Council tenants plan strikes to fight Tory law

FOUR MILLION tenants had shock letters from their councils this week telling them they will have to pay up to £1 a week more in rent from 1 October. Midnight last Sunday was the legal deadline for councils to give notice of the increases imposed by the Tories' vicious 'Fair Rents' legislation—the Housing Finance Act.

by HUGH KERR

More than one million tenants had to pay an extra 50p a week from April. Now more than five million face the start of a spiral that will double rents in the next few years, followed by regular increases every year after that.

For the majority of tenants, any last lingering hopes that Labour councils would protect them from the Rent Act have been finally demolished. Only 80 Labour councils have ignored the deadlines for issuing notices of increases out of 1,200 local councils responsible for housing.

Of the 400, the Scottish local councils, most of them small housing authorities. The final collapse of the majority of Labour-controlled authorities came in Sheffield last week when the council's opposition to the Act was broken up in total confusion.

Only half the committee's 24 members bothered to attend and some of them represented councils that had decided to sell out their pledges to fight the legislation. Sheffield and Stevenson councils then threw in the towel, leaving only one big city authority left in England that is still fighting.

That is Birmingham—and Labour leaders there have made it clear that if the government won't increase the rent they will pay it.

In London, only Camden council is still refusing to bring in the increases. Those Labour councils that do stick out and fight the Act all the way must receive full support from the Labour movement, including pledges of support of industrial action to stop fines, jail threats and the opposition to government-appointed Housing Commissioners to force through the increases. Strike action by tenants in the public sector, including town hall clerical staff, could stop the Tories in their tracks.

FIGHT RACISM

On page 5, a powerful indictment by VINCENT FLYNN, general secretary of SOGAT, the print union:

"Heath, Powell and Wilson support unemployment. They, and the society they are creating, tell us now that it suits them they are crying false tears over the plight of the human beings they themselves fling on the scrap heap and they are doing this because they know racism and fear are powerful weapons for undermining the growth strength of the organised working class.

PLUS

A rebuttal of the poisonous lines of racist politicians like ENO Powell by IAN BIRCHALL—also page 5

PLUS

A demolition job on the lying and twisting of facts by the Daily Express in BON KNOWLES' Spike column.

ALSO

LAURIE FLