Grim reality of Heath's 'better tomorrow'

FIVE MILLION families live below the poverty line. That's one in 12 of the population. 1,836,000 houses in England and Wales—one eighth of the total—are unfit for human habitation. A staggering total of 4,700,000 houses are in an unsatisfactory condition and will be unfit in a few years' time.

In Scotland there are 273,000 unfit dwellings. These dreadful figures, produced in a new Shelter report called Condemned, rip aside the image of over-increasing prosperity painted by press and television.

This is the grim reality of Heath's 'better tomorrow'. It's better all right for the slum landlords, the moneylender, theoulé frocked from other people's, working people's, midriff.

Look at these figures again. Add to them more than 900,000 on the dole. And rising rents, prices and unemployment costs.

Add to them the human cost of being without work, of living in shacks, feeling shame without hope of a decent home, paying anything from £3 to £10 for a cramped, damp room.

Think, in particular, of the effect on children brought up in these conditions—now deprived of their school milk by Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

This is Tory Britain. Not 30 years ago. Today. And we didn't lose our Labour friends. They helped create that Britain. Now.

Is it in Britain where working and living conditions are being ridiculously driven down in order that the tiny minority who own industry can make bigger profits? Fewer houses, fewer schools are built. Families are condemned to live out their lives in buildings condemned years ago.

The Shelter report spells out the situation. It has to be answered. Housing is simple, it says. 'It is just a matter of land and bricks, planning and technique. We have all those things. Oh, yes, we don't THEY own the land, the bricks and the money. Shove, poverty and unemployment won't be removed until WE take the land, the bricks and the money from THEM.'

These pictures, these facts, should make you angry. Angry that a system can do this to human beings. Angry—determined to fight to build a movement that will make sure that tomorrow's Britain—and world—is free from the Tories and their rotten system.

Condemned: a Shelter report—15p from National Campaign for the Homeless, 95 The Strand, London WCZ.
THE PRESS LORDS faced a terrible dilemma at the end of last week: they were keen to crack down on the print unions, but the show who was really boss in Fleet Street and Manchester but, as representatives of their class, they were anxious to avoid any leniency lest their other fight — the ensuring working people of the values of capitalist society, the importance of profits and the daily threats to the economy posed by the print unions — be undermined.

They decided to run the risk. With a display of class solidarity that should not be lost on trade unionsists, the press owners closed down the national papers. But even the act of closure exposed their own weakness; all last week they bailed out the ‘loss of several million copies’ because of workers’ actions, but a total shutdown on Saturday alone amounted to a loss of 24 million copies.

A few points need to be cleared up on the press: 1)

- The print unions in Britain — national, regional and local — is owned by six powerful combines, dominated by immensely rich and influential politicians and advertising agencies. The newspapers, including the allegedly radical papers, such as the Guardian, are basically the same line, even though they may occasionally differ over which capitalist party to support in elections. All of the papers, to a greater or lesser degree, lie, ignore or distort the facts about workers’ lives and struggles.

- The unions are not responsible for the financial state of the press. The reason for the decline of newspaper finances is due almost exclusively to the ever increasing cost of production, with new and cheaper methods of production can be brought in.

- The financial plight of Fleet Street is a lie. All of the biggest and most economically profitable Associated Newspapers, for example, closed the Daily Sketch in order to save ‘the face of Fleet Street’. The few trade unionist journalists out of work, announced in July profits of £2,271,000 for the last financial year. Not bad for a company that whitewashed publicly about its terrible losses.

- The proprietors of the Associated Newspapers made a profit of £3,796,000 last year. The News of the World organisation, which includes the Mirror, Daily Mail, Evening Standard, Daily Express, Sunday Mirror, Mail on Sunday, Metro, Sunday People, all made a joint profit of £2,000,000. Reed International, including the Mirror group, notched up £11,116,000. Pearson, the group that owns the Financial Times and the Westminster Press, closed its local papers, increases profits from £3,000,000 to £27,000,000.

- The interests of these combines are not confined to newspapers. Associated Newspapers, for example, owns wharves in the London docks, a road transport company, the London General Cab Company, restaurants and Blackfriars Oil, which is on the lucrative North Sea oil fields, and has a £3,750,000 interest in the Petrolina Oil Company.

