Devlin: fists not enough

Bernard Devlin, MP, spoke to a crowd outside Barnet Town Hall on Monday who could not get into a meeting she was to address:

"Maybe you feel better after I had hit Maudling in the House of Commons. But if you think my fist is going to bring down the Tory government, you've got another think coming. The Labour Party certainly isn't going to do it and the only people who can is you."

Look around Britain today and you will see the miners being kicked on their picket lines. In four years time, it won't just be kids. It will be you, too.

So-called democracy doesn't work. Out of 626 elected representatives there was only one—me—who was outraged that the paratroopers without provocation shot our people in the back.

But it is not our function in life to die for Ireland. It is our function to live, work and struggle for a workers' republic. It is not sympathy or feelings of frustration that are needed now. You must go away determined to organise and act.

If you are not in a trade union, get into one. If you do not read books, start to read them. If you are not a member of an organisation determined to bring down the Tories, join one.

You must organise, educate and agitate until we bring them down. We must spell out the message that no one will have any freedom until we bring them down.

Get yourselves out on the demonstration on Saturday and pledge yourselves to organise and fight for freedom. If you continue to do nothing after these 13 murders, then they will remain on the memory of an idle and indolent working-class movement.

A Sunday's pleasure

With savage pleasure on his face, a Paratrooper guts a young lad in Derry, on Sunday and prepares to club him. The murder of 13 Irish men and women by the Army came from orders signed in Whitehall by the Tory government. This barbarous crime must be avenged by the working people of Ireland and Britain. The demand in Britain must be: Withdraw the troops—and internment NOW!

EDITORIAL, page 3.

All out Saturday

March against repression in Ireland

Saturday 5 February

Assemble 'Crown', Cricklewood Broadway, 3pm

March through Kilburn to Marble Arch

and Downing Street

Organised by the Anti-Internment League

BUT THE BARRICADES STILL STAND—THERE WILL BE ANOTHER DAY...

From Eamonn McCann and Mary Holland: Derry

ON MONDAY MORNING in Rossville Street and in the court-yard behind Glenfada Park, people stood in groups looking at the patches of blood and weeping. We had thought in the Bogside that we had become used to violent death. But there isn't a human experience which prepares you for what happened.

Four women clinging to each other, lying in the middle of the road, the guns cracking 50 yards away and the bullets whining off the pavement and the walls around them, buffeting under one another, sobbing, hysterical, pleading: 'Please, mister, don't leave us, don't leave us.'

Just behind us there people, fleeing from the terror at the bottom of the street, suddenly stiffen as they stumble over the barricade at the front of High Flats, then crumble and fall into the rubble.

The first reaction after fear was bewilderment. Why were they shooting? There seemed to be bodies everywhere; where, bodies lying on the street and on the pavement. One man lay on the steps which lead up to the accommodation in the block. Another man lay on the floor of a flat with a bullet in her head, screaming, her face pressed against the wall. Six in total: fists beating the stones: 'Jesus, Jesus, help us.'

DIDN'T STOP

And all the while at the bottom of the street there were the soldiers kneeling, rifles aimed, picking off anything that moved. Had the whole world gone Mad?

And it went on. It wasn't just a sudden, crazy burst of gunfire. At the minutes pasted it didn't stop. 'Single-stormed doors' as they say in the Army communications.

Afterwards in the comparative safety of Moyna Square, hundreds milled around. Young girls clung to one another, weeping, splintering in hysteria. A woman who had come down from Belfast for the march and couldn't find her two children, screaming at people demanded help. 'Have you seen my Seamus and Denise?'

Men, angry, demanding to know, 'Where the f**k is the IRA?'

And how many were killed. Who were they? 'Somebody called Nash,' 'Hanny Wray from Drumcliffe Avenue', 'That...

'JIMMY'S BLOOD MUST BEAR FRUIT'

JIM Wray is dead, killed by British bullets at the end of a day which started as a family party going on another march. He was 22, a boy you'd see on any council estate in England, quiet, complete with the assembly line in a local factory making refrigerators.

Going into the little house in the heart of Derry's Bogside, you can tell his brothers and sisters because their faces are very pale and their eyes trimmed and red. Here his father, also James, talked to us about his son and about the day he died.

'He was never a member of any political party. He wasn't in the IRA. He was Irish, he wanted this country to be free. He hated the British soldiers because he hated what they stood for.'

Jimmy was shot running with thousands of others from the fire of bullets, the fall just outside his grandmother's flat.

Mr Wray said: 'Some good must come of it. That good blood must bear fruit.'

man McKinley that works for the Journal and on.

We now know who they all were. All the names. The ones we encountered when we saw the photographs.

On Sunday evening the area burst with anger at the TV news. 'Soldiers returned fire.' And on Monday the Mirror dared to print a headline: 'Honor after disgrace: five on trial.'

But Mirror lies and army lies and Tory lies are minor points now. We know what happened. The memory of it is burned into us. We will never forget it.

It was not the first bloody Sunday that Ireland has known. It was but the first innocent people shot down here. They have battered us and gassed us, curfewed us and killed us, thrown our men into cages to Long Kesh and Magilligan.

But the barricades still stand in Creggan and the men wait there at every night. There will be another day...
Ceylon: The big clampdown goes on

by Edward Crawford

Any member of the police or army can hold anybody in detention for fifteen days without even telling a magistrate; all habeas corpus is suspended, and political and trade union leaders are being arrested (no joy). No reporting is allowed about any accused persons, and court proceedings—for instance, defense statements—are subject to censorship.

As well as the arrest and slaughter of PPM militants in the countryside, the main working-class organization, the United Communist Party, has been dissolved and its leaders arrested. There was no evidence they were involved, but they were said to be "antiparliamentary." Many young members of the official Communist Party have been detained, though their leader has been given a "judicial" warning.

Finally the tiny Trotskyist group, the Revolutionary Communist League, has been wiped out, with 50 or 60 members of its leader, the British Trotskyist, who has been in jail for ten years. The government is trying to publish the names of 2,000 "extremists" and it has failed to build up any industry to speak of.

Aid from abroad has been balking out, but this cannot last much longer. If it does, then the whole sordid business will be too big for the government to control. The expansion of an expensive army does not hold up the economy.

Red wages have been declining as unemployment has risen. The old community ties of class and menial labor in old colonial masters, will not be able to go on in the same way. The Indians and the remaining left parties will certainly be more independent.

