Ulster: troops stay, slums stay, unemployment stays

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT has cast off the last of her seven veils and stands revealed as the naked boss of the six tortured counties of Northern Ireland. Direct rule from London, we are told, will solve the problems of the province, peace will be restored, ordinary people at long last will be given the chance to prosper. But the underlying problems that have produced all the anger and bitterness remain unchanged.

Armed troops still patrol the streets. They still have the right to seize people without any legal reason. Hundreds of men are still held in concentration camps without charge in spite of talk of 'phasing out internment'. Hundreds of other political prisoners rot in jails for the crime of defending themselves and their families against arbitrary seizure.

The people, far from having their democratic rights restored, are now denied any such rights at all. One man, Mr William Whitelaw, the Tory gaukler of Belfast, has the power to impose whatever laws he likes, free even from the need to seek approval for his actions from the Westminster parliament.

Above all, the economic domination of the whole of Ireland by British big business goes on. If that domination is threatened, the troops are there to defend it.

And that domination, for Catholic and Protestant, means crippling unemployment and appalling housing. Most of the money collected in rents flows into the pockets of the money-lenders in the City of London.

NO CHANGE
White jobs for workers of either religion decline year by year, hundreds of millions of pounds in profits flow out of the country to be invested elsewhere. Wages remain on average 20 per cent lower than in Britain.

Nothing that Heath or Whitelaw have done will change this situation. Tory rule continues in Northern Ireland.

The only difference is the war, in which British big business controls. For 50 years, Westminster governments, Tory and Labour, preferred to rule indirectly through Unionist governments in Belfast.

Stornmont used the mass sectarian anti-Catholic organisations of the Orange Order to hand out marginal privileges to the Protestant section of the population. Protestant workers got most of the best jobs and slightly better housing for backing the Tory. Unions were ignored.

British governments became dissatisfied with this arrangement only when a mass movement of protest developed among the Catholic population. Big business feared that the angry, militant opposition to the Orange police state in the North might develop into a threat to its massive investments in Southern Ireland.

If it had not been for the resistance, both civil and armed, of the Northern Catholics, the British government would have left the political slum of Northern Ireland to fester. Only a few weeks before his "initiative", Heath gave the go-ahead to the British Army to attempt to terrorism the Catholics into submission. Bloody Sunday was the result.

Heath, his fellow Tories and the applauding ranks of the Labour opposition have not become deathbed converts to humanism. The change in policy has been forced on them by the heroic refusal of the Catholic people to bow to bloodshed and terror, to fight on with marches, demonstrations, rent strikes and armed resistance of the IRA.

But the Tories are determined that their big business backers will not have to pay the price for any concessions to the Catholics. Any improvements can be only at the expense of the marginal privileges of Protestant workers.

It is Protestant fear that they are being betrayed by their old leaders that explains the massive support this work for William Craig's Vanguard movement. For 50 years Protestant workers have been told they have a special position in Northern Ireland.

Now the British ruling class, which carefully created that illusion is destroying it. In desperation, rank and file Orange men are attempting to cling to the symbols of their old privileges.

But the high Tory big business, bigot, Craig, cannot solve the Protestant workers' genuine fears. The strength of Vanguard is also its weakness. British capitalism is unlikely to risk its investments in Southern Ireland by returning to sectarian Orange rule in the North.

But all that Craig has to offer is a return to the past.

KEY TO UNITY
More than ever, what is needed in Ireland is the development of a mass revolutionary socialist organisation fighting to unite Protestants and Catholics in the struggle for a Workers' Republic of all 32 counties.

Catholics in the North will not stomach a return to Stornmont. The key to opening the door to unity with Protestants lies in a clear understanding of the need to overthrow the Dublin regime as well, along with its own high unemployment and miserable welfare benefits.

But while such a movement is being built, the struggle against British domination will go on. Even if there is a short period of joy in the Catholic areas, the grim realities of life will inevitably recreate the conditions that have driven the struggle forward so far. Those living in the ghettos will still look to the local sections of the IRA as the only protection against Craig's thraldom.

It is essential that all those in Britain who have fought in solidarity with the Irish struggle continue to do so.

Heath's cheap conjuring trick must not next for one minute allow us to relax the pressure for the release of all Irish political prisoners and for the immediate withdrawal of British troops.

Head of the 1200-strong International Socialist contingent leaving Hammersmith on Sunday's anti-internment march in London

Eamon McCann addressing the end-of-march rally with Kevin O'Leary and Bernadette Devlin, MP

CONNOLLY: SPECIAL TRIBUTE CENTRE PAGES
France's immigrant victims

by Richard Kirkwood

ONE feature of recent massive demonstrations in France has been the large number of immigrant workers, many carrying banners in their own languages.

