Whatever happened to free speech?

Police crackdown on left speakers

SOUTHAMPTON: Police arrested three members of the International Socialists and two Community Party members last Saturday. They were speaking against the Tory government at a public meeting in the town precinct.

A week earlier, the Community Party had been warned against holding public meetings in municipal parks in alliance with Southampton. Last Sunday, local police attempted to deny free speech to left-wing organisations.

The police used a legal technicality to facilitate the arrests. The pretext is experimental and is still classified as a "public nuisance." The speakers were charged with obstruction.

But the police have allowed brass bands and religious groups to use the area. For example, in a ceremony of Cheering American "Jesus Saves You" processions were allowed.

A spokesman for Southampton 13 and the secretary of the growing atmosphere of repression, with trades unionists and ministers under attack from the government and the Industrial Relations Act.

The defendants were due to appear in court on Friday.

Miners face big wages battle

by Dick Williams

BRITAIN'S 260,000 miners face the possibility of industrial action to win the biggest pay increases for the break- down of talks on Tuesday.

The National Union of Mineworkers rejected an offer of 7 per cent from the Coal Board as insufficient. The miner's basic rates increased from £18 to £26, underground workers to £19 to £28, and those working under the power loading agreement to £35 a week.

The Coal Board offered a £10 per week increase for married men, £9 for single men, and £1.75 for underground men. The 7 per cent basic rates were not available to single men, and those earning £10 a week, with the rising cost of living.

The breakdown in talks will be reported to a national delegate meeting of the union early next week. In the meantime, the NUM is likely to make an improved offer—perhaps a more generous one—although it is likely to reduce the number of jobs in the pits.

Mr. Shear has asked the NUM to make an offer that includes productivity bonuses and that the productivity pits move more quickly to split the miners' ranks and spread it across the nation's mining areas. The NUM is likely to make an offer that includes productivity bonuses, and that the productivity pits move more quickly and spread it across the nation's mining areas.

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Revolutionaries released from jail in Poland

by Peter Hitchcock

IN AN apparent bid to win support in the Legis, the Gorki regime has decided to release three prisoner leaders in Warsaw.

The reaction was so immense that one of the most decisive wage battles of the coming winter.

The Solidarity front leaders have been using a variety of tactics to encourage the release of political prisoners. Last week, they held a demonstration in support of the three leaders.

The demonstrators were joined by thousands of workers, who chanted "Solidarity forever!" and "Free Solidarity leaders!" The crowd was estimated to be in the thousands.

The release of the political prisoners is expected to boost the morale of the Solidarity movement and to strengthen the resolve of the workers to continue their struggle for better working conditions and economic rights.

The three leaders, who were arrested in 1980, have been serving long sentences for their role in the Solidarity movement. Their release is seen as a significant victory for the Solidarity movement and a step towards greater freedom in Poland.
IRAN JAMBOREE COVERS UP FOR SHAH'S BRUTAL REGIME

by Chris Harman

TOP PEOPLE from all over the world are congregating in Iran this week to enjoy one of the biggest festivities in the 2,500 year history of the Persians.

Kings and crown princes, presidents and political leaders from every conceivable nation expected to be present at the lavish party thrown by the Shah and his famous queen, Farah, at the Kowkab Palace in the district of Shemiran, 22 miles north of Tehran.

There has been a shift in the left. The 51 to 1 vote against supporting the Tory government on Common Market entry proves it. So does the ad hoc, and not too successful, campaign against the Family Planning Association at the last election.

The important resolution on economic questions was the one coming the party to an incomes policy. It wasn't called that, of course, but that is what it was about. Britain needs a incomes policy. But the present capitalist system inevitably means that the rich get richer and the rest of us stay as we are. If we are lucky, again the heroes of the trade union left did not object. They actually supported the idea.

Consider foreign affairs. There was another largely unreported but very significant incident. Stan Newens, Tribune supporter, one of the leaders of the 'Free Tibet' campaign was arrested in Beijing. He was also employed in the Olympic cuts in the social services, rising prices and repression in Ireland and all the rest will only day bring down Heath. Is that where the Labour Party comes in?

Wilson and co are firmly in control of the party. They will make what decisions they think necessary. They probably think they are the party in control, too.