It is possible that eventually there will be an army takeover by the Saarc-trained officers whose only force of will are their guns. The military has been murdering their fellow-citizens.

BANGLADESH FACES GREAT FUTURE

From John Ashdown, SW special correspondent in India

THE jubilation is fading in Bangladesh. Now that Mujib Rahman, the first president of the newly independent state in the People's Republic of Bangladesh, has been taken out of jail in Pakistan, there is not much to look forward to except the long grime work of repopulating the land. The country is in a mess.

Most of the jobs have been cleared out of the labor force and kept its political rivals away from the spoils, lest they be able to challenge the regime by internal jealousy.

Mujibur Rahman has reserved four cabinet ministries for himself as well as the prime ministership, not because he wants the jobs, but because he has too few people to trust. Of the 150,000 jobs, 130,000 are in Bangladesh, only eight can be absorbed into the new armed forces.

For those without jobs there is not much reward except rhetoric, usually delivered by those who spent the war comfortably over the border. The new government demands that those not in the official military group their arms at once. Few of the young men and women in the factories, on the other hand, have to give them a little fight to keep their jobs.

The threat of warlords controlling particular areas and of genuine banditry remains great. The whole country is in a state of poverty, making the prospects grim. At least 5,000 tons of food from abroad to

survive at the best of times, as well as 30 million homes to replace was lost and house the returned refugees.

The one big weakness against disintegration is the Indian army. Yet a prolonged Indian occupation will make it impossible for Mujibur to build a viable state out of the ruins. To the displaced youth this would mean no independence at all, but the scope is pretty wide. The race is not for Bangladesh independence, they will decide, but for the Indian destruction of Pakistan.

The Indian government has enough problems without taking on 76 million refugees. It has already enough refugees. The Indians have been told by the Indian government that they will have to improve the treatment of the refugees. The refugees gave them a pretext for virtually anything they cared to suggest. The 24 million refugees are going to be used as a lever to get more jobs, to build up the education system, to build up the health system, to build up the agricultural system.

The end of the coalition again opened up prospects of parliamentary power, set out to transform itself into an electoral party. The largest union, the CGIL, behind the Communist-Labor Party was left to maintain links with the working class while the parties turned to the trade union leaders among the progressive bourgeois parties. The parties, the sector, main reason for the success of the Italian Communist Party is its programme, which is becoming more and more the goal of the dominant group of the ruling class.

The Plan of 1965, a major government plan to restructure the party, has been denounced by the Communists as too liberal. It holds the party's programme increasingly in conflict with the economic plans of the dominant group of the ruling class.

Despite his popularity, he can move no faster than his political base—small businessmen and landowners. But he can offer some show trials of war criminals.

Indian assistance, vital in the short term, has another price. Bangladesh produces two-thirds of the world's jute. It is the only major industry. But with poorer quality, it is the nearest rival.

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Peyton's place

IT'S tough being a Tory minister these days. They're so popular with the electorate that they can't go out without a phalanx of phuzz to protect them.

Even at home, they feel nervous. Since the Cart bombing last year, all ministers were told to change the locks on their doors and keep them locked. They have been told to keep their eyes shielded for anything unusual.

So when the wife of naval Agriculture Minister Jim Prior returned to their London flat one day to find a strange new freckled chair in the sitting room, she was immediately suspicious. Jim knew nothing about the chair either.

The flats porter and a cleaner reported seeing the chair brought in by men from a furniture van. But the Prior's hadn't ordered a chair. G稀土ly, they backed away from the unwelcome visitor and phoned the Heave Yard.

Before you could say 'hobnail', Scotland Yard were on the spot. The chair was possibly full of explosive, almost certainly bugged, the experts said. They set to work with great concern, the panic completely justified, but could find nothing. The chair, they said, was safe.

Our Jim was unimpressed. When the Yard men had gone, he took the chair apart, piece by piece. It was lying in a heap of rubbish the next morning when a furniture firm rang to say they were terribly sorry, but they'd delivered a chair to the wrong flat and could they have it back...

Ur-gent

SOCIAL SECURITY officials in Porteflack seem to think that because the miners are prepared to hold out for victory they can hold their bladders as well. A temporary office has opened at Porteflack barracks and hundreds of miners have to queue there for several hours to sign on.

But there's no lavatory in sight—

A Kiss for The Teacher's pet?

A member of the Nottingham Miners Union has the following letter from his wife in the mail: "Mr Thatcher apart from one marked 'Ladon', 55 officials are keeping the whereabouts of the Gents a closely-guarded secret.

MINERS on picket duty in Manchester were surprised to see Lord Goodman emerging from a large motor car today. Later, they were surprised to see the PM himself heading back to the main door to meet dapper Mr Thatcher, who appeared to be coming from the same direction as the Prime Minister.

NUT wanted

UPOARK when the National Union of Teachers invited the dreadful, bra-la-la-la-braing Thatcher to be a special guest at their dinner to honour 100 years of publication of the union journal, The Teacher. Apparently on occasions such as these, the real world is put aside for a few hours, NUT officials can conveniently forget that Education Minister Thatcher was responsible for deporting overseas students of their school, said that a third of the country's children are 'inevitably' and underlined the point by cutting back on the secondary school building programme.

The problems facing education in the next 100 years would be even more difficult than those of the last 100 years, she told the dinner guests.

The assembled NUT bureaucrats might have pointed out that things were already more difficult thanks to her—but that would not be playing the game on such an 'uncontroversial occasion.'

The Snatcher dribbled on about the pay-off's greatest achievement being its stand for the dignity and independence' of the teaching profession. A flood of letters to The Teacher have demanded that the paper continue to fight for such independence by refusing to give way to reactionary like the present Minister who is intent on putting the clock back to before the paper was first published.

Just what she always wanted: a pitboss and inspector Edith Stephenson has retired after 21 years with a firm near Wakefield, Yorkshire. In these years she inspected more than a million pitroad rods. For such devotion to duty, the management presented her with a . . plated pitrod rod.

Donkey work

ATTEMPTS by printers or journalists to ban reactionary cartoons always receive a shriek of abuse from the left. The trouble is they are trying to preserve the 'independence' of their craft.

But just how independent are these men? Look at the front page of today's Digger, Walter Johnson's paper for the workers' paper. The 3 million copies it sells are the result of an attack on the power workers during their strike in which he depicted them as heartless, greedy ogres responsible for killing pensioners and babies.