For years these workers from Spain, Portugal, Algeria, Africa, and Eastern Europe have been the victims of atrocious working and living conditions. They are often fighting back. Recently there have been strikes, protests, and demonstrations by immigrant workers in defence of elementary living standards. A demonstration at Le Bourget last week involved 10,000 workers from theute company that went on strike for six days over their working conditions. One of their specific demands was for recognition of their trade union and a reduction in hours of work.

On 29 February 200 people demonstrated in Brussels to protest against the recent increase in rents in France. The demonstrations were organized by the National Union of Immigrant Workers and the Workers' Union of the Belgian Immigrants. They were supported by trade unions and political parties.

Aliens Bill

At the Penitentiary family in Lyon, not all the workers are in the fight for their rights. At the Post Office, many of the workers are fighting for better wages and conditions. Some workers have been fired for their involvement in the demonstrations.

Inhabitants of France are facing difficult conditions which the Aliens Bill seeks to impose on immigrants in Britain. They are seeking international solidarity.

There is a common sense and a reasonable approach to the problem. For example, many workers often have to sign a contract which specifies the number of hours they will work. In the past, these contracts have been legal but now they may be void.

There are restrictions on numbers and conditions of work. This means that some workers are now being forced out of work. For example, many workers are forced to work in factories where they are paid less than the minimum wage. This practice is widespread and is a violation of human rights.

The left has not come to the aid of these workers. The press has been silent. The unions have not done enough. The government has not taken effective action.

THE ARAB nationalist organisation Al-Falih has denounced King Hussein's peace plan as a "cowardly" one.

The "elimination of the Hashemite family from the Palestinian scene" is not an option, the group said in a statement issued from Riyadh.

"There is no alternative to a clear, firm and resolute stand against the Israeli aggression," the statement said.

"The people of the Occupied Territories must continue to resist and demand their rights, especially the right to self-determination and the right to return to their homes.

"The path of peace is not without its challenges. It requires courage, determination, and principled leadership. The PLO leadership must act in the best interests of the Palestinian people."

The statement expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people and their struggle for freedom.

"The international community must support the just cause of the Palestinian people and the rights of the Palestinian refugees. The world must not remain silent in the face of the Israeli atrocities.

"We call on the United Nations and the international community to recognize the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the right of return. We also call on the Arab world to unite behind the Palestinian cause."

"The path to peace is not easy, but it is necessary for the sake of the Palestinian people and the future of the region. We must continue our struggle and our efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace."
The starting truth about tax and pay means the unions must get tough

IT'S TIME TO TAKE THE GLOVES OFF THE PAGES FRONT

THERE HAVE BEEN massive increases in the amount of taxation levied on the working class in recent years. Income tax has been the main cause. What has happened is that the income tax threshold—the level of income at which income tax comes into effect—has been allowed to drop by year. So more and more wage earners have been drawn into the ranks of income tax payers.

To make development the last Labour government must carry most of the blame. When Labour took office in 1964, you had to be earning £4.52 a week more than the average wage in industry before you paid any income tax. By 1970 men workers with £4.52 less than the average industrial wage were paying income tax on that part of it earned.

by JIM KINCAID

The effects of last week's raising of the tax threshold were greeted with delight by the Tory press. £1 a week loss in tax for everyone paying income tax! Nearly three million people freed from paying any income tax.

What was not pointed out is that since Barber achieved all this by raising the uniform allowance only—and not the child allowance—it follows that a very high proportion of the three million non-exempt from tax will be single men or women, or married couples without children. Comparatively few families with children would benefit from the income tax group.

In the last 10 years there has been no increase in family allowances. This is a further burden sliding onto the shoulders of all families whose wages were already too low to be affected by income tax—many of them in the group of about one million or so workers who earn less than £1 a week.

Barber has completely ignored the clear evidence of mounting poverty in Britain. The £12 per cent increase in prices since the Budget will add £12 per week to the average wage earner—and as prices increase so the real wage will drop. Without the standard of living is being pushed down by the evil, the rich and the unemployable.

What the miners really won

The BUDGET has pleased the government's big business paymasters and the wealthy middle class of the Tory Party. Employers in areas of high unemployment will receive asstars 22 per cent from the government when they buy new machinery.

For every £100,000 of equipment, the government will send by return of post a cheque for £22,000. It is not known for companies to claim this grant for the machinery to a subsidiary abroad.