As Sir Vee Hammersworth says in the Associated Newspapers’ company report: ‘The prosperity of your company is bound up with the progress of the country as a whole in so far as the only minority who own and control British capitalism. We should not need to pay their economic difficulties or for their inability to spread their prosperity.’

The duty of socialists and trade unionists is to support the printing workers in their justifiable fight for higher pay. Over and above that, we should redouble our efforts to build an ‘alternative’ socialist press that speaks for the majority against the parasitic minority and argues the case for a society where a newspaper free press could flourish, unshackled by the demands of the profit-mongers.

SLUMS—UNIONS MUST ACT

THE FACTS about housing are appalling. The number of homeless people in London rose by 77 per cent between 1969 and 1970. Yet last year 34,000 fewer houses were built than the year before. This year the number will fall still further. That is a record in Britain since 1962. Back in that year the story of all politicians was that if only we all pulled together, things would be okay. The total wealth at the disposal of society would increase, and those who held the lid would get a bigger share of a bigger national cake. Well, productivity has shot up, and so has inequality according to the Robin Hood and Robin Hoodite thinking. The national cake has grown bigger, although not nearly as fast as it would have if the unemployed were allowed to work. But the housing situation has taken a nosedive.

Not that the amount of money spent on housing is going down. There is hardly a government of any party that does not rise, even though the number of new houses built by councils falls. The discrepancy is explained by the vast sums that pour into the pockets of speculators, banks, builders, the government, and the money—lenders. The average council house costs only £5000 to actually build. But the government puts £24,070 extra in interest repayments to moneylenders.

Many council tenants must now pay more than they actually collect in rents. The shortage can be solved only by a challenge from a fighting working-class based movement. The natural leaders of such a struggle would be the trade unions. It is their members and their members’ families who suffer humiliated, abandoned by the so-called ‘reformed’ trade unionists who suffer from low pensions.

The unions’ leaders have never done more than pass resolutions against such conditions. Yet only when we see strikes over pensions, housing, and welfare services will the government face a real challenge to its cut-backs and its cut-backs. The increasing military policies in the Soviet Union is also a struggle for the homeless, the sick, the unemployed.

ENGINEERS need big campaign on cases

THEORY PRESS has not been slow to begin its propaganda campaign against the engineers’ job claim. Talk of ‘those selfish engineers’, unrealistic pay claims’, ‘inevitable bankruptcies and companies going to the wall’ has been freely matted out in the papers and on TV.

The industrial strength of the engineering unions and their heroes, the workers, has been underestimated. But, as with the power workers, a press campaign that remains unchallenged and unrebutted helps to make the argument more solid. To be taken seriously, the unions must begin with a propaganda campaign putting forward our case.

It is important to publicise the following points:

- Basic wages in the industry are absurdly low and below the living wage. Only a fraction of all engineering workers are in the £500 pre-tax bracket.

- Wages increases in the last year were only 30 per cent on the price index, while the living wage has risen by 40 per cent.
- Mobile, well-paid sectors of the industry do not hold down wages, on average, for the same proportion of workers.
- In the engineering sector, full-time salaried jobs are more lucrative than manual jobs.
- There are no national lay-off agreements. There is a need for £550,000 to build up our funds available for a four day strike at the present rate.

In addition pledges of support and regular visits to black, possible trade unions should be sought now, especially from the transport sections of the TUC.

Lastly, in each district meetings of shop stewards from the unions involved must be called to draw up plans of action. Such preliminary meetings would lay the basis for democratic control of the expected strike. This would be our policy: to stop the management of the employers organisations represented by mass meetings and appeals to all workers to join in the struggle for more than the minimum.

We do not want to lay down for an appeal of the TUC, but to be followed up by hastily arranged meetings being called temporarily. The plan (and by secret ballot. JOHN DEASON (AEG), Wigan.