Is it, then, an expert at killing of a different kind—such as cases of charmingly blandly sent to him by the McAlpine construction firm every time one of his cartoons shows a building worker with the name McAlpine on his donkey jacket. Does it have an off-free electric central heating?

PUBLICITY for the new film version of the monumental bestseller by the millionaire Hugh Hefner of Playboy magazine fame—must be the credit. Starring Paul Robson and Kenneth Tynan followed in smaller type by 'from the play by William Shakespeare...'

How grateful this obscure Elizabethan playwright would have been for the help of right-wing Polish emigre Polanski and trendy lifting planes Tynan for bringing its unknown play to the attention of a modern audience.

Each-way bet

THAT STAU CH WORKING-CLASS MP, Arthur Lewis from West Ham, told a buffet at the Commons on Wednesday for a group of men in desperate need of 'left-wing' support—bookmakers. 'Honest Bill' Lewis is opting to the defence of the bookies in their fight to have the government's Tote Bill thrown out of parliament. The Bill seeks to widen the scope of the Tote, at present limited to horse racing and horse riding, and replace it with the bookmakers' activities of private bookmakers (an odd term for the Totes to do, you might think).

The bookies have already thrown massive barriers for 100 Labour and Tory MPs to impress upon them the need to preserve this small area of bookmaking private enterprise. Now they have found, in Brother Lewis, an Hon Member prepared to act for them inside the Palace of Westminster. As a Labour MP for one of the most socially deprived areas of the country, he has been made more important to do at the moment.

THE MASSACRE at Derry is the turning point. The attempt to prop up by brute force the Tory-Orange policies in the Six Counties has produced the Irish Sharpeville.

From now on it must be clear to every working man and woman that the lives of the people in British Ireland can mean only more shootings, more beatings, more gassings, more torture of prisoners, more wrecks on the barbourous government.

The prime responsibility is plain. Heath, Faulkner and their supporters are the guilty men. Their actions, their policies led directly to the shooting of 30 unarmed demonstrators, 13 of them killed, on Sunday 30 January—a date that will be added to the black calendar of British colonialist repression.

The killing is the new Sharpeville. The leaders of the British labour movement have given avid and comfort to the vicious reactionaries who have run the Six Counties in the interests of big business for more than half a century.

It was the Attlee Labour government that forced through the notorious Government of Ireland Act 1949, an Act designed to make the partition of Ireland permanent and irrevocable. It was the Wilson Labour government that tried to save the situation by pressurising the Stone-age reactionaries of Stormont to accept the charade of reforms that would make it easier to keep their power and the powers of the moneyed interests. The Labour leaders must be forced to break with the Tories.

The Tory government is waging a colonial war in Ireland. The interests of Irish and British workers alike require that this war is ended in the only way possible—by the immediate withdrawal of all British forces from Ireland.

The millionaire presses argue that Stormont represents "the majority", that the nationalist population is a "minority". The argument is put by right-wing writers in the working-class movement. It is a false argument. What Stormont represents, and what it has always represented, is the interests of big business in Ireland and of the Empire in order to maintain a direct foothold for British imperialism in Ireland.

Stirred-up hatred

Ireland, the whole of Ireland, was directly ruled by British landowners and capitalists for several centuries. When Irish resistance made direct rule more and more costly, British ruling class decided to stir up religious hatreds. The Unionist Party, which is an integral part of the British Tory Party, is the instrument of the ruling class.

The aim was to exploit sectarian hatreds in the interests of foreign rule. When a Liberal government in the years before World War One sought to replace indirect for direct British rule, the Tory opposition sought to support armed opposition to the UK government in NE Ireland. Arms were smuggled in from Germany and elsewhere. Bonar Law, the Tory leader, publicly encouraged the 'Ulster will fight' agitation. So much for 'law and order'.

In the furore, after the savagery of the Black and Tans—yesterday's Paratroopers—had failed to break the national movement, partition was forced on the Irish people. Since Ulster too, had a nationalist majority, it was itself partitioned. Six of the nine Ulster counties were split off to form the Stormont statelet with boundaries gerrymandered to ensure a built-in Tory majority. It was as if Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire, with their 'natural' Tory majority, were to claim the right to opt out of a left-wing Britain and were to be backed up by the armed forces of a foreign power. Even since partition, Stormont has ruled by repression and discrimination against the anti-Unionist section of the people. Voting by proxy, there is no law of the land. But in the last resort it is the UK government that rules NE Ireland.

This is now ending in bloodshed. Every socialist has the duty to hasten its end. The working-class movement must make it impossible for the Tories to continue their war against the Irish people. All sections must press as immediate demands: END INDEPENDENCE NOW! BRITISH TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND NOW!
The struggle on the shop floor

WIDESPREAD redundancy, growing unemployment and falling wages have made the crisis of productive potential a crucial problem for the working class. They are the reality of capitalist society and are the cause of the problems which have grown worse in recent years as the capitalist economy is pushed to the verge of collapse by the crisis of overproduction.

The problem of unemployment is the problem of workers and the threat of the sack as a weapon to drive down workers' wages and conditions. In a world dominated by poverty and need it is a criminal waste to have millions unemployed. This can only be ended when the working class takes economic power into its hands by replacing the capitalist system with a workers' state.

Conference believes that the policies of the Labour government are making matters worse. The crisis of declining productivity, growing unemployment and wage freezes and anti-union laws are utterly bankrupt and have only strengthened the Tories.

Crucial acts of sabotage and protest which seek to link workers' interests to the success of the Miners' strike, to expose the link between national companies or nations in struggle, to press for international solidarity between sections of the working class.

The struggle between employers and workers, between men and machines, is being fought out in the factories, the pits, the offices and the centres of production. The working class must organise and take action to defend its interests.

1 NO PRODUCTIVITY DEALS. Workers must stop any agreements which give employers more control over production. All contracts which involve workers signing away their rights must be cancelled. Only workers' control of production can guarantee the conditions of work.

2 MINIMUM WAGE. For a living basic wage. Ban on overtime. End all the 12-hour shifts. Workers' control over the rules and safety of the work environment. Workers to have a vote on the management of their own factories.

3 30-hour week without loss of pay. For militant action to force the shorter week.