Following the investment grant, all firms can claim depreciation allowances by which the pensioner can dispense with the fastness of the income tax. The Budget government gave back those amounts over a number of years but the new law is a taxable income immediately. This means that a machine costing £100,000 the government allows £40,000. In areas of high unemployment, when an employer buys a machine, this is what it costs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost of machine</th>
<th>£100,000</th>
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<tr>
<td>After grant</td>
<td>£62,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>After tax</td>
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Barber's big cash bonus for the rich

Berger and Jenkins: 'concerned' about poverty, but both are friends of the rich

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The lowing of the tax threshold affects all taxpayers equally and its benefit will be shared by the very rich as well as the poor. For the wealthy a great, many other goodies have been included in the Budget.

POVERTY TRAP

The poverty trap is one in which no non-pensioner can have a full-time job and still receive the full benefit, with the result that a second income means a second tax bill. This is often cited as the poverty trap and is often used as an argument against welfare.

The calculation of the poverty trap is not very accurate. The calculation of the poverty trap is not very accurate. The calculation of the poverty trap is not very accurate.

Reduced

The truth is clear. Compared with 18 months ago, the face of the world has changed. It is a very different world. The number of people living in poverty has increased. The number of people living in poverty has increased.

The numerous unions which have been setting for welfare and half of what the unions are doing are simply ignoring the real standard of living of their members to be reduced and eroded. The government says the miners are a special case.

Calculation shows that the lower paid miners, far from facing a generosity in income tax, have seen their income tax reduced. The calculation shows that the lower paid miners, far from facing a generosity in income tax, have seen their income tax reduced.

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A number of workers who are a special case are left in millions of pounds behind the basic on wages, it's time to take the gloves off.
The life and relevance of the great Irish revolutionary shot by Britain after Easter 1916

James Connolly was born in 1868 in Edinburgh. His family was just one of the many thousands who were forced to leave Ireland because of the threat of starvation. From an early age, Connolly inherited a bitter hatred of British rule in Ireland and a profound sympathy for the rebellious tradition of the Fenians. Connolly grew up in poverty and at the age of 10 or 11 went to work in a bakery. Having run through a number of jobs, he joined the army at the age of 14. His experience in the army gave him a teaching of military life which recurs in his writing all through his life.

It also gave him an appreciation of the value of military force and the military knowledge that he was to put to good use with the Irish Citizens Army and in the Rising of 1916.

Connolly seems to have deserted from the army, where he had enlisted to show his support of the Irish struggle for national freedom and the Social Democratic Federation. Unable to find a job which would enable him to support his growing family, Connolly received an invitation to become past organiser of the Dublin Socialist Labour Party to the Dublin branch of the British Independent Labour Party. He accepted the offer.

Radicals

The Dublin of 1896 was one of the most poverty stricken cities in Europe. Many families were below the subsistence level, housing conditions were appalling and the death rate was higher than that of any city in Britain. There was a huge number of unemployed.

The working class was sharply divided between the unionised craftsman and the mass of unskilled labour. The mass of unskilled labour was afraid of the huge pool of unemployed, the great mass of unorganised unskilled workers. The Dublin working class had already developed a sense of national identity. Traditionally the Dublin working class did not refer to themselves as Irishmen. The Fenian movement or the national party of the Irish parliamentary party in Westminster.

The Fenians had been formed in 1867, following the great famine, by a group of middle-class intellectuals. They were organised as a secret society and they were opposed to the British military line. Their aim was to overthrow British rule in Ireland by armed insurrection.

Although the bulk of their support came from urban craftsmen and from the peasantry, the Fenians had no social programme and were a non-organisation of anti-clerical, anti-theological organisations. Their hope was to unite all classes in the struggle for national independence.

In 1867 the Fenian Rising had been postponed. After Easter: prisoners are marched away into exile by the British Army. The bloodbath was to follow.

It is in its national ideal that Connolly's working-class nationalism was unique and revolutionary. It is in its national ideal that Connolly's working-class nationalism was unique and revolutionary. It is in its national ideal that Connolly's working-class nationalism was unique and revolutionary.

Scope

In the spirit of Connolly's teaching, Connolly did not limit his organised efforts to the Irish working class. Connolly was to show the limitations of the Fenian movement in his politics with the formation of the British Irish Republican Brotherhood.

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If you remove the English army tomorrow, you'll have a green country over Dublin Castle, unless you set about the organisation of the socialist republic yesterday. England would still rule you. She would rule you through local capitalist, through the whole array of native social and individualist institutions she has planted in this country.

His death was an heroic sacrifice, but those who came after him in the struggle for Irish independence understood little of what he stood for. This was not a defeat.

