this in "tobacco money" they have only about four weeks' rent left. So cruel Cunard are hoping to force them to leave destitute at the end of this month and presumably will then dump them on Yahya's doorstep.

The seamen have already been threatened by six loyalist members of the crew that their Bangla Desh sympathies will be reported to Yahya's authorities.

The fates of the Mwana's crew were almost confirmed by reports brought by more than 30 Bengali seamen who joined them in Simpson's Hotel in the first week in July. These men were brought from Chittagong on a British tanker to join another ship in the Tyne.

When they arrived they found, yes, you've guessed—it the company had sold the ship. So we have two stranded Bengali crews—79 odd men—living in a Tyneside hotel.

They tell horrifying tales of the suppression of Bangla Desh. They tell of sadists forced to work as dockers under military supervision in Chittagong—because most dockers there have had or been slain.

According to them even the Paki-stani Seamen's Union has been purged of Bengalis and the headquarters moved from Chittagong 4000 miles away to West Pakistan. The result is they have no trade union to fight their case.

The National Union of Seamen here have been approached. At first the South Shields organiser said the Bangalis had had a fair deal from the company.

However, the International Labour Transport Federation has promised to take up their case. Surely though, the NUS should support them. What they need is Cunard to pay ALL expenses incurred during their stay in Britain.

Cunard to guarantee the contract for one year's work.

Failing this, to guarantee transport to Chittagong (via India, if necessary).

Cunard to cease all pressure on the Home Office.

SPECIAL ISSUE ON TRADE UNIONS

International Socialism 48

Articles by Leon Trotsky, Tony Cliff and Chris Harman
Plus Bengal, Ceylon, Black Panthers' split, and the Poor
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DAIRY FARMERS BUTTER UP TO

IN 1968 the Labour government abolished the subsidy on milk for families, with one better by cutting out school milk for those who provision of welfare milk for mothers to its 1969 address. The cut in milk consumption in schools by 21 million pints a year was the same time they have made a further step in the direction of reducing the school milk. In any case, the motives behind these cuts is explained clearly in a report to the national industry prepared by a market research company called Maynard Potts Associates. The report deals with some of the opportunities for lucrative profits which Tory policies are opening up.

OPPORTUNITIES

'Gradual withdrawal of State support for school milk has schools, which had to cut costs in order to continue with their existing milk schemes, been forced to look for new sources of income. The report suggests a number of possibilities, including:

- Selling surplus milk to dairy processors.
- Marketing milk to the catering industry.
- Establishing milk vending machines in public places.
- Exploring new markets overseas.

The report concludes that, despite the challenges, there is potential for profitable ventures in the school milk sector.'
During the Boer War it was discovered during army recruitment from the working-class that standards of health and fitness were low. Special surveys carried out by the rising menace of German imperialism, brought sharp conclusions. Three out of five of the young men brought up in the big cities were physically incapable of military service. Malnutrition at younger ages was clearly a major cause. The government promptly shut down the schools—free of charge in accordance to Commoners the fee. It was in the early 1930s that free or subsidised school meals became more widespread. People in the big cities were better fed. At that time working people were able to buy very little milk because the price was so high. This was partly because the government arranged that liquid milk should include a substantial subsidy which was used to keep down the price of the milk being produced on English farms.

During the early 1930s the air ring loud with complaints from the farming interests that more milk was being produced than was in demand. For military reasons the government was unwilling to see milk reduced in the number of British cows.

There was also the awkward fact that the milk which otherwise might have gone into buttermilk manufacture was of distinctly inferior quality and tended to cause tuberculosis. This was a further obstacle to a commercial solution to the problem of surplus supply of milk.

The government introduced subsidised school milk at a price of a pence per child including the straw, but free to the children of the poorest families. The agri-cultural interest were delighted.

In the last 1910s there were only a few milk producers in Britain; they supplied 50% of the milk. 20% of the milk was for retail sale. The state was the largest single consumer of milk. At that time working people were able to buy very little milk because the price was so high.

The sharp drop in the price of butter was a drop in the amount of milk being produced. The dairy farmers were not in favour of a scheme which would provide subsidised milk to expectant mothers and families with young children. But until not the first major crisis of World War II did the government decide to take the necessary action. The Cabinet agreed to a scheme that meant farmers would get a 1.50 pence in milk for every pint of milk they supplied. It was a sharp drop in the price of milk, and a drop in the amount of milk being produced.