4 NO RENEGOtiATION. Opposition to any deals with the TUC and its right wing. End all attempts to undermine the Miners' strike.

5 RE Sherwood miners to be paid to maintain their strike action. The miners are fighting for their jobs and for the future of the industry. They must not be forced to give in.

6 WORK OR FULL PAY. Let those who refuse to work carry the can. Either provide a job that can be done or maintain them at full union rates of pay.

7 ORGANISE THE UNEMPLOYED. Build links with the unemployed. Organise a national day of action for the unemployed.

8 Big strikes through the trade unions. The movement has the strength to defeat any betrayal of the miners.

9 Solidarity in trade union branches. Retrenchment in the state, national or international. The movement must be closed to Free Trade to Blockade and the World Bank.

The resolution on unemployment and the miners' strike will be published next week with the first of a series of articles on how to fight this anti-union law.
No room for union shufflers

ONCE AGAIN you are pointing out the already well-known fact that the leaders of trade union organisations have no stomach for a real fight. Surely it must be plain to all that these representatives of the workers must be wielded by the workers, now, and replaced with men who are prepared to fight. If they are not, the workers will share the same fate as the post office workers.

In order to fight as this, that threatens the existence of every worker, you must fight all the way with every weapon at hand. There can be no bigger problems in our country for the struggles leaders who shay away from taking action. I think this is a way to ensure that all the present figure of over a million unemployed is quite acceptable to the workers who present form our government. It is all part of the general policy and I have no doubt that as well as forcing wages to rise, they would also like to see more present figures for unemployment doubled by the end of the year.

To view these facts there is need for some questions. There must be stricter strikes, wildcat, political agitation at all levels, and industrial sabotage. How many sky away from the workers industrial sabotage. Yet this is the most powerful weapon at our disposal if used correctly. The riots etc where it hurt most, in their fat pockets.

Before you brand these views as extremist, remember that these are views of a million people who hope that their measures will take them against the unions. Remember, also, that if anything is very well founded for workers by political entrepreneurs.

I am no different to many others. I am 35, highly skilled and unemployed, had off seven months ago. I am not different to that after seven months of drawing down money and trying to support my family on it, I now seek to turn the jobs I possess against the Tory machine in whatever small way I can.

Positive action must be taken and you should urge in your paper that leaders who have shown signs of foot shifting be replaced. There must be plenty of people willing to fight all the way and who are not motivated by greed or personal gain. JAMES JONES, Lound, Suffolk.

The foreman’s broken promise

JOE THOMAS, treasurer of Lewis-Merthyr Lodge: ‘We in South Wales have achieved a great measure of success with non-violent picketing. But what we do find is that having picketed for three or four days we get a promise: “Don’t bother–no coal will leave this one.” Now just imagine the chance of the foreman being the pal ace, where he saw three full lorries leaving. And when he approached the foreman, the foreman told him ‘he’s made a promise of one day only.”

The coal was landed at another port

EMILY THOMAS, Mardy Lodge chairman: ‘We did a recce down Newton Abbey power station. It was on the cards that it would be closed down. Now the coal hagstrans had already made the decision that they wouldn’t handle the coal if it meant that they would have to be sent somewhere else.

Once we were down there we met a lorry driver who had been to Shard Cotties to pick up a special type of coal for domestic use and he informed us that coal had been landed at Teignmouth.

PLUTO PRESS

4 Corton Gardens, London E2 8DN

By Cella Barker Illustrations by ‘Ying’
Miners can shake these vicious tones: NUM leader

"Ours is no longer a wages battle. We are directly challenging the government and its whole range of policies. It stands or falls on this issue and we, the miners, stand or fall by the solidarity and supporting action of the mass working-class movement.

The message being belted out in the Kent coalfields and the whole trade union movement in the South East by Jack Collins of the National Union of Mineworkers’ executive member for the Kent coalfield shows this is not just two working miners on the 24 man executive. (The rest are full-time officials).

In his speech to the students of the South Bank Polytechnic last week, Collins heavily underlined that this struggle would not be won at the negotiating table but on the picket lines and through the active participation of NUM members in the trade union movement.

He stated that miners did not only need and deserve active support from the broad movement. "Such support is essential for each and every union member. Confronted with this government and its 7 per cent wage norm," he concluded, "we stand and fight with a devastating analysis of how the miners' struggle will be won."

In 1942 Jack Collins was earning £5.50 a week, £1.50 more if he worked for six straight shifts. Immediately prior to the strike he was earning £5 a week. With the increasing rate of living he had taken a severe wage reduction.

Every ruse

For years, he said, we had no leadership in the coal mines. Apathy and despair were encouraged by the policies of the national union leadership who put up no fight while the industry was being decimated.

On the much talked of parity that has just been introduced, Collins explained that Yorkshire and Kent miners had paid to bring Scousers and Chavs through the industry just for the sake.

"Who are the coal board to talk about safety?" he asked. "They are not the people who use every ruse to get miners to work in unseated seams to get every single pound they demand."

They are the people who, when you go down the pit you can see that the dust you can see that you should be worried about, but the dust you can’t see and there’s no money for the health boards.

"What we reply is that there’s dust you can see there, there’s dust you can’t see as well. They worry about the safety of the machines along which the workers fall, but not about the safety of the people."

"Smith and hi-strike," he said, "the response had been beyond any militant’s wildest dreams. All of a sudden the working-class miner had stood up and will stand firm.

I cannot say how long it’s going to last, he said. "But I am certain it’s going to be a long one. We cannot go back for an extra pound no matter what Jack Gompsey says."

Any self-willed fighter of the full-time officials will be resisted at the pit heads. Collins stated that everything had changed. The leaders were now being driven along by the movement. "Nothing less than £5 a week will mean a thing."

"I think one thing will certainly come out of this strike. Ordinary miners’ attitudes to the NUM will be totally transformed. We will go on to put rank and file miners on our executive in place of the present occupants."

And many other things are being changed. Miners are rethinking their ideas, rethinking their whole lives to make sure miners will vote to return a Labour government next time, but as the class struggle heats up ideas about politics and socialism can change too.

Returning time and again to the active support from fellow trade unionists, Collins attacked the role of the TUC and criticized the left. "Jack Jones isn’t publicly stated where his union stands, he’s said."

Ashamed

Instructions must be issued. At present some NUM regional secretaries are using the Industrial Relations Act to deny doing nothing.