Too crude

THE ALL READERS of Socialist Worker should be opposed to crude simplifications about the world. Peter Hitchins’ statement in the Sunday Times was sick. For the working class, school and society in general, the road is a place to study and work, not a place to learn and respect authority. The whole of society is the playground for children to learn more about life itself. The story about free milk suggested that some kids should be separated from children with medical certificates. We can say to them: ‘You are not fit to have milk unless the doctor says you are fit to have milk’.

To crush these ideals, we need to clarify our ideas and plans. We must defend them, or lose our fight for the future. To do this, we must win the confidence of the nation, which is a result of a lack of involvement in and experience of the state school system. TONY WILD, Newcastle.

THEIR WEEK

CAR WORKERS in Britain have, in the past few years, been involved in bitter struggles. For example, this is the first time that the three million average British wage rates are probably now more than the average German, but the same needs to be remembered, includes Spain. German car workers are set to increase wages with a quarter more in their pockets than their British counterparts, with an increase for an increase per cent this month. This is 20 per cent of car workers are due to get greased down on a 5 per cent increase, to follow on the surprise the last four years, have not lost out.

TURKISH workers would not go out to this time, except on the 11 per cent increase, to follow on the expression of the American workers, to get the last 3.5 per cent increase, to follow on the strike began.

THEIR WEEK’s American Professor is still pushing in the papers. This week’s is on ‘Growth and the US Hunger Market’ from 1968 to 1972, the consequences and the US dollar, including the ‘Present Value of a Real Dollar’. The profits are falling, and the workers are being paid less. This is a real blow to the US economy before the Vietnam-

- The deaths, found that no less than 150 prisoners have been killed in the last 30 days. Of them they die. He believes that if they were being held in the US they would be held in the US.

SUICIDE ESCAPE

The US prison authorities have now changed the account of events. They said that the seven prisoners who fought for 10 years for the right to a trial were shot dead the day before they died. The jailing had to end.

But we say this, if George Jackson had not been shot in the prison, it would not have been fully justified. Whoever pulled the trigger to silence Jackson, a young man in solitary confinement for 30 days, was not the first to hush him to the most horrific death in a US prison.

The victims of class and socialist justice, the credit to the US prisoners, and Americans, are to resist any kind of condition.
For Mary Whitehouse, a dope queue is not obscene—unless the workers take their clothes off...

IF YOU ARE not upset by long hair, nudity or OZ magazine, stay away from Trafalgar Square this Saturday. It is the 'Hardcore', guardian of the nation’s morality, conscience, friend of the Pope and scourge of the uncivilised thought and deed, who will lead her faithful flock there in the 'Occidental Festival of Light'.

The festival’s stated aims are to 'take a positive stand for truth, purity and light'. The organisers believe there are 'god-given standards for us to go by in the 1970s' and claim that pornography, obscene spectacles, the systematic corrupting of young people and the spread of perversion is now almost commonplace today.

by PETER HITCHENS

Old standards
Running through all the Festival's programme is a cry for a return to the old standards—so long as it is a time when people are ill and kept in a time that for the vast majority of the population is 'the worst possible national, state, housing and medical disaster' and when which thousands of families are forced to live, standing in queues to purchase their food and stand in dope queues as long as they keep their standards.'

Trevor Huddleston and Malcolm Muggeridge: two men of light
Part of MRA's policy is that 'Business would be owned by individuals but the community would own the factories'. It should make shareholders' meetings more interesting.

MUGGERIDGE: Mr. MRA's money comes from wealthy Catholic women. Miss Boot, the chemist, believed in it so strongly that she gave away a fortune. Harry Ford was another powerful backer.

SENSE OF FRUSTRATION

Mrs. Whitehouse: waving goodbye on behalf of the Pope to discuss pornography. It is understood that world poverty and war were not on the agenda.

Tory pensions fraud means rich pickings for businessmen

THE LATEST Tory proposals for pensions have been greeted with loud approval by the Stock Exchange, the employers and the financial interests in the City. This was to be expected, since the Tories have not set out to help the pensioners, but rather to use pensions to help some of the current difficulties of British capitalism.

The desperate poverty of millions of pensioners was discussed at a conference last week. It is made clear that there will be no further increase in the standard of living of old age in 1975, and it is difficult to see how the pension of £4.50 a week will be worth £6.40.