The upper classes were mindful of the popular resentment caused in the First World War by the collapse of the English dairy industry and for that reason, they were very much in favour of keeping the British dairy industry going. The British dairy industry was a great source of pride for the British people. The British dairy industry was a great source of pride for the British people. The British dairy industry was a great source of pride for the British people. The British dairy industry was a great source of pride for the British people. The British dairy industry was a great source of pride for the British people.

In mid-1967, when Chancellor Jim Callaghan first tried to get the Labour Cabinet to cut school milk, he was forced to back down. The Sunday Telegraph of 23 July 1967 explained why: "The main opposition came not from the Education Minister, Mr Crossland, who could well afford to keep quiet in the presence of so formidable an ally as the Agricultural Minister, Fred Peart. 'It will ruin my government' he is to be offered to buy the children drink their surplus milk production.'" This was a real worry to the agricultural lobby. The Labour Cabinet was determined to keep the school milk scheme.

Social disorder

This seemed particularly unjustified. In 1967 the authorities expected and feared that civil disorder would arise from the middle of 1960—would cause considerable panic and social disorder. Remember that in the 1890s the large farm was held firm, and the British Communist Party was still Campus of the large farm. It is true, there was plenty of spare milk since butter and cheese were price controlled. Mothers and babies were given subsidised milk, and the supply of milk was deliberately reduced. Many of the cows were definitely "unsound". The government was not making proper arrangements for the distribution of milk to the population. The government was giving too much attention to the milk industry. The government should be more concerned with the welfare of the people. It is true that the government was not making proper arrangements for the distribution of milk to the population. The government should be more concerned with the welfare of the people. It is true that the government was not making proper arrangements for the distribution of milk to the population. The government should be more concerned with the welfare of the people. It is true that the government was not making proper arrangements for the distribution of milk to the population. The government should be more concerned with the welfare of the people.

In conclusion, it is clear that the government was not making proper arrangements for the distribution of milk to the population. The government should be more concerned with the welfare of the people. It is true that the government was not making proper arrangements for the distribution of milk to the population. The government should be more concerned with the welfare of the people.
Maxwell report takes the lid off big business' real methods

by ROGER ROSEWELL

A RARE glimpse of how big business really works can be seen in the just-published investigation into the affairs of Robert Maxwell's Pergamon Press empire. So startling are the revelations that they have given little attention in the popular newspapers.

The 100,000 words report is the first instalment of a probe by two inspectors from the Department of Trade and Industry into Maxwell's business. They say that the boss of Pergamon and his associates—his company is also a former Labour MP—used his knowledge of business methods to sabotage and wreck business rivals, made deliberately misleading statements to regulatory bodies and made discrediting statements about his takeover bid. A number of other 'respectable' City businessmen were investigated.

The inspectors started their investigation after the American Leasco company had made a 212 million bid for Pergamon, bought a large number of shares and then revealed that perhaps Pergamon was not worth as much as they had been led to believe it was. Leasco was also accused of spreading false stories in the City of London and the report was commissioned in an effort to find out the truth.

The first instalment deals only with one of Maxwell's associated companies, Intercontinental Learning Systems Corporation. The full report on Pergamon Press will be published later.

The story of ILSC begins in 1967 when Pergamon made a successful takeover bid for Caxton Publishing, publishers of the Chancery Encyclopaedia. Chambers was published by the Buckingham Press, a Pergamon subsidiary. Maxwell decided to eliminate competition in the market. He then shuffled the, the company of his ex-finance director, Miles Healy Le Bas, completed hit and run about how the takeover bid was conducted. He then was the former confidential information officer of Caxton's business by emailing a person to whom Caxton had given notice—thus he was able to buy Caxton's South African business and that having done so he was able to buy Caxton at a time when Caxton was hard-pressed by these virtual fictitious

Cheap to take over

Herons confirmed to the inspectors that Maxwell had ordered him to 'knock off the competition' because in South Africa, to order that the firm could be driven into bankruptcy and sold cheaply to take over. Harris also confirmed that Schilling had been the confidential information officer.

He was accused on South Africa was successful, so much so that he Le Bas had already bought the destruction of Caxton's business in that country. He later said in 1985 that the firm's profits had gone from 49 and 50 a share. Even the anonymous Cease to Caxton's must have been at a considerable disadvantage to his shareholders. Mr Maxwell had used a single-floor office to cover these losses. He had a single-floor office to cover these losses.