Asked why the power workers were not moving into line beside the miners, Jack Collins said: "It’s because of unreasonableness, because they have a union leadership like the one we’ve had over the years."

He quoted an incident in the second week of the strike where the miners were picketing an Electricians’ Union meeting and General Secretary Frank Chapple declined even to discuss with them, "I talk to Joe Grimley," said Chapple. But Collins stressed: "The rank and file can be moved for they are in substantially the same boat as ourselves, If the militants in the power industry are anything to go by, then they are raring to go."

Collins said he was ashamed that the postal workers had been left to go down to defeat by the TUC. Miners are different, immensely stronger, living in communities where everyone knows everything about everyone else. If anyone can really shake this vicious government then it is the miners. We will stay out until we’ve done just that.

And believe you me, we’ve raised a lot from the postal workers.

If our parents lost the battle in 1972 then we won’t be repeating that. We’ve come to collect what is owing and we’ll not be found wanting in the struggle."

Laurie Flynn

SILENT AND ALONE, they grow cold. At this time of year they frequently die from the cold,窖着 a paragraph in the local paper if there should be an inquest.

Usually their deaths are put down to any number of other causes. This is because the thermometer, and not the body, is the issue. Doctors do not register the extremely low body temperatures associated with being old and cold, existing on a miserable pension. They don’t measure the cost of the heat, the bill and the price of butter either. There is no handy instrument to gauge the oxygenation of the people of the slums.

Some 60,000 old people in England and Wales alone die each year from old age and its consequences. A survey carried out by voluntary workers in the London Borough of Islington shows that two of the 185 pensioners interviewed had no heat whatsoever during the winter.

The more fortunate ones huddle round a gas ring in a constant struggle to keep their bodies warm. At night, when the welcome release of sleep seems near, they retire into unheated bedrooms and shiver the night away.

Those guardians of the people’s interests—successive Labour and Tory Governments—seem not to know about the situation. They must have done nothing about it. Strictly, that is inaccurate. They have made the situation worse.

Even as the press lies about the cause of the situation (attributing it to power cut rules and perhaps shortly to a miners’ strike), official spokesmen lie about the extent of the problem.

"Excessive cold, hunger, thirst and neglect killed 155 people aged 65 and over during 1968/69," Alison, one of the Tory Health spokesman told the House of Commons early last year.

Even the true figure of thousands each year is apparently an acceptable level of remote-control extermination in this civilised society where government has permitted excessive cold with class ‘problems’ and the lack of capital investment.

Meagre

Walking into the furnished rooms of long-term old-age pensioners is a grim sight. With blackouts and a gas ring the rooms are not much different to a juries as a farmworker, and subsequently an industrial acid packer—he has only certain kinds of food.

His pension of £9.90 a week ensures that in the winter months he has less heat and needs the next to feed himself in some manner which at least resembles the diet the dentist doctor has ordered.

When I went to see him, he had an unexpected fire in the grate. He had been lucky enough to find a few bits of wood that morning. He then went out.

Otherwise, he would have spent the day shuffling close to one ring on his gas cooker, in a specially designed economy central heating system for the old and poor.

A fighter

John Hyde, like millions of other old people, is an expert in the complex social stratification of poverty. Each day and every day is a constant exercise of calculation, to see how best cigarettes, food and laundry can be provided out of a pension which scarcely meets rent, gas and electricity costs.

But in other important ways John Hyde is utterly sympathetic. For him, a fighter—a man who is not forced by the occasional sympathy dazed out by the news papers or various charitable organisations

It is outrageous and beyond the human nature of life to exist on what we are given. We are inoculated against the struggle to keep our bedrooms warm. We are inoculated against the struggle to keep our bedrooms warm."

Islington 1972. Most of us have had our backs against one room of a small cell. Not enough to struggle to warm and

Katrina O’Connor

International Socialism 50

20c, or 81 a year

Work-ins, sit-ins, and redundancies

The Communist Party, 1945-64

Critique of the Road to Socialism

Victor Serge on Party and Class

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

Inamoral to the AC a country that is not dead—just dead.

Since that time the Doctor Taiton articles carrying that the speciality of the proper heating merely being that which good things have enough money for. The Health Minister is better than poor pounds are worth.

It is no longer 1972. We don’t know what the future holds. But we do know that the struggle is not going to end until the proper heating is made better than poor pounds are worth.

Pitiful

He has much respect for the sincere young couriers who organise assistance and for the schoolkids who come to carry his coal up the stairs when he can afford to pay for it. But he states that the government authorities are taking advantage of charity and the young. They function to excuse others whose only concern is the balance of payments or business profitability.

It is part of the Ministry of Social Security—a humorous title—is to find room in this area. When the voluntary organisations Task Force has received, having who qualify for the pitiful extra heating allowances, they meet with scant success. A grant for a fire may be extracted. Nothing is forthcoming to pay for lighting.

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AND DYING—THE RIBBLE PLIGHT OF BRITAIN'S OLD

Special report by ARTHUR MALONE

This is because, as human need, he took to publishing the plight of the old, he written many of the one streets should live in beds, housing with their constancy. They should not position to know what should have be buy it too. Time to pestle the until he is made a prevention is long. Millions of million old people in hospital suffering from hyperthermia which is brought about by lack of food and cold. It would cost less to give them free vitamins," he stated in September 1964.

The first ever national survey of the old and cold is now under way. The matter is in the hands of experts and results will be published soon. For a writer of reasons, nothing will be done.

A mountain of scientific evidence did nothing to stop the rival Wilson and Heath gangs progressively taking away free school milk.

The fact is we live in a society where some people are only too happy to kid others that publicity and more research means that something is being done about these problems.

Obvious and minimal changes like an increase in the pensions and an extra week's pension in the winter, as We Feather suggests, are found impossible by Tory or Labour governments. Even were they to be conceded, they would do nothing in terms of a solution, so fast is the cost of living rising.

And changes within this system would not fundamentally alter the condition of the old. Wounded in body and mind, they are the victims of a society concerned with human beings only in so far as they register their existence by clocking in to a factory or role queue.

Compassion and pity are not what the old want. What they need—as a simple matter of survival—is a society where such a word as "old" would have no real meaning, where people's importance would no longer be judged by their ability to produce profits.