The agitation had been led by a coalition of Connolly and middle-class radicals who had not been content with the labour movement, using syndicalist propaganda, the anti-imperialist struggle to the middle-class nationalists. The main theme of the agitation was that the Irish people, the working class, were the main actors of the anti-imperialist movement, and the anti-imperialist was not relevant to this.

The struggle was fought bitterly for eight months without reaching any decisive conclusion. From the beginning, the employers used the brutal Dublin police to attempt to intimidate the strikers and a number of strikers were killed in clashes.

Connolly was trying to form the Irish Citizen Army, a kind of trade union army, to protect the workers from the police and the employers. This organisation was later turned into an anti-imperialist army. Unfortunately the ICUs were never able to form a labour force which could stand up to the employers and the employers' reactionaries.

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The claim that the workers were not prepared to go out for free would be an example.

But the struggle continued. From the beginning of the war, there were no breaks in the struggle. The struggle continued until the end of the war.

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IT NEEDS big coverage to make a visionary hero out of such an insignificant creature as Chancellor Tony Barber, so the paper had to devote its entire front page to his glory after Budget day. Only the Times and the Guardian found space on the front for something other than Barber's brazenness.

The Mirror, it's true, criticised the Barber package in a front page comment piece. The trouble was that, apart from attacking the rippertly pensions rise, the Mirror was wildly off target, so failed to mention the rise which is a panacea for unemployment.

In fact Geoffrey Goodman, on the centre page, was more to the point to suggest that it would not be unemployment substantially.

It was left to the Guardian to explain that the regional incentives would encourage plant investment rather than investment in non-union workers. It's a bitter lesson here that it is from the conclusion that more automation by firms trying to cash in on government handouts could lead to even further jobs lost.

The Telegraph beheaded the development area's money. The regions should be allowed to ret, as it is, the rise in the number of people.

In the mirror the moment anyone suggests an airport should be built the right to strike is threatened, if necessary. Perhaps the Mail's vision of the kind of world Britain lives in was a bit too close to reality, for it to execute an airport in the north-west.

FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS

Part Seven

the past they have consisted of an 'honourable' act of which is even a twist on the TUC, Attacks that by the TUC.

The other main institution is the Labour-created Commission on Industrial Relations (CIR). The TUC's function is to act in new or revived processes, agreement between the parties to be made to be signed by the representatives of the two sides in the national agreements. There are 90 emergency procedures in the 60-day waiting period and the company must pay in 25 days. When the Labour party got in, it paid the bill. But in 3 days waiting period, the Tories, not to be outdone at period. The TUC, when the government signed an agreement that there is no freely agreed.

These 90 emergency procedures are designed to ensure that whatever industry is agreed, pay 60 days. These two measures would be used only after the other to try to dissuade the militancy by means of imprisonment of workers going on strike.

In fact, the Donors Report on Trade Unions categorically states that wherever it had studied these procedures in other countries, where no strike had been avowed and the 'striker' determined that it is in TUC policy not to be involved in negotiations with workers unions. However, a strike would be in order if the union were to register and to refuse to negotiate in order to commit an action, unless trade-union leaders were committed to a code of conduct. A code first began to find excuses for complying. Non-co-operation is not substantive for a real right.

The courts-martial of the class struggle

Slow drip

THE GRISLY SAGA of the Distillers company and the victims of its drug, Thalidomide, ground on into the High Court last week when Mr Justice Bingham refused permission for the parents of six children deformed by the drug to opt out of the scheme for compensation.

Distillers set up a £5 million trust fund which would allow each parent of the 378 crippled children to draw £1,500, with £11,000 set aside for 'admission purposes'. The parents of the six, objects on the ground that, under the scheme, no sum of money is actually guaranteed to the children and it is not known for certain that the money the children will receive.

The judge said Distillers had imposed a condition that it would not deal with individual cases. The provision was available for each child and every parent consented. He ruled that the official solicitor should become the 'next friend' of the children in the parents' place, who have refused to accept the offer. So the parents have been removed from acting on behalf of their children who are left to the goodwill of Distillers in compensating them for a life twisted and deformed by the drug. If the court-ordered parents are right, some of them may never receive a penny piece.

GENEIVOR, Getty style. A Roman Catholic nun, Sister Mary Portia, from Fort Hedland, Western Australia, wrote to Peter Geyte, offering him the work of her order, Quick List. Before, she had been asked to order her church book and sent her £3.80. But the good nuns may do well out of the deal. Two others have been already made to them by people anxious to frame this example of Getty's next move. For 39.00 Dutchies, another for 1.90. It is understood that the bank was asked the man to refund his postage.