Mr Le Bas had more boardroom space than the_original_lords of the company's top management. Mr Le Bas was out to destroy him, he paid a visit to the former managing director of The British Publishing Corporation, personally to say that he would like to discuss Maxwell's business. Maxwell agreed and asked Picard if this would be interesting to him.

Pickard enthusiastically agreed and arrived at the usual Maxwell's terms. Defeated and depressed, Le Bas agreed. What no one knew was that PIC were already in partnership with Maxwell in his scheme for taking over Caxton's.

Tug of war

Even as Picard was advising Le Bas to accept Maxwell's offer, he was meeting with Pergamon in London, persuading with Pergamon for 90 per cent of Caxton's.

When questioned about this decision by the inspectors, Pickard, who was sacked as managing director of Trust House Forte in 1968, said: 'I was involved in a tug of war. It was a perfectly standard commercial tug of war that was very attractive to all concerned. Le Bas had a job with Maxwell. He didn't last long. But Pickard was out to destroy him. He paid a visit to the former managing director of The British Publishing Corporation, personally to say that he would like to discuss Maxwell's business. Maxwell agreed and asked Picard if this would be interesting to him.

Pickard enthusiastically agreed and arrived at the usual Maxwell's terms. Defeated and depressed, Le Bas agreed. What no one knew was that PIC were already in partnership with Maxwell in his scheme for taking over Caxton's.

One man's freedom is another's slavery...

The British capitalist class can no longer afford a trade union and to take the place of workers who were on strike. For the trade unionists these freedoms which we had been so privileged to enjoy could not be taken away. They had to be taken away. How could we possibly have the freedom of the marketplace if we are not willing to pay the price of subservience? The society must now look to itself for its freedom. It is a choice they make pro-American. It is a choice they make.

Freedoms' in fact is a meaningless concept unless you specify freedom for whom to do what. One man's freedom is another man's slavery. At one time a group of employers in this country organized a Free Labour Association. It was made famous by the Taff Vale strike which led to the formation of the Labour Party.

Class interest

The Free Labour Association consisted of men who exercised freedom to refuse to belong to a trade union and to take the place of workers who were on strike. For the trade unionists these freedoms which we had been so privileged to enjoy could not be taken away. They had to be taken away. How could we possibly have the freedom of the marketplace if we are not willing to pay the price of subservience? The society must now look to itself for its freedom. It is a choice they make.

The present Industrial Relations Bill defends the freedom of workers to opt out of union membership and suppresses the freedom of other workers to refuse to work with 'noms'. Freedom for one means the deadly action by the medical profession to cut the pump—measuring the freedom of the rest of us to enjoy equal access to medical services.

And so on in every field. In a society where there are conflicting class interests, 'freedom' always means the interests of one class against another. There is no freedom, only class interests.

Years ago, when the capitalist class was struggling against the rulers of a pre-capitalist society, of course, for a number of freedoms. For the freedom in the first two centuries, they were willing to pay the price of subservience. But now, Freedom for the freedom to drive the peasants off the land, on which they had customary rights from time immemorial, turning them into wage slaves. And for the freedom to exploit men, women and children without guilt or government interference. The capitalists won these freedoms by political action, by successful revolutions.

The struggle of the labour movement has been struggles against these freedoms and for the freedom of working men and women to defend themselves against exploitation. The capitalist 'head-tapping' industries have been denounced as a denial of the freedom of men to work at whatever wages seemed good to them. So too today. Whatever the mess it all starts through the freedom of the market to demand that the market would bear and therefore against the price of freedom.

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The struggle of the labour movement has been struggles against these freedoms and for the freedom of working men and women to defend themselves against exploitation. The capitalist 'head-tapping' industries have been denounced as a denial of the freedom of men to work at whatever wages seemed good to them. So too today. Whatever the mess it all starts through the freedom of the market to demand that the market would bear and therefore against the price of freedom.
Russell gives us hell

KEN RUSSELL'S new film The Devils (Warner) has proved a huge success in the U.K. and on television. The film has been denounced as obscene, blasphemous, vile, revolting and nauseating—all of which should ensure that it plays to full houses in the West End for months to come.