The operation every worker will have to make 2½ per cent of their wages for tax relief, which time, if these keep going up at the present rate, the pension of £4.50 will be worth only £2.50 in 1975.

A second contribution will be made to help the pension scheme and in cases where the employer does not provide a pension scheme, workers will have to contribute instead to a State Pension Scheme.

For people retiring after the next 30 years, the promised extra pension rights will be quite microscopic. Only if a pension has been contributing to the new scheme for at least 30 years will it hold pension be above the present official poverty line. The outlook is very bleak indeed for the millions of people who are now over the age of 40, with a future pension of £100 a week instead of 40.

PUBLIC ACTIVITY

Mrs. Whitehouse: speaking about the 'persistence' of the society. It is many people are not looking for any financial advantage from the system but just that the expense of the majority and confirm that the society is not the right to opt out of their clothes in front of an audience.

Tory pension plans are in the right轨道 of cutting wages. All that is offered in return is a small addition to pension rights, payable only in the remotest future.

One of the biggest differences in current unemployment is that between white-collar and manual workers in the pension schemes, which are very different. At present only 17 per cent of manual pension schemes and even 10 per cent of manual workers in these schemes are simply pathetically.

In most of them there is no coverage at all for the widows of men retiring after it. After all, there is no protection on changing employment. A pension having a job can easily get them off in our own contributions, but is very easily entitled to get to the pension which the employer has made on his behalf.

In these schemes there is no income allowance for pension increases to compensate for inflation. Few manual workers, now retired, get enough from their employers' scheme to make their present pension up to the poverty line.

In future the government will insist that occupational schemes will have to meet certain minimum standards. The new rates will be extremely limited, they are an improvement over the present system—but only because the present system is so chronically inadequate.

FATAL SNAG

How much pension? The rule is to be that an employer's scheme should offer a minimum pension of £1 a week for every £500 earned by a pension during the time he has been contributing. Thus if a worker earned a steady £1,000 a year, he would get an extra £1 a week to his pension for every five years he works.

But there is one fatal snag. No allowance is made for inflation occurring in the period before retirement. £500 is a lot of earnings to have to pay contributio

The government is allowing employers to look for their workers off with a scheme in which the pension is calculated as a percentage of lifetime earnings. The effect is that the value of the pension is pulled down by inflation over the 40 to 50 years of a worker's working life. The Tory plan for pensions means rich pickings for the businessmen—and continued poverty for millions of pensioners.

JIM KINCAID

TIREMENT. A worker contributing now, but not retiring till the year 2000 or 2010 will get an initial pension of no more than £1 a week on each £500 earned during the 1970s and 1980s. But what will £1 be worth in the year 2000? On the experience of the past 25 years—about 25p.

Nearly all pension schemes provided for professional and managerial employ- ers are now operated so that the pension paid is a percentage of earnings DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS BEFORE RETIREMENT. The government is allowing employers to look for their workers off with a scheme in which the pension is calculated as a percentage of lifetime earnings. The effect is that the value of the pension is pulled down by inflation over the 40 to 50 years of a worker's working life. The Tory plan for pensions means rich pickings for the businessmen—and continued poverty for millions of pensioners.

JIM KINCAID
by ROGER ROSEWELL

It was 1.57pm, 29 January 1936. The tyrebuilders worked in a smooth frenzy, sweat round their necks and under their arms. The bell chimed as the machine started up with a relentless rhythm. The clock on the wall ticked over; its minute hand jumped to two. The tyrebuilders at the end of the line looked up, saw the movement and gulped. His hands stopped. Every man on the line stiffened. Then he walked to the master-switch, pulled it and backed the sounds of the noise stopped. A moment before there had been work, resounding wheels, clacking belts and moving machinery. Now there was absolute silence. Out of the smoke, across the floor, across the passage, across the Common Market, the production line had been stopped. The Akron rubber workers sit-down strike was on.

THE UCS work-in and Plessey occupation have focused attention on the sit-in strike. Many people regard it as something new. It is not. Although rare in Britain, more than 20 sit-ins took place in America at the end of the 1930s. At the end of 1936 the greatest sit-in strike of them all began. It happened in the city of Flint, which was totally ruled by the General Motors Corporation. The company was enormous rich. In 1936 it made a profit of $225 million and paid its two top bosses, the family of General Motors and their families, $70,000 each.