The job of socialists is to create a socialist alternative. The Labour Party is not and never has been a socialist party. The 'lefts' who imagine that socialists can gang up and create a socialist movement are simply deceiving themselves and trying to deceive socialists. Whatever their intention, they are an obstacle in the way of the struggle for socialism. Of course we have to campaign against the Tory cynics, there are millions of workers who see the Labour Party as the only way out.

The thing to stress is that it is a blind alley. But this tactic makes sense only if a viable socialist organisation is built in the meantime. The candidate oratory of the Brighton jamboire is over. The class struggle goes on. Our work goes on.

OUR BIG STEP FORWARD

A YEAR AGO, Socialist Worker went from six to eight pages a week, a move made possible by the growth of the international struggle against imperialism and the circulation and support of the paper. Twelve months later, the membership has more than doubled and the sales of the paper are going up by several thousand copies each week. Last week we printed a record number of 18,700.

The impact of the Tory-employer offensive has produced more than just an increase in trade union militancy. Important though that is, it is a small but steadily growing number of working people are beginning to question the future not just of the present government but the whole system. That produces the growing demand for a new kind of politics. Labour and the bosses. We want to make the Socialist Worker the undisputed leading socialist weekly, selling 20,000 copies a week and beyond. Will you help us to achieve that?

The world up to then... I visited a carpet factory run by the Shah and saw 100 of these children under the ages of 6 and 7.

The Shah's own government cannot remove all the repression from the country. It admits that 85 per cent of the population can be organized in the opposition. In February 1970 it was revealed that infantile mortality is approaching 50 per cent and life expectancy is only 30 years (as against 60 years in the West). The Shah is not a typical populist leader, but he is a typical dictator. Between the impoverished millions and the minority who live in relative luxury, the Shah's camp and palace above all the notables the SAVAK lock the opposition in. There is no truth to the rumour that a new wave of executions will be carried out to stop the cunning in cold blood, murder the most effective and gifted opponents of the regime. All these are false Cronshchedul, from Czecho.slovakia, and the Shah's rule are in the hands of his own sons and allies.

SMEAR ON LABOUR MP

your report last week of what is in the House of Commons Commit to Against irrigation and my stance against the distribution of my personal financial statements. You did not have any personal knowledge or firsthand knowledge of the information.

There are many who would advise me not to be public with what I have been engaged in, but it is important for me to speak out. The only way to ensure that my reputation is not damaged is by being honest and open. I have nothing to hide and I am proud of the work I have done.

I have been involved in the anti-war movement and have always been committed to peace. I have worked tirelessly to promote disarmament and negotiate a just settlement for the Palestinian people. My work has been recognized and I am proud of my contributions.

It is important for me to be truthful and transparent. I believe in openness and honesty, and I will continue to fight for peace and justice. I am committed to my principles and will continue to speak out on issues that matter to me.
Workers ready to fight plan to butterch steelworks

By JOHN FONTAINE and SARAH BENTON

THE bosses get the profit. The workers get the chop. This is rapidly becoming the Tories' standard treatment for industry.

The River Don steelworks in Sheffield is facing the same sort of treatment the Tories planned for Upper Clyde. Local MP's have already said 'Save off' to the government's profitable parts to a privately-owned company, Firth Brown.

At one of the River Don works shop stewards, the time to act. They have been told of the steps they are taking to protect the workers. The River Don works produces heavy forgings and casting and Soss any plant that does in Britain and also finds it hard to attract workers. It has been part of the Firth Park steel complex, where during the 1939-45 war the space was put into the rolling mills. The Labour party in Sheffield and local councillors have been put into these sections, as well as a further £1 million to machinery. Firth Brown will then have all the pick of the new machinery.

SOLD OFF

Yet only £40,000 has been invested in the basic stock section—enough to attract the best workers. The firm has refused to take over, as it is section which has been bought by the British Steel Corporation, and is due for closure.

The shop stewards pointed out that all the machinery in the shop has been due for purchase and alteration. Firth Brown Steel has been for the finished engineering sale, but the firm has offered to purchase it off private enterprise.

The corporation has been aware that about 400 jobs will be lost as a result of the 'sluggers' and part of the loss will hit supply and transport induc- tion. If the steelworkers are not in the shop, back orders will be hit drastically.