Sadly, one gets a whiff of suspicion that the real issue at stake is not about the implications of Cardinal Richelieu's programme for the Church's struggle for power in 17th century France. Russell is using the period to give all power in his own hands and to destroy the autonomy of all French towns. In this attempt, he is momentarily thwarted by the tone of Louis XIV who, the local inhabitants, led by their priest, Granvelle, resist by fighting and attempting to keep their independence.

It is therefore Richelieu's problem to discredit the priest Granvelle by whatever means possible. The rest of the lengthy film is taken up with this attempt and with the efforts of Richelieu's henchmen to prove that Granvelle is a magician, a servant of the devil. Notice the emphasis and importance of the name—this is Richelieu's strategy to disassociate the devil from the state and the individual and the horror from organised opposition to its total distortion, to make black equal white and good equal evil.

Unfortunately, Russell does not choose this means of discrediting Granvelle, but rather to use the occasion for a paragon display of one of cinema's cleverest visual images after another.

Moreover, Russell cannot plausibly maintain that his film deals with a period and a subject and shows a man ecstatically leaking the blood from an innocent creature trying to keep the viewer from seeing the blood that is being poured on a more innocent creature. If you show a man dually and horrifyingly being burnt to death, then again this will be what sticks in people's minds.

The point is not that it is wrong or obscene to show violence on the screen. The objections are quite simply artistic. It is possible to show the power of violence in 101 subtle different ways.

Russell only knows one—lots of blood and torture and suffering and a fascination for ritual and the spectacle. The result is quite naturalistic and it is a sure sign that the viewer becomes more and more immune and less and less in sympathy with the tortured and demonised man.

I am sure this was not Russell's awed intention, and it is one of those cases where we must assume that the film was not intended in the way we have read it, that the camera, the director, and the writer, although quite skilled in their craft, were not aware of their own implications. This is certainly the case with Russell's other films. He has certainly been successful in shocking the bourgeoisie, but that remains little comfort to those who are expected to give a right to a little more than this from F-tain films.

Russell's henchmen have certainly succumbed to the bourgeoisie, but that remains little comfort to those who are expected to give a right to a little more than this from F-tain films.

Martin Tomkinson

Wisecracks

PILKINGTON, the St Helens glass giant, went "public" this year and duly published its first accounts last week. Group profits were £10,754,000 after tax, £400,000 more than had been forecast.

One reason for the improvement, boasts Pilk, was the £4 million cost of the first major strike in 100 years. "Funny that they seem pleased by the strike and its high cost," he added. "But that's because the strike brought the benefits to the local town and because they had the strike..."

The poor old Harold found himself worse off financially after six years of Labour government than before it. So did the rest of us, mate, so did the rest of us...

Bed and board

A GRISLY footnote to Tony Corcoran's report on page 3 about the disastrous treatment of Bengali seamen in Newcastle. The men are staying at Simpson's "hotel" in the city centre. The manager said: "I found dead in his room last week. The body was not discovered for four days until a rare cleaner went in... The corpse was in an advanced state of decay. The scandal gives the lie to the hotel management's claim that it provides service for its patrons."

The Bengalis are staying in bare concrete rooms with iron beds. Says Corcoran: "The conditions are probably worse than prison, the difference being the dirtiness of Simpson's pay £8.50 for their primitive cells."

There is something niggling about Alan Whicker in Whicker's World (ITV, Monday, 8pm). It's not just that I remember reading a few years ago that he owned over £1 million worth of property, but also that he was in the studio and on television, not only is that he is for two months taking over much of the world's radical World in Action team.

Nor is it really the subject matter of his recent programmes, the new giganotic ships of Florida's Dinsand THEY'LL ONLY IDLE THEM AWAY...

In an age when the political con man regains supreme, the pledge by 200 firms that they will support the Confederation of British Industry's appeal to restrict price increases to 5 per cent will be greeted by most working people as just another cheap, phony stunt by the Tories and their pals to hold down wages.

But let us for once (and only once) take the bosses at their word. The 200 firm concern accounts for about two-thirds of manufacturing output, which in turn accounts for about one-third of total output or the 'Gross National Product'. So even if the board 200 were to honour their pledge, it would affect about only one-fifth of all goods and services.

Agriculture, housing, rents and the social services would all be excluded. And you will have noticed that the government is already preparing for savage increases in rents and no doubt there will be further pickings from the coders of the social services. The experts reckon that the overall effect will not be a price freeze, as the government and bosses are pretending, but a per cent increase less in the cost of living in the next 12 months, say 4 per cent instead of 9 per cent. And the CBI pledge has a marvelous get-out clause: firms will restrict price increases only if the govern ment raises the growth rate from 2 per cent to 4 per cent a year. If they don't, no price freeze. And who will they blame? Trade unions, of course. Keep slapping in the wage claim.