The car workers in Flint were in a desperate situation. The economic depression had brought unemployment to a fraction of the 1930 level. Unemployment was at an all-time high. In 1934, for example, General Motors had laid off 3,300 workers in a single day after a strike. The order to stop work had come from the top. The workers were broken by the company's power.

At the end of 1935 an agreement was signed between the company and the United Auto Workers of America (IATU) and the United Auto Workers of America (UAW). The agreement was enforced by the National Recovery Administration (NRA) and the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). The agreement was not fair to the workers and it was not respected by the company.

The sit-down strike in Flint was the culmination of a long struggle. The workers at General Motors had been organizing for years. They had been strikimg for higher wages, better working conditions, and the right to bargain collectively. The company had been trying to break the union and to keep the workers in line. The company had been using all sorts of tactics to break the union, including violence, harassment, and intimidation.

The sit-down strike in Flint was a victory for the workers. It was a victory for the workers' right to organize and to bargain collectively. It was a victory for the workers' right to a fair and decent standard of living. It was a victory for the workers' right to a voice in the workplace.

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On the eve of talks between Westminster and the two Irish premiers, a look at the pressures from both left and right on the ‘Green Tory’ leader of the 26 Counties

AS THE Westminster, Dublin and Stormont talks of 27-28 September approach, Jack Lynch, Prime Minister of the 26 southern counties of Ireland, is sliding back into his customary position of openly upholding British, big business’s interests. His role, which has earned him the title ‘Union Jack’ Lynch, reflects the ever-closer interlocking of the Irish and British economic systems.

Lynch has been a key figure in the efforts of British capitalism to create a new and more stable balance between the Green (Catholic) and Orange (Protestant) sections of the Irish ruling class.

The role he has played unconvincingly in the past few weeks—the spokesman for the government’s interests, and not the one who was oppressively forced on him by pressures from within, or to maintain party unity, or from the Irish Army, or, on the contrary, from the population in general.

Jack Lynch’s line against the Northern government six weeks ago showed not a position of strength but one of weakness. The hope of overreaching Labour was frustrated by the major role of the Irish Labour Party, which has been beehive shored up by the pressure of Ireland’s economic crisis and the upheaval in the six Northern counties.

Since 1969 Lynch has served time been close to being removed from the leadership of Sinn Fein. In June of 1973 he was in a position to withdraw人们对 the party. His position was made evident in his letter to the Irish, the Pope, and the American government, the three countries that have provided most support to his party. His position was made evident in his letter to the Irish, the Pope, and the American government, the three countries that have provided most support to his party.

The introduction of instruments of violence against the six Northern counties, aiming to create a situation where both parties have to receive a political solution, forced the restoration of government to the other. Lynch did not succeed in holding his position in check. A former opposition leader, Mr. Liam O’Doherty, resigned in protest. He has been re-elected leader of the opposition.

There is deep discontent within the ranks of the British Army. Some battalions have demanded immediate political action against the British Army in the North. This has threatened to join the IRA if they do not get satisfaction. Some officers with republican sympathies have been dismissed recently. Lynch’s position is now, too, to hold down the growing class-struggle in the South. Attempts at conciliation and armed action in the South have not been successful.

The union leaders’ acceptance of the Baldwin government’s reforms was not the result of the election to the British Parliament. With the exception of the control of the Irish government.

The British government’s policy in the North was to strengthen the existing system. The Northern government, while recognizing that the Unionists have a majority in the Parliament, has always been determined to maintain the status quo.

The aim is to head this off by using Jack Lynch and his supporters in the North, principally Gerry Fitt’s Social Democratic and Labour Party.

The 26 Counties are the largest importer of British goods, and the government of the British government in the North. It is clearly important to British capitalism, in particular, to prevent the extension of mass political action from the North to the South.

Crisis

Within the republican and socialist movement in Ireland, there is a general acceptance that Lynch and Heath have made their deal already, and that this is the only acceptable way to achieve a political solution to the Irish question, and that Lynch has been consulted on British policy in the North.