ABOVE: John Hyde—two rooms of misery, one uninhabitable with the damp, the other with a broken window that his landlords, Drivers and Norris, will not mend. Old and cold sitting tenants reduce the market value of these houses—a terrible state of affairs for the property speculators.

LEFT: A masonry of memories and a shaft of sunshine brighten the misery of Mrs B, 35 years in the same house and still paying the slumlord his weekly chunk from a miserable pension.
RUSSIA TODAY: THE NEW IMPERIALISTS

WHAT IS IMPERIALISM? by STEPHEN MARKS

PART EIGHT of a series

No role for the investors

IS UNEMPLOYMENT good for the stock market? The fact that share prices surged during the recession, the very day that unemployment figures for more than one million were announced, would seem to give a pretty conclusive answer. Nevertheless, the connection between the two is not as straightforward as one might think. The key to understanding this lies in the City of London.

It is not surprising that the most prominent newspaper in the City of London, the Financial Times, should carry a leading article on the subject of unemployment. The article does not say the bank, 'I am the process of abolishing the word 'unemployment'. This is, however, a good news story for the banks, who believe that the use of manpower is of course one of the factors which should improve profitability in the years ahead.

Having established the link between lengthening date queues and their own burgeoning bank balance the bank admits some disturbing facts about the current situation.

'The slimmer down process which we have witnessed is one which has been much sharper in this country than elsewhere in the world, where it has been more continuous. The inevitable result is unemployment which will remain high even if production were to pick up as sharply as the Chancellor has forecast.'

So why is the bank worried about the possibility of a permanent level of high unemployment? The question, it explains, is how the government will react.

'Would it accept that we are running a structurally distorted, or would it regard the unemployment level as the key economic indicator? If it did the latter, it might well go for pumping for too long and in that case such pains as have been achieved in the battle against inflation would quickly vanish.'

In other words, what concerns the bank is the possibility of the government might panic and take action to reduce unemployment by increasing workers' purchasing power. If this happened, it could swing the balance of economic power back in favour of the labour movement.

'Such a situation, it reasons, would be very bad for Britain's investors.'

But with a Tory government in power the wage demands of the workers are quickly forgotten. 'The budget should hold no fears for investors and may well provide some further goods in finish,' it concludes.

The unemployment have reason to be less optimistic.
PETER SEDGWICK reviews the new David Mercer film ‘Family Life’ and discusses current ‘left-wing’ attitudes to the treatment of mental illness

In the past, mental illness was seen as a disease caused by spiritual factors such as witchcraft, sorcery, or possession by evil spirits. However, in modern times, mental illness is now recognized as a medical condition that can be treated with medication and therapy. The film ‘Family Life’ explores the experiences of a young couple who struggle to cope with the challenges of raising a child with mental health issues.

The couple, played by Sarah and James, are portrayed as typical middle-class parents who are struggling to understand and deal with their daughter’s mental illness. The film highlights the importance of support and understanding for both the patient and the family members.

The film also emphasizes the need for improved mental health care services. While progress has been made in recent years, there is still a long way to go in ensuring that people with mental health issues receive the care they need. The film encourages viewers to support mental health care initiatives and to be more open and understanding about mental health issues.

In conclusion, ‘Family Life’ is a powerful reminder of the importance of supporting people with mental health issues and their families. It is a call to action for everyone to play a part in creating a society that is more accepting and understanding of mental health issues.
Ssh, keep quiet on poisoned workers

RIIO TINTO ZINC seem to have hit on the final solution to the unwelcome upsurge in the case of Eichmann simplicity. You just poison the few poor workers who are still in their jobs.

The plan certainly deserved better compensation than it received from our national press.

When the news broke that Rio Tinto Zinc’s South Rankin Suspension was having to close their 344 million pound Avonmouth smelting plant for two months because their workers were suffering from lead poisoning, the only paper—the Guardian—saw fit to lead on the story.

In doing so the Guardian revealed many of its inadequacies. First, by Peter Harvey noted, for example, that on two occasions last year workers downed tools "because of fears of poisoning.

When the smelter was not big fuss then, West they were only workers, after all. We don’t have to take much notice of what THEY say.

Now we have a TUC executive meeting speaking the same thing and forgetting the same talks. That’s different, you see. THEY’S a professional man. THEY’SL gets statistics too.

The Guardian story also recalled a poisoned worker from one company who had another medical man, the man, the Guardian’s story was five inches of single column on Page Two while leaving the same page as a single headline: ORCHIDS BURNED BY JET FUMES, SAYS GROWER.

Still, I’m forced to admit, workers don’t smell as sweet as orchids.

IS NEWS—

NORTH STAFFS—400 workers, mostly men, at the Dormer Power Plant managed to shut down the BNFL NIM, Wally Preston, Manchester power worker and John Chinke, the local NUS, were a part of this year’s first industrial action to stop the nuclear weapons factory.

The meeting had the support of rank and file workers at the factory, after the press and radio by NUM demonstrated that the workers knew what we need. They had no idea of one of the miners’ strike not only for the miners themselves but for the whole organized labour movement. They also pointed out that this was the first time the miners and the power workers united.

All Ford said: "Yes if agreement is reached, we’ll accept the deal. If not, we will not accept a settlement until the miners have met their claim as well."

All three miners paid tribute to Socialist Worker and the Miners Special Issue for having outlined so clearly the miners’ demands and the importance of the strike for the whole working class."

The TUC must express not only verbal but active support for its members. If this doesn’t happen, the miners’ struggle will be a waste of time.

150 copies of Socialist Worker were sent at the last minute to NUM branch meeting.

WOLVERHAMPTON—The room was packed by Thursday’s TUC meeting held in support of the miners. On the platform were NUM representative from the Midlands and general secretary of the NUM from Lea Hall Colliery, Staff, Alf Ford, senior ETU steward in the local industry supply industry and Vic Collier, ALCV shop stewarded at Lewis, Birmingham, who was discussing the importance of the miners’ strike not only for the miners themselves but for the whole organized labour movement. They also pointed out that this was the first time the miners and the power workers united.

When writing to Socialist Worker please add an envelope, address clearly either Editorial or Advertising.

WHEN TO WRITE (the long-winded teachers’ paper)

In North East London area Council of Trade Unions were against the strike, but would prefer something free to distribute, so, please, any ideas.

J GRIFFIN, 26 Manor Road, N16.