Incystent

WHILE we anxiously bit our fingernails as the British press described the removal of Princess Anne's ovarian cyst, continental newspapers were enjoying more sensational reading. Returning holidaymakers tell us that the French yellow press

Lord Pilkington: profuse strike

(always the Gauloise in the air) was insisting that the term ovarian cyst was just a polite cover-up for an operation usually performed on the quiet for not less than £100. London-based French newshounds are thought to be diligently searching for the taxi driver who took the Princess to the nursing home.

So poor old Harold found himself worse off financially after six years of Labour government than before it. So did the rest of us, mate, so did the rest of us...

Bed and board

A GRISLY footnote to Tony Corcoran's report on page 3 about the disastrous treatment of Bengali seamen in Newcastle. The men are staying at Simpson's "hotel" in the city centre. The manager said: "I found dead in his room last week. The body was not discovered for four days until a rare cleaner went in... The corpse was in an advanced state of decay. The scandal gives the lie to the hotel management's claim that it provides service for its patrons."

The Bengalis are staying in bare concrete rooms with iron beds. Says Corcoran: "The conditions are probably worse than prison, the difference being the dirtiness of Simpson's pay £8.50 for their primitive cells."

THE former boss of the record-player firm BSA, Dr Daniel McDonald, is making a $3.5 million bid for the motorcycle firm of BSA (whatever happened to Lord and Lady Dooker?) McDonald is raising the cash from his personal fortune of $17.5 million. The Doc also owns a $500,000 private jet, a luxury villa in Geneva, a large estate in Denegly and a house in Bermuda.

BSA workers may care to know Dr McDonald's attitude to trade unions. He closed two of his factories in London on the grounds that the unions were pressing for recognition and declared, 'To my experi ence, the more disciplined people are the happier they will be.' Start pedalling, lad.

Edited

Documentaries by World in Action, or the recent Wednesday night film on consumerism along with the views, in consecutive weeks, of two working men and women, let the world speak for itself. World in Action's more radical outlook finds itself therefore in a more democratic way of making a programme, and is able thereby to get the less articulate and confident people to be effective on TV.

Getting people to speak at length means that a mass of material has to be edited down to programme length. In this process of course mere interpretation has to be put on this material according to the programmes.

But this is inevitable and the editing should be able to pick out the interesting and to disagree about what is important. Whicker in his interpretation perpetrates his world nobody else gets a chance in.

Commentators such as Whicker, political experts like the writer, broadcasters and others such TV types will face, deservedly, that in the next 10 years the memory of Monty Pyton's Flying Circus will be reviewed with 10,101 next week. This is a world with too many boring and smoothies.

Phil Hall
Genocide in Bangladesh

by John Grieve, ICI shop steward

DONCASTER—Redundancies threaten to turn the town into a disaster area. Following hard on 500 sackings at International Harvester, 116 apprentices chopped at British Rail Engineering, with 500 more men being lined up there, and short-time at Fowlers, come rumours of impending redundancies at ICI in Crompton-Parkinson.

But the burn is only just last Thursday, when ICI's nylon plant announced 740 redundancies. Unemployment will now be 62 per cent and, with school leavers, a figure of 8 per cent or more is likely within a few weeks.

ICI's sackings, following hard on Barrie's mini-biad, give the real facts. Unemployment will continue to increase—entry to the Common Market holds out no hope for any improvement.

The ICI collapse is the result of the world overproduction of nylon and the competition from other man-made fibres. The result is 3500 sackings spread over Doncaster, Gloucester, Pontypool and Hartlepool.

The crisis has exposed all the pater-nosters about ICI. With its $200 million profits and $80 million sterling value, it can buy up the Atlantic Co. in the U.S. but it cannot save jobs in South Yorkshire. They are dependent on nylon. Out of 3500 redundancies 3000 have already left, 2000 will have left by the end of this week. 1000 have already diversified and developed other fibres.

Only reward

...but the factories have not been placed near the nylon plants. The factories have only been rewarded for all the profits from the nylon factories. ICI and the local Tory press are hard at it. They say that the workers are only rewarded for all the profits from the nylon factories.

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