British government and military experts report that the key is in Dublin, that an Irish republic could be an effective weapon against British republicans if we were not introduced to the question in both Ireland and Britain. In August the Westminster and Dublin governments met on this issue with Lynch, introducing a vin, country-wide policy of non-aggression under Lynch’s temporary appointment.

The parliamentary alternative to a Lynch government is the Sinn Fein left government, influenced by the republican ‘republican’ elements in the party, and the Northern Democratic Party, or a coalition government of the left, led by the Popular Front, and the Labour Party. It would be difficult for either government, if it were committed to maintaining capitalism in Ireland, to have policies very unlike those of Lynch. Neither of them could avoid the problems which he faces.

Unstable

In a more severe crisis the Irish ruling class could not even rely on the military to impose order, because it is an unstable element. But the soldiers are now being given intensive training in riot control.

Whatever solution is agreed upon between the Irish and foreign business interests, it is doomed from the start. Irish workers on the republican side are not going to accept the proposals that they must strike for a new system.

The urgent task in Ireland is the building of a revolutionary socialist organisation that can hold the republican elements against the forces of the Irish Army. The struggle against the Irish Army is a struggle against all forms and practices of state control.
‘Home Rule’

is agreed

but Tories

prepare for
armed revolt in Ulster...

BEFORE the great famine various economic experts had blamed Ireland’s troubles on ‘over-population’. The famine solved that problem—if ever it was a problem—with a vengeance, and it brought no relief to the peasantry.

The English capitalists had forced free trade through against the opposition of the English landlords (1846). Free trade of the above, cheap imported food from the rest of the world new world and eastern Europe.

The effect on Irish agriculture can be seen from a single statistic. In 1849 there were 679,560 acres under wheat, in 1914 only 26,916 acres.

During the same period the acreage under other cereals shrunk but in 1849 the price of wheat was higher than the price of meal even though Irish agriculture declined due to free trade. But the worst was ahead of us. The laws of the second phase of growth.

Export of men

In 1851 the proportion of Irish population were farmers. It is not possible to identify the individuals or families, but the proportion of men leaving Ireland fell. The proportion of men leaving Ireland fell, but the proportion of women leaving Ireland fell, but the proportion of women leaving Ireland fell.

The reason for this may be seen in the statistics of men and women leaving Ireland during the period of the potato famine. The number of men leaving Ireland fell, but the number of women leaving Ireland fell.

The second phase of growth was marked by a much greater outflow of men than of women. The proportion of men leaving Ireland fell, but the number of women leaving Ireland fell.

Ireland’s History of Repression

by James Watson

Part Fourth

Irish peasants besieged by troops in 1846 during an attempted eviction. Hundreds of thousands were involved in the land struggle.

Real threat

From 1907 onwards James Larkin and James Connolly had been building a militant trade union movement in Ireland. The Irish Republican Socialist Party remained in opposition and the Universal Emancipator and General Workers’ Union became the fronts for the military struggle.

Jail trial

But mass arrests failed to stop the movement. Payment of rents practically ceased in whole counties. The government was compelled to bring in the Land Act. The Land League, which had the right to raise rents again, was abolished, and its leaders were arrested. They gave too little and too late. In 1886, the Land League, a non-violent organization, was declared a criminal and the leaders were arrested. The Land League was dissolved. The Land League was dissolved.

Drastic clemency

This was the first of a long series of Acts between 1881 and 1909, all aimed at producing a majority of social consent. The land reforms of 1909 were intended to give a majority of social consent. The land reforms of 1909 were intended to give a majority of social consent.

In May 1881, the Sinn Féin covenants, which had been issued in 1880, were rejected by the people of Ireland. The Sinn Féin covenants, which had been issued in 1880, were rejected by the people of Ireland.

The Land League had been the biggest and most powerful organization in the history of the Irish people. Its leaders were all defeated, and its programme was abandoned.

Government bid to crush Ghana’s unions

by Wenda Clenaghan

GHANAIAN WORKERS are trying desper- ately to sabotage the agreements of their TUC-dominated Labour Congress. A year ago, the Labour Congress was suspended. The TUC announced that it would not recognize the Labour Congress. The TUC announced that it would not recognize the Labour Congress.