NOTICES

FILM SHOW: Committee for Freedom in Palestine will be screening a film in London on Saturday, 26 February, at the Student's Union, 37-47 Brunswick Square, London NW1. The admission is free.

SOCIALIST COMPUTER STAFF meeting will be held on Saturday, 26 February, at 9.30am, at the Student's Union, 37-47 Brunswick Square, London NW1.

NEWSPAPER OPENING TIMES: Monday, 8am to 9pm, Tuesday to Saturday, 8am to 10pm, Sunday, 8am to 6pm.
Poison lead smelter no action until workers strike

by Keith Elliott

BRISBANE.—The largest smelting plant of its kind in the world, British Imperial Smelting, which employs 1550 men, was closed on Monday night. The new management of the lead content of 100 workers showed 80 were above the danger level. New British Medical Officer, Robert Goodwin, has called for a massive lead poisoning investigation covering all workers. Lead poisoning has been common at smelters for the 35 years since it was opened. The situation has been ignored by directors of the former company, B.F. Zinni and the factory inspectors. It was only the recent militancy of the men that achieved anything.

On 9 December, 100 maintenance men staged a token strike against lack of information about blood tests. As a result the company agreed to allow a 24 hour test and to cordon off the lead smelter.

He reports: "The situation is the most shocking I have ever seen in 25 years of looking at factories. The process is only 3 years old but already 1913 workers have had their blood tests taken. The process is entirely different from any previous lead smelting process. In the last 3 years, 20 cases of lead poisoning have been notified and 100 men have been diagnosed a result of abnormal lead levels.

The plant is insidiously filthy: Dust is piled high on ledges and the floors looked like a garbage. He goes on to note that the ventilation is totally inadequate and that the wearing of respirators as a method of control of lead poisoning is irreconcilable in the 1970s.

Inadequate

The response of the company has been predictable, and the strike is due to close for five weeks annual maintenance in the middle of summer. The dramatic closure three hours three days and only pledge by the British chairman of RTZ, that there will be no cutting off the factory extension.

The company intends to spend £470,000 on extensions, though the factory reorganizing as at an estimated cost of £24,000. The entire plant was built on the cheap, as Dewdney says: "Workers were paid £2 a day, but they lasted 11 years, and the plant is being spent instead of £14,000."

Money has been used for-this was the efficient plant on the 114 'soon to be.' The plant was started over two years ago, according to the last 11 years of the 11 people that have been used. Last Wednesday Roy Forrest was seventy years old and has been working there 'for 20 years. Are they going to wait until someone is dead before they close down the plant?"

"Are they going to wait until someone is dead before they close down the plant?"

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"Are they going to wait until someone is dead before they close down the plant?"

The safety officer for the section who was responsible for the blood tests and who gave them this information was untraceable. The first worker to be examined was untraceable. The word "bitter" was the weakest of the unison's response to the situation.

The four-day strike was announced, there was no real fight back, but the workers of the British Smelter watching committee has been set up.

Boiler welded to track

LINCOLN.—Workers at the Ruston boilers factory in Lincoln have welded a boiler to the track in an attempt to prevent management moving machinery. The workers, 200 strong, are from the Lincoln plant and move boiler production to the new factory.

But after talks last week between Earl's Engineering Employers' Federation, management and the BLF, it was decided that they could not find a way to stop the production of the new factory.

The workers of the shop stewards committee were also advised by the eight-member employers' federation to try to find a way to stop the production of the new factory.

The battle of Fisher-Bendix is yet another example of what is happening with the struggle that is used not only to defend jobs but also to win other struggles.

Fight for union rights goes on

WOLVERHAMPTON.—Workers at the H C Fives factory are in the fifth month of their struggle for union recognition.

Despite official union backing and partial success in blacklisting goods, the strike is still being backed by trade union as well as unorganized labour.

New people have joined, then the men were threatened with the sack if they struck for union recognition. Management has consistently refused to recognize employees' demands, saying at no time would they discuss anything with anybody.

On Monday, the men were given a warning notice to return to work. They elected the company's lowest offer of a £400 increase for 18 months, and showed their determination to win parity now.

TRAVES COUNCIL LEADS RENT BILL STRUGGLE

CRAWLEY.—The Trades Council has taken the initiative in organizing resistance to the government's Bill to force rents up. It has distributed leaflets to every tenancy, held in the town this week and is organizing mass meetings in existing, and in the building of a tenants action committee.

The government's claim that its proposals are aimed at ending subsidies to public housing is wrong. There are 12 proposals for this year alone which will not be allowed to continue in 1970.

The government speaks of house purchase as an alternative. But in Crawley they have average house costs between £700 and £800. To get a mortgage you need an income of £1,500 a year, but 45 per cent of workers in the new town get less than £20 a week.

I would like more information about the International Socialists.

Name
Address
Send to: IS, 6 Comrades Gardens, London E2 8FN

The highly successful IS Industrial Conference in session on Sunday, excerpts are London based Chris Davison. With him on the platform are chairman Russ Pinchard and POE executive member Jim Hughes. REPORT: Page 4.

ALEXANDRIA, Australia.—A settlement has been reached between the workers occupying the Plesey factory and the management.

Although it guarantees jobs for the 70 workers occupying the factory, it will leave the work force much lower than the 1970 level and do little for the overall industrial activities of the area.

However, the success of the deal, it does prove that more can be achieved by occupation than by strike. But it will not again win an employer's property and his 'work.' Windmill Trades Council has an unassailable fact of life.

About Turn at UCS YARD

GLASGOW.—The co-ordinating committee running the occupation at Upper Clyde Shipyards was split last week over a decision on whether to not to release a completed ship, Last November the workers voted to release no more finished ships until they were given definite guarantees on the future of the yard.

A meeting with an American firm, Marshall Corporation, showing interest in buying the Clydebank yard, Jimmy Reid and James Aitie, the two stewards working closely with union full-timers, were anxious for show of 'good faith' and responsibility. On Monday they persuaded a mass meeting to rescind last November's decision and to release New Westminster City, a bulk carrier manufactured at Glasgow, So another bargaining weapon in the workers' hands has been lost.

Demanding yet another 'four-week deadline' for the liquidator to make positive proposals, Aitie said a refusal to release the carrier would lead to a confrontation that would 'shatter a settlement' with Marshall.
THE FIRST power cuts because of the miners’ strike emphasise that the success of the strike and of the power workers’ pay claim are intimately linked.