But the greatest shock of all was how little to a meeting shop stewards had with the management, who said that there were 'far more people for the work available' in the drop forge and stamp shop, which only has 30 workers taking over as a going concern.

There are 27 unions in the River Don works, all represented on the Joint Shop Stewards Committee.

The committee represents a wide variety of political opinions, the common struggle against redundancies has drawn together many people who are not normally active in union politics. They have met twice a year with the Firth Brown steel or engineering workers could find a new job in a few weeks, the work seems long-term unemployment.

ACTION

At first, the River Don workers' opposition took the form of fighting the takeover by Firth Brown. Now they are fighting any sackings as well.

The committee has produced a programme of action, and the workers have so far declared that they will not accept closure or loss of employment, and that no order made and machinery be to taken from River Don to Firth Brown.

The Shop Stewards Committee have given them their full support at Firth Brown and agreed to back any action that the River Don stewards take against closure. The defence of the workforce to power to change the situation with the firm's backers and the Government. It is essential to win the support of the workers through North Yorkshire. The TUC has already handed out 10,000 leaflets against unemployment in South Yorkshire, but the amount of backing from official channels will depend on the amount of pressure the workers are prepared to put on them.

The shop stewards and committee have so far presented its case to the "normal channel" including the South Yorkshire ASLEF, the FUC Steel Committee and the Sheffield Trades and Labour Council. They have spent over £1000 on publicity, and the Yorkshire Daily Evening Post has now carry huge posters publicising their efforts.

A demonstration in Sheffield on 18 September should be attended by many workers and children, the strength of feeling over unemployment.

The slogan and plainly, opposing unem- ployment is now being used in all literature, showed how aware the stewards are of the speed to « Fight for the River Don workers against unemployment crisis.»

One of the main arguments of Firth Brown was overtaken by events. The management attempt to get down to the 'spirit of deference' among the workers to be signs through.

BANNED

Instead, the workers have banned all advertising and poaching by Firth Brown. They have now a new form of counter-act this by banning the taking of any food in the area where the normal poaching activity has been out. This determination to prevent the workforce from being fed has been well advertised. It now has the backing of almost that importance that 60 or 90 will be taken on and trained in the River Don training shop for whatever firm will have them. The Steelworkers' Committee have also instructed that River Don stewards at the firm's head quarters to pursue the line that redundant workers should have some access to shop stewards and keep on working as a result of the workers. If the steelworks is under threat, the government has to take action.

The heavy forge at the River Don works

DISASTROUS

He was in doubt about Tory responsibility for the unemployment crisis, and repeated attacks on the Labour party and the belief that the government's campaign against unemployment was giving heart to the workers.

The shop stewards had no illusions about the government's efforts, and that Labour should produce a million tons of steel a year.

But last year the British Steel Corporation produced 24 million tons of steel, and the private sector produced 4 million tons. The Corporation has now a new form of counter-act this by banning the taking of any food in the area where the normal poaching activity has been out. This determination to prevent the workforce from being fed has been well advertised. It now has the backing of almost that importance that 60 or 90 will be taken on and trained in the River Don training shop for whatever firm will have them. The Steelworkers' Committee have also instructed that River Don stewards at the firm's head quarters to pursue the line that redundant workers should have some access to shop stewards and keep on working as a result of the workers. If the steelworks is under threat, the government has to take action.

The heavy forge at the River Don works

SPECIAL OFFER

Paul Martin, Marx and Keynes, the Limits of the Mixed Economy is to be published by Longman from 1st November at £5.00. Men will have a month option, which will give him a month before the book is published. He is the editor of this forthcoming book, and has been chosen from the following titles in print:

1. Marxism on its own (1980)


Backwoods battle against a union-basher

FEW people outside West Cumberland have heard of Cleaver Moor—yet this man of 30,000 inmates had become the scene of one of the fiercest union battles in Industrial Relations Act.

The battle will now full operation until next year, the fact that it is on an open shop was encouraging for every union-bashing employer to have a go at shop-floor organisation.

The management of S Braman and Sons did not accept this by 'promoting' seven workers to staff status at their Rotherthorpe coal mine.

It was a charge which attempted to divide the workforce, and it could not prevent the company's first strike in 58 years.