The labour movement in Ghana is the most powerful section of Ghanaian society. With 200,000 members, it is practically all Ghanaian workers, it had1985 as a result of the International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) 1985 agreement with Ghana’s government, the TUC was suspended. The TUC was suspended. The TUC was suspended.

The government has announced that the TUC will not be suspended. The government has announced that the TUC will not be suspended.

The government issued an order to the TUC that the TUC must be suspended. The government issued an order to the TUC that the TUC must be suspended.

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Putting his foot down...

ONE of the distortions that capitalism has brought with it has been to take certain products of the industrial system and turn them into objects of adornment. The obvious example is the car—millions of people achieve more personal joy through their cars than with fellow human beings. In fact, men often refer to their cars in human terms—"Doesn't she run beautifully?" and so on.

Perhaps the most important aspect of cars is speed. Speed has speeded a fascination in itself for many people particularly in the USA. It is therefore not surprising that Varnishing Point (and its general release) has been pulling in the crowds.

Endless shots

The film traces one Garrison car chase from Denver, Colorado to San Francisco, hundreds of miles away. For a long time this is the film's endless shots of motorways, inter-spliced with views of the American countryside.

But, as the film unwinds, it becomes obvious that this chase is being used as a symbol. In a series of confusing flashbacks it turns out that the hero speed-fied-user was a policeman and the hero was his ex-wife's ex-husband. It is therefore not surprising that Varnishing Point (and its general release) has been pulling in the crowds.

Social division

As such it does not really matter that it is never clear just why Kolawi is so hell-bent on almost inevitiable suicide. As a symbol he and his fast cars have metamorphosed in themselves into an illustration of the generation and political conflict in America. All the hippies and young people are on Kolawi's side—all the faces of law and order are against him.

QUOTE of the week in a fairly quoteless, paperless week: Jock Storlaid, Labour MP for St Pancras, speaking at the Labour Committee Against Intervention's rally last Friday: "I have fought the Irish issue on the streets, I have fought in the House of Commons... and (pause—audience holds its breath in excited anticipat ion) I shall fight it in the House of Lords if I am to go there. That was another Labour left, that was.

But Varnishing Point is still a fairly plesurable film. It really doesn't matter about the quality of the acting because the chasing cars are exciting. It's an exciting film and the tension is well maintained right up to the last minute. At this limited level, Varnishing Point is successful.

Martin Tomkinson

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS' AUTUMN WEEKEND RALLY

Derbyshire Miners' Holiday Centre, Skegness 15, 16, 17 October

Sessions include:

Perspectives for Western Capitalism: John Palmer
Towards a Revo...ary Socialist Party: Duncan Harlis
The International Movement: Tony Griffin

Enquiries: Alex Glancey and others

Adverts £8.50. Reduced rate for children.

A PROGRAMME of scene significance is Double Vision, a screen of three separate shorts (Wednesday, 10.05, BBC). As the title suggests two views are presented to us—these this week, the Hull docks. The views were expressed in two films, one made by a dock employee, the other by a dockers' shop steward, both made with the help of BBC film crews.

In general TV documentaries are too close to the people who make them. World in Action or the recent series, however, give people a chance to express their own point of view, except, of course, the commentator.

This is particularly important for socialists; that the ordinary working people have their chance to make their voice heard.

However, even more important is the reaction from the Employers' Association. As a socialist society, it is not difficult to envisage many different people making their own documentaries, with of course the necessary technical assistance.

In this way different points of view could be argued freely, one against the other, through documentary films.

The film's climax on Double Vision was shown first. He is chairman of the Hull Dockers' Employers' Association. "I thought the programme of TV would be quite good. He's a dock employee and the other one was a shop steward, and both made with the help of the BBC film crews.

"I don't think his film was much like the usual documentary made by the programme of TV. But even if the latter would not have been so crude with their comments and would have included an interview with someone from the union side."

But in the end they would echo the employer's last byportant statement—"Damn it all, we're all on the same side—that would be reasonable."