The miners will win very quickly if they get real support from power workers, and if a shortage of electricity makes the Tories give in to the miners, it can also make them give power workers the rise they need.

The four power workers’ unions have so far failed to give the miners the support they need. To back their own claim they called for an overtime ban rather than the much more effective work to rule. And then they put the ban off for a week for no good reason.

Inaction.

1. The unions must direct every one of their members to block the movement of coal into power stations or between power stations. There should be strike action if necessary at individual stations to stop new coal or oil being brought in.

2. The engineering and electricity men and plumbers unions should instruct their members not to do maintenance work on coal plant.

3. The transport workers union should instruct its members in oil refineries not to let all oil out to power stations. This means that every load leaving must be checked for its destination.

4. The union must instruct their members working in the many private electricity plants owned by industrial concerns not to allow any electricity produced by them to be used by power workers, but to be sold to the industrial concerns.

The miners’ strike is the best weapon to use. Remember that their success depends on the success of the miners’ strike.

The miners’ union itself should appeal not only to British power workers, but also to the French unions not to permit any feeding of electricity into the British national grid via the cross-channel cable.

Finally, the best way for power workers to help the miners is to make their own struggle effective. There is an urgent need for an emergency meeting of power workers’ shop stewards and combine committees from all parts of the industry and all unions to insist on a call to turn the overtime ban into a work to rule.

The first national meeting of power workers will be held on Wednesday 29th August at 12 noon in the Ulster Hall, Belfast. All power workers, coal, electricity, steam, and gas, are asked to send a delegate to this meeting.

The meeting of shop stewards will be held on Thursday 30th August at 12 noon in the Ulster Hall, Belfast. All shop stewards are asked to send a delegate to this meeting.

The meeting of combine committees will be held on Friday 31st August at 12 noon in the Ulster Hall, Belfast. All combine committees are asked to send a delegate to this meeting.

The meetings will be held to discuss the miners’ strike and the immediate action to be taken by power workers to support the miners.

Join us in the fight for our fund. The MAGNIFICENT support for the US Industrial Conference last week shows that more and more militant workers now realise the need to build a revolutionary political organisation to defend the working class and their rotten system.

That is why the US Fighting Fund is so vital. We need to build on the success of that conference, to raise deeper roots into the working class movement, to have more full-time organisers, more books, pamphlets and posters.

So far the response has been encouraging. £1000 has been sent by 15 branches and individuals, but there is a long, long way to go if we are to reach our £5000 target by 20 February. Don’t delay—nour donation to us now.

The miners can win. And their victory will be a victory for all those suffering under the Tory government’s policies. This is the message that becomes more and more clear as the strike enters its fifth week.

The miners’ success so far has been shown by the first electricity cuts this week. Big business and the government do not give a damn about what happens to the working class, to the miners and the sick. Their vicious attacks on the welfare state services show that.

But they do worry when industrial workers and their trade unions are strong. The miners’ strike is beginning to do this. Their success shows the futility of the effusions of the miners’ pickets lines and the solidarity shown by tens of thousands of others.

The miners’ success has given the power workers owners have recognised this by the way in which their papers have special lines of attack to disrupt the picketing. They speak of “international” without of course mentioning that employers threaten to sack workers who do show solidarity with the miners. A militant picket is needed to counteract other workers’ fear of the boss.

Unfortunately, leaders of other major unions have not given the miners the help that is needed. The NUM last week called a general call to its members to respect picket lines, but it has said nothing about the movement of coal inside factories and power stations.

Even worse, it has not made sure that all its members are aware of the fact that they are not to go through pickets. This will only help to strengthen the hands of the Tory government to do what they want in relation to the miners’ picket lines.

Victoria Feather, TUC general secretary, is planning to go back to the miners’ union leaders instead of organising mass backing for the miners’ strike. This will be a blow to the government’s case.

Isolated

Some union leaders are even raising their refusal to organise support for the miners to a point of principle. The TUC general council meeting last week, according to the Financial Times, were actually arguing that the more isolated the miners were, the better it would be. This isolation will, they believe, make it easier for the Tory government to treat the miners as a special case, and give them more than a seven per cent rise.

Trade union leaders who talk such nonsense are backing the Tories, not the miners. The fact is that the government will only make concessions to the miners when it has been forced to. And the key to forcing the government lies in solidarity action.

Nor is it true that the miners are such an exception. True, there are conditions that are much more dangerous than most other workers. But there are literally millions of workers facing the same low wages and the same toll of unemployment. On the railways, manpower has been hallowed in ten years and raise wages are the rule.

But power workers are the most obvious case. Like the miners they have seen their average wages decline slowly but surely over recent years. Like the miners they have seen the labour force fall. Over the last five years alone, 30 per cent of the jobs in the power industry have disappeared.

Like the miners, they too are being offered the Tory government’s idea of a pay rise—something a good deal less than the rise in the cost of living.

Yet the power workers’ leaders—for reasons ranging from fear to the desire to support the miners to the country’s own pay struggle—have postponed their own overtime ban for a week.

Right-wing union leaders like Frank Chapple have been saying that for the miners to make their own members more militant—particularly if the success is through discovering electricity supplies. And the so-called “left-wing” union leaders like Jack Rouse have refused to dissociate themselves from this attitude.

REFUSAL

All this makes continued and determined action from the rank and file of the miners essential. The government’s position must be organised. Pressure must be applied to the government to force them to bring them into action. And where they will not move, we must move ourselves.

Last summer, after the postal workers had won a substantial increase from the government, their general secretary, Tom Finlayson suggested a public sector strike, so that all unions in the nationalised industries could unite their workers and their action in a single struggle. The idea was that this would force the miners’ union and all the miners’ union among others. Now it is the miners who need real solidarity with the other unions who are standing back.

The miners’ union has been hijacked. What is needed is an organisation of militants that go further than the official union leaders in pushing for real unity in action. And this means rejecting completely the Tories and the system they uphold—a system whose origins mean low wages for miners and power workers, mass unemployment, the shocking in the back of peaceful demonstrators and the manufacture of two silk away from schoolchildren.

The fight must be for:

Victory to the miners’ full claim—no productivity concessions.

Maintain and extend the picketing—24 hour pickets at the power stations to stop coal being smuggled in at any price.

Unity of power workers and miners to beat the government pay policy.

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