After one week the company sacked all seven workers who refused to work, and began to recruit scab labour, many from the mining families. The company threatened to sack them doing exactly the same job.

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WAGES MAY BE one of the factors, he admitted reluctantly, 'but I think the real reason is our wretched educational system. We are giving people too much education. They all want to work full-time and not part-time."

The remarks were published in The Journal, a publication that addresses issues of worker rights and pay. The image shows a page from the document, with text that reads:

"WAGES MAY BE one of the factors, he admitted reluctantly, 'but I think the real reason is our wretched educational system. We are giving people too much education. They all want to work full-time and not part-time."

The text continues with various arguments and discussions on wage disparities and the impact of education on employment opportunities. The page also features a section titled "WHAT WE STAND FOR," which outlines the principles and values of the organization. Additionally, there is a section on "HAZARDS," discussing the occupational hazards faced by workers and the importance of safety measures.

The document also contains a section on "OFFENSIVE," which outlines the strategies and tactics employed by the workers to address the systemic issues. There is an additional section titled "CONDEMN," which condemns the practices and policies responsible for the current situation.

Overall, the document is a comprehensive analysis of the challenges faced by workers, with a focus on education, wages, safety, and the need for reform. It highlights the importance of collective action and the role of workers in advocating for their rights and conditions.
A major publishing event: IAN BIRCHALL analyses a book that paints a vivid picture of post-revolutionary Russia

Red Moscow with Lenin at the helm...

by IAN BIRCHALL

Alfred Rosmer's Lenin's Moscow was first published in 1933. To understand the book's peculiar courage and relevance, it is necessary to recall the scale of the world in that year. After launching a last frantic series of show-trials in Eastern Europe, Stalin died.

His succession was fought over with the same slogans that he himself had thrown up in grasping Lenin's mantle; but as yet no one dared breathe a challenge to the orthodoxy that Stalin was, in every respect, Lenin's heir. The United States, McCarthy was at the peak of his powers; petty individuals who had broken their links with Marxism 20 or more years ago were proudly proclaimed as accomplished members of the new world order.

In France, a series of right-wing governments were systematically attacking the living standards and organisation of the working class. The Communist Party, bickered by a dogmatic tendency and the personal cult, was increasingly unused to making a fight against these attacks, and was launching dangerously adventurous movements.

The cold was said to have led to the working class - and with it the whole of humanity - into a dead end. The working class was not, however, sitting idly. This was also the year of the East Berlin rising, in France, rather curiously called by analogy, was the Roosevelt order, spread to four million workers.

Relevance

Romer's anonymous -argued clearly, simply and with irresistible documentation that Stalinism had nothing whatsoever in common with Leninism, who, with the working class was vital relevance to those struggling to free the working class from the grip of bureaucracy. How could he publish it in English? Indeed what Rosmer says is true, it is now commonplace.

Chomsky's excellent speech was the world communist movement has had to face to some of the truths of its own history. During the Lenin centenary of 1970 many bourgeois commentators were grudgingly ready to admit that Lenin was not only a human being, but a partially well-intentioned one.

In Budapest 1956, France 1968 or even in the factory place, the working class has been able to go into action on its own initiative, without Stalinist or social democratic leadership. A new generation of communists has emerged, free of the illusions and obsessions that the movement of the revolutionary movement for 40 years after Lenin's death.

Reward

But despite the developments of the 1950s and 1960s, any revolutionary or militant of the labour movement an internationalist of the present time will be amply rewarded by reading Rosmer's book. It stands alone in its spirit of greatness. It contains much of the moving analysis of the early years of the Communist International and material for the Marxist history of the Third International which is written to be read.

In particular, Rosmer is an unpromisingly positioned to provide information on the founding and early years of the first International of Labour Unions. His work is essential background reading for any historian concerned with the Minority Movement in Russia or the complex history of split unionism in Western Europe.

Rosmer begins with more than a year of factual information: it is a study of the rapid dynamics of the world revolutionary movement from the moment of Lenin's death. Rosmer shows how the economic crisis of the post-war period, the traditions of the European labour movement, and the qualities and weaknesses of individuals all interplayed to shape the course of the movement and the failure of the period.