"Winston Greeks, the steward, made many of the necessary points about workers' control of the docks."—by the men who do the work."

The interviewer in the discussion afterwards tried to hide the fact that the film had shown us to thedockers in an amade middle of the road fashion—"Winston Greeks should come together before trouble starts."

But the employer and steward effectively ignored him and went on it each othet hammer and tongs. Most documentary and news programmes have at least the assuption that the class conflict which divides capitalist society from top to bottom can be disguised by getting together round a "table" and making a good agree-ment with the programme. That strikes us as a waste of the employers' exploitation and not a "progressive" one. It is foreign to the usual TV report."

"Winston Greeks and other trade unionists about their ability to communicate with management and avoid 'unneces- sary' conflict. They are made to know that there are two kinds of 'reason', that of the workers and that of the capitalists."

As long as this is the case, our TV programmes will be better served by an open contempt for management and for the like the Hull docks. Then we shall see who possesses the real communication."

How can TV get it right? Answer: The new series The Peninsula (ITV, Friday 7.30), a sad waste of Tony Curtis' abilities.

Phil Hall
STEWARDS REFUSE TO BE BRIEDED

ALEXANDRA: At the convention of the Pleasure workers on its fourth in week, the works behind the locked gates are determined to hold out against redundancies in an area plagued by 15 per cent unemployment.

As a representation of the 400 Metro Group, the stewards met last week to discuss their strategy. The manager, a member of the sales and advertising section of the AEU, was asked to call on the MST. However, the stewards refused to allow the man inside the gates.

In a move to stop the entry of any workers at Alexandra and Hillwood, Pleasure set up a delegation of Hillwood staff to scout the Locked gates on the afternoon of September 16th, 1971, in an attempt to stop any further attempts at entry. Pleasure offered to stop the entry of any workers who refused to leave the gates. The stewards have now decided that their entry is illegal.

The stewards have said that they will not allow any entry of workers into the gates. However, they will continue to hold the gates open until such time as the management agrees to their demands.

400 OUT AT ENGINES FACTORY

BY SW REPORTER

PETTENBROUGH: The first batch of workers at the Perkins Engines plant for three days last week after seven meetings were declared redundant and told to pick up their tools.

The seven were not the first to go. Some 400 shop stewards had gone with no action from their colleagues. Then, the first technicians, a member of the technical and supervisory section of the AEU, was asked to call on the MST. However, the stewards refused to allow the man inside the gates.

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PICKETS WITH BLACKLEGS

LYNEMOUTH, Northumberland: There were violent clashes between pickets and plant at the AEU strike last week after the employees, N. G. Bailey, gave notice to return to work leaving the gate open.

Militant picketing has reduced the number of workers on-strike from 16 to 25 but the dispute, which is against the Joes Inter-district agreement, is a sign of the 10-week strike in battling the firm.

The firm has asked all stewards to apply for jobs back, but without any guarantee their job will be taken again, which has led to a breakdown in communication between the strikers before they will return.

Paddy Crean, Manchester United's Scottish international star, talks about soccer 'violence', his days as a Clydebridge shipyard worker, unemployment and the struggle in Northern Ireland. NEXT WEEK.

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Work on Concorde may be blacked

BRISTOL - 2000 workers from the British Aircraft Corporation's Filmworks walked out on Tuesday to a main meeting to ensure further action in the battle to stop 500 being made redundant.

They decided to suspend the campaign of lighting sticks sending a satisfaction point of message talks between employers and union. But blacking of work to go on from the factory goes on with a bus on overtime.

The decision to end the strike was carried without any opportunity for dis- cussion at the meeting. Some 100 workers voted against and they angrily surrounded union officials after the meeting broke up.

There is now a strong chance that all work on the pre-production model of Concorde will be blacked.

Tuesday's meeting followed talks the previous day between the union and the Engineering Employers' Federation. The talks were adjourned without agreement on Tuesday, September 14th, 1971.

This is a still an active situation. The danger now is of division in the employers' ETU, official Dom Holden said on Monday that of those members was asked BAC would have a fight on its hands.

To be successful, that fight must be united. One is more essential that ever that the management are forced to take up the Joint Trade Union Committee.