Eye witness

TRANSPORT Workers Union member Tony Berwick found himself out of work for the crime of being a shop steward at the

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Eye witness
LETTERS EXTRA

ASTMS wants unity

The articles on C.A. Parsons (4-13 March) have been extremely misleading, and I would like to try to correct some of the misrepresentations made.

I was a shop steward in the period referred to, and theasis decision to present evidence to a Commission on Industrial Relations.

ASTMS has a large number of members, almost all of whom are shop stewards and management positions and even has a small number of non-union sympathisers, who is not uncommonly the case.

The shop stewards are only interested in the work related to the area than the present one.

The CIR reference concerned ASTMS campaigns against approximately 140 members, TASSC approximately 150, and the rest of the 250 total in this area.

TASSC never has had an agreement covering all the workers, and the TASSC agreement has been run up against disputes involving the whole of the dockers in the dock area.

TASSC could only close a closed shop when it had a majority of the workers at that point, and the TASSC agreement would be the only one that was legal.

The TASSC decision not to submit evidence to the CIR was a point of discussion, over the period in question, and not a legal agreement. They are shop stewards as they believe they can enforce them.

The TASSC agreement is with TASSC to exclude UKGRF by forcing them to accept the TASSC agreement, and this is what is happening at the present time.

On the redundancy issue, the article states that over 90% of ASTMS and CAWU have maintained some of the workers in the dock area, and that the workers are those who voluntarily agreed to reverse their position.

The workers are those who voluntarily agreed to continue the fight by joint action with the employers, and they are not the workers who voluntarily agreed to reverse their position.

ASTMS has pledged full support for workers in joint action and all workers in joint action are being refused to try to win over the workers.

The TASSC agreement is not the only one that will be affected, nor is it the only one that is legal.

The TASSC agreement is the only one that is legal and all the workers involved in the dock area are those who have voluntarily agreed to continue the fight.

It is interesting that the employers have refused to accept the agreement and have refused to accept the agreement.

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Militant miners show the way

MILITANT miners will have to organise hard to win mass support for a programme of demands on wages, conditions and control to force the NUM into the democratic, working-class controlled organisation required to face the struggle ahead.

This was the message that came out of the first meeting of the miners’ national council held in Hartlepool on Sunday sponsored by the National Executive Council of the NUM.

Miners from the coalfields of North and South Wales, Nottinghamshire, South Staffordshire, Lanarkshire, South Durham and the Lutishias in Scotland attended and showed great enthusiasm for the first issue of the can and file paper The Collier.

Substantial delegations centered on the draft programme of demands which had been produced for the meeting.

Delegates warned that under union democracy, Jim Dalkin (Dudley) argued that the demand for ten per cent of the miners would not be acceptable. Every five years would be better, he said. In any case, it was fundamentally a question of finding the right, trustworthy person for the job, he argued.

Malcolm Reed (Windsor) insisted that mining union democracy, allied to organised coal mining, could change the Industrial Relations Act was the way ahead.

Manning

On the question of wages and productivity, Peter Hargreaves (Spennymoor) argued that the miners must unite to conduct a major campaign of education on the issues.

Many believed that what the industry lacked was an increase in productivity that would be fed by productivity deals. These were in the air, he said, and the NUM was thinking about introducing continental shift working.

Terry O’Neill (Heath, Huddersfield), chairman of the NUM’s Manufacturing Workers Committee, warned that the Colliery Board could further increase productivity if the miners cooperated.

"The demand for ten per cent of the miners would not be acceptable. Every five years would be better, he said. In any case, it was fundamentally a question of finding the right, trustworthy person for the job, he argued.

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Locked-out 57 lobby union.

FIFTY-SEVEN LOCKED-OUT construction workers at the BP site at Llandarcy, South Wales, are now in the eleventh week of their struggle with contractors Simon Litton over redundancies and union rights. Picture shows some of the workers on picket duty. Last week they lobbied their union—the construction section of the Engineers’ Union—which general secretary, Eddie Masrden, has joined with Litton in advertising 57 vacancies on the site.

Split between print unions endangers wage claim

by Mike Heym

A DANGEROUS split has developed between the print unions involved in the wage claim for 180,000 newspaper and print-giving workers.

The council of SOGAT is recommend- ing members to accept the employer’s offer of a 12 per cent increase. The employers have promised to make further proposals towards the end of the holiday and the decision will be put to the members of the four unions involved.

The offer is that the minimum £24.10 and the maximum £26.50 per week, plus pension contributions, are expected to be paid.

The employers have indicated that any increase in pay will be accompanied by a reduction in hours and conditions of work.

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