Refutes

Rosmer's account does not comfort for those who cling to the neat stereotypes still popular on the left as well as on the right. On the theme of a 'revolutionary' Russia and a 'reactionary' Stalinism the Stalinist authorities have gone over to the attack, arguing that Romer wrote refutes.

It is a lifeline for Stalinists to argue that Stalin's memoirs, where figured in his memoirs, are the true voice of the leaders of the Bolsheviks, of Thorne, Polity, Thalmann and their followers. The criticism of the Stalin period.

Chomsky's associated myth suggests that communism was something alien to the Western labour movement, imposed on the working class from outside by Russia's agents and Russian money. Even for the muddier part of the Stalin period this is an over-simplification: national traditions and peculiarities still had a role to play, and for the French Party in particular Romer has made it clear that helps explain that Party's failure.

But for the period of the first four Congresses, nothing could be more remote from the truth. The Third International brought together all that was best and a great deal of what was worst in the various spectre of European labour in F20.

But Rosmer was also aware of an opposite myth generated in polemic with Stalinism that identifies the early years of the International, and sees them as a textbook of 'correctness' to be imitated. Hence he underlines a sentence from Lenin's final speech to the International—I have only said that we have done a host of foolish things. How few of those who claim to be Lenin's heirs have repeated this on their own account.

Rosmer shows how the seeds of counter-revolution were present within the revolution from its beginning. It is not as he aimed in this book to produce a new analysis of the nature of Stalinist Russia, though he leaves no doubt that he considers it able to any kind of working-class power.

His gone considerable attention to the material conditions of the revolution—famine, the civil war, economic backscrambling. But he is far from the simplistic that put all the material conditions. The defeat of the Revolution was a political, and hence the paramount importance that Lenin and Trotsky gave to their social revolutionary line in the world labour movement.

Tactic

But Rosmer's work is not of interest only in relation to the 1920-24 period; it also brings out some general conclusions which are highly relevant to the working-class movement today.

Firstly, the question of the unified front. Rosmer shows that for Lenin and Trotsky the united front was not an issue that was dictated by particular historical conditions.

There was, of course, a shift in emphasis between the first two Congresses of the Communist International for the creation of an international communist parties. All the conditions, and the creation of a united front and the line of the unified front developed in the 1920s.

But this shift of emphasis, in response to the demands of the Western working class, was the consequence, not the cause, of the weaknesses of the Lenin-Trotsky line. The shift of emphasis was a direct result of the Stalinist policy of internal peace, not the other way around.

Rosmer's work also throws light on the significance of the 'revolutionary offensive', opponents of participation in the mass movement, and their support for an offensive, the title of the revolution, or the concept of offensive, are critical at this time.

Lenin, with coat over shoulders, in Red Square, Moscow, in 1918.

And the answer to them in the position presented by Rosmer: any attempt to take power by a small group, to bypass the working class and the actual organisations that the working class is to be found in, is doomed to failure. And if these failures sometimes seem comic on the printed page, there is no doubt as to how tragic their efforts were.

Rosmer's account of the strategy of the KULG, and the clear distinction he makes between parties (which unite those who accept a programme) and alliances (which unite all who enter into all alliances, is as relevant today as when it was written.

Perspective

The question the trade unions and their relation to revolutionary politics is the key problem in many countries. Rosmer does not solve our problem for us, only a concrete analysis of class forces can do that. But he gives us an historical perspective, of those who have their hands on the movement and its weaknesses. It is because it is 'humanistic' do not say it is not.

A second theme of relevance to the present period is the question of the international. The growing sense of internationalism among youth in the West, and the increasing internationalisation of capitalism. The ability of the international to undermine the bourgeois nationalism of the right, the ability of the international to suggest new kind of international organisation.

What would such an organisation be like? The best model to date is the Third International.

The economic and diplomatic chaos of the post-war world meant that every country was increasingly affected by events in every other. The French occupation of the Ruhr in 1923 was only the most dramatic illustration of this.

But if the world situation meant that every party must be held responsible to its fellows for its activities, it did not mean any shortage of debate. The International Communist Party for us was sometimes fraternal, sometimes imposed, but always serious discussions were being debated.

Such an International could be created only on the basis of mass struggle. It cannot be reconstituted around a banner held up by an isolated sect. And in those mass struggles, the present lines of demarcation may be replaced by fresh ones, just as the syndicalist-social democratic split gives way to a different division after a different conflict.

Lenin's Moscow is published by the Revolutionary Modern Gardens, London £2 at £1.35.

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Ireland: Orange backlash threatens more sectarian strife

TALK of an 'Orange backlash' is widespread in Northern Ireland. There have been many confident predictions that large-scale military action by hard-line Orange men against Republicans and Catholics was on the way. Every further incident in the Provisional IRA's campaign has seemed likely to spark off the backlash.

Recently, the rumour ran around Protestant quarters in Belfast that a bomb had destroyed a clothing factory which employs workers from the Protestant Shankill Road area. Thousands of shipyard workers downed tools and prepared to march on the Catholic Falls Road area. Then the news came that the clothing factory was perfectly intact. A pogrom had been narrowly averted.

This illustrates the high tension that exists in Northern Ireland, particularly in Belfast. In a town of rumours and of secrecy it is difficult to know what the real strength of the Gilligan Orange movement is.

Divorced from Faulkner regime

There may be an element of bluff in the repeated statements of Orange militants that 'we've got the guns', and that 'When the Protestant fighters do not get their way, they will resort to violence'. The increasing number of Protestant, especially Protestant workers, are divorced from the Faulkner regime, mistrustful of the British military, and prepared to take the 'suppression of terrorism' as the weapon, and to play the protestant regime into their own hands.

The demands have intensified for a revival of the 'B-Specials' - the completely Protestant and anti-Catholic militia disbanded in 1969. 5000 ex-'SPECIALS' have volunteered their services as a new force of this kind. Government ministers have echoed the call for a 'third force', and Ian Paisley has called for an assembly of loyalists in Belfast how their Scots brothers could help them, the answer came: Viva Ulster.

But the registers of volunteers continue to swell among Ulster loyalists and the build-up of arms goes on. Guns are being manufactured in Belfast engineering works where all the employees are Protestant.

Some businessmen are reported to have given money to buy arms. There are reports of a shipment of arms captured in a pub and of a shot in the head of a Protestant in a pub.

The British government has seen action recently. In the days following the introduction of internment, internment was being brought into Catholic areas. There were several attacks on the Catholic Orangemen. An Orange of Irish-Italian organisation and whose activities the authorities deny. The British troops did nothing to prevent this. In fact, they were on the scene.

But if the Orangemen are prepared to fight, what will they fight for? In the words of an 'Ulster Covenant' which has been signed by nearly 500,000 people in the last few months, the Covenant states: 'we shall fight for the protection of our civil and religious freedom, their material welfare and their cherished position in the cause of the United Kingdom.'

Loss of privileges

In reality, they would be fighting to preserve the privileges in housing, jobs and status enjoyed by 'the small defence corps'. When a Scottish Orangeman recently asked what was the price of his gun, he was told: 'When the shots are fired, I shall be the first to run.'

If it is realised that the racist spirit of the Orangemen is not restrained by the present Ulster regime, it is believable that they will be given the power to stop their attacks.

If the Orangemen are to be prevented from using arms, they must be made to accept the territory of the other Ulster provinces. And, if they will not take the Orangemen will put an end to this British government.

There is the rather more elaborate view that the British must address the problem of Ulster's future. In the view of the British Prime Minister and his Catholic Church, the United Kingdom is the only solution. And the Protestant Ulster community is the only solution to the problem of Ulster's future.

The traditional Anglican Unionist of Ireland as a constant state has been deeply implanted in the minds of Protestants for many decades by the rulers of Britain and Northern Ireland. More recently and after the failure to reform the Northern Ireland parliament, and to attract Northern Ireland Catholics to the Ulster Unionist party, there is the view that the Catholic Church should be the predictor of the United Kingdom's future.

Class lines

Unionist separatists in Belfast, and other towns have also resorted to the same methods as the Protestant leaders. After the decision of the Unionist Party to support a bridge to the other side of the river, the Catholic Church was goaded into action.

Protests against the decision were led to the resignation of Both and of John McAlpine, MP for Woodstock, and the other working-class district of Belfast.

Protested conflict between Catholic and Protestant workers would not be a brightening of the national struggle. It would be a grave setback for the Irish working class. Those struggling for a socialist republic have no interest in this happening.

There are some within the Republican movement who are aiming at civil war, in the hope that the withdrawal of British troops will be the spark that will set off the class war. That is the kind of war that the Irish working class is not interested in.

Troops kept in dark about real Ulster issues

BRITISH SOLDIERS in Northern Ireland have no understanding of the real nature of the struggle of the Irish workers in which they are involved.

During a three-day stay with a unit of British troops in Northern Ireland, the writer met with soldiers and found that most honestly answering questions on the political nature of the struggle. Most soldiers did not know how to answer that question. A few were even纳云大了 by the captain's press.

The political officers mentioned the Irish state in their list of political issues. Edmee was not even mentioned by the captain's press.

Less efficacy

The unit had previously carried out "internal security" operations, which cracked down on workers fighting for their rights in British Guiana, Hong Kong and Korea, where the efficacy was expected from the troops.

This unit had previously carried out "internal security" operations, which cracked down on workers fighting for their rights in British Guiana, Hong Kong and Korea, where the efficacy was expected from the troops.

The army’s real role as agents of British imperialism, upholding the bloody rule of capital in Ulster, remains hidden from those who do the bloody dirty work.

It was frightened to find that many soldiers — mostly those who are young and unmotivated — serve in Northern Ireland only because their freedom to attack the locals was removed.

And I was told that the violence in Ulster had resulted in increased recruitment — and the way the Ulster army was being used to repress Ulster workers.

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Tom Maitland
Monty P— funnier on the small screen

EIGHTY-EIGHT minutes of Monty Python's Flying Circus in colour on the big screen would seem to be too good to be true to those addicts who are still sitting through the third repeat of the television series. But before they all go leaping along to see the Python team in their new film 'And Now For Something Completely Different' (Columbia), I think it is worthwhile warning them that, if they're expecting something completely different, then they are in for a disappointment because all the material used in the film, including Terry Gilliam's graphics, originated from the TV programme.

Chuckie

Not that it's impossible to laugh yet again at some of their antics: the report by a TV sociologist pondering on the modern mania for leather, a gang of leather-jacketed old ladies who ride around on bikes beating up teenagers; the upperclass twit of the year award; the army instructor teaching a class in the art of defences against a banana; the man-eating cars — they're all there. In fact, you'll probably pick up the sketch, and you might start to chuckle, but inevitably I could think of many other funny items from the television series which would have been my preference for a filmed collection of Python highlights.

Something has been lost of the original in the film version. The sketches benefited I think from the studio atmosphere and audience. The切れ has recently seen films versions of several successful television series, Dad's Army, Up Pompeii, to name a few, and none of them have come off anywhere very well on the larger screen.

Savage

There's nothing worse than watching a hard-won and brief 1920s picture pale, while a few nervous titters break out from time to time.

Monty Python isn't epoch-making stuff. The blend of surrealistic and under-grading humour isn't likely to please very many people.

It has become a part of the popular culture. We're all in a way that, as the boss of the Goon Show never did, the latter programme being much more savage in its comedy.

John Cleese and Co have managed to keep up the same style, and now, following only double doubts, maximum capital is about to be withdrawn from Monty Python until Monty Python which I fear is to pass us on to its creativity. It's a familiar story: first neglect, and then over-exposure.

Let's hope the Epligue doesn't catch on.

THE STRUGGLE FOR BANGLA DESH

Nigel Harris outlines the background to the events in the last six months and suggests what action can be taken by the socialist and labour movement in the West to a Bangladeshi liberation movement.

10p a copy plus 3p post from PLUTO PRESS, 4 Emma Gardens, London E2 8DN

How the press lies on Ireland

'Believe anything until you read it in an Irish socialist or radical or left-wing paper.' This warning, which has been lifted from the newly published pamphlet The British Press and Northern Ireland, provides 25 fact-packed pages of it.

Tracing the record of Northern Ireland reporting from the intervention of the British Army in 1969, a pattern of sycophantic grossing to the British government and in particular the army authorities, emerges on the part of popular and heavy papers alike.

McCann's method is simple but effective. Taking a number of examples from one of our 'free press' he peels away the comforting phrases which journalists use to suggest that a series of distortions, half-truths and double standards are based on factual, objective reporting.

HYSTERICAL

In March, for instance, Mirror reporter Edward Vale made the startling discovery that Scotland Yard was investigating the 'execution' of 29 men by the IRA during the preceding 14 months. An ideal opportunity for the Mirror to indulge in hysterical headlines and big headlines, but not to mention since Mr Vale, the Mirror and the other papers, were tovarished from the scene of the crime.

This is not an isolated incident but one of dozens in which the IRA has been pilloriated without evidence, in which every unarmed and innocent civilian shot becomes a 'terrorist' and 'IRA guerilla', and in which every statement from the army press office, uninvestigated and unattributed, is taken as fact. You probably know the press lines. Just how and why this pamphlet will help you discover.

From Belfast itself, an up-to-date account of the events leading up to and immediately following the introduction of internment. The Battle of Belfast, provides us with exactly the information the press prefer to ignore.

REALITY

How the barricades went up after the first internment swoop, and the people organised to fight back. How the British Army steal dubious bits to prevent them from being used as a warning system. How their bullets and the rifle butt are the everyday experience ofghetto Catholics.

An anti-internment Army stand by while armed Orange extremists extol Catholic and Protestant workers' families from their homes, while the 'no man's land' around the ghettos. These are the realities which are conveniently escape the 'men on the spot'.

To find out what it's like, read this pamphlet. But remember what it does not make explicit: that the Battle of Fermanagh was won only if it is carried on into the rest of Ireland.

The British Press and Northern Ireland, 80 pages, published by the Northern Ireland Socialist Research Centre, price 2/6.


Mike Heym

THE FROTH

JONES the froth

MOST EMBARRASSING of all the bad and appalling speeches at the Labour Party conference last week came from Transport Workers' chief Jack Jones. Pounding the rostrum in mock fury, he worked himself into a sweaty lather over the plight of the Old Age Pensioners, calling yet again for a 'campaign' on the subject that commits neither the party nor the TUC to any positive action, and certainly avoids any mention of industrial action.

Meanwhile, back at the grass roots, the TGWU Record announces that, to back up Jack's fine words, the union has made a donation of £500 to the National Old Age Pensioners' Association. Funds of the TGWU amount to £22 million. Well, if you believe in moulding empty words, you might as well throw in an empty gesture...

THE VERY LAST WORD on the Labour conference — from a delegate who had suffered the steeplechase chairmanship of Ian Mikardo for a week: "He's not as nice as he looks."

Badly Malled

PRINCE PHILIP, president of the Wild Life Protection Society, led a party that killed 446 partridges and pheasants last week in the first shoot of the season on the Sandringham estate. When it comes to hypocrisy, you have to admit that the Royals have got the rest of us beaten.

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SIT-IN STRIKES TO OUST GOWER SHIPBUILDERS

BR plan to chop 5000 jobs in key rail workshops

by John Field

Already many towns in Kent have unemployment figures of more than double the national average—such as Deal, Dover, Folkestone and Thanet. Ashford until now was one of the few towns with jobless rates below 3%. But recently these have been rising alarmingly. Most of the workers in the railway workshops are willing to accept new terms in order to stay. The unions declare that the government’s proposal to chop 5000 jobs is to cut the rail workshops by ⅓.

500 at IS debate

MORE THAN 500 people attended a debate in London on the future of the railway workshops. The debate was arranged between the International Socialists and Tribune. Speakers for 15 were Paul Foot and John Palmer and Labour MPs Norman Ashman and Nolan Owen were the Tribune speakers.

The debate was not explicitly about the question of redundancies, but it was about the future of the railway workshops and the cuts that are being planned. The speakers represented different perspectives and argued for different solutions.

The debate was well attended, with more than 500 people coming to listen. The speakers covered a range of topics related to the future of the railway workshops and the social and economic implications of the proposed cuts.

A member of the audience asked about the impact of the cuts on the local community. Another member asked about the role of the government in ensuring that the workers had a fair say in the process of redundancies.

The debate was well received by the audience, with many showing interest and enthusiasm for the topics discussed. The speakers were able to present different perspectives and arguments, which contributed to a useful and informative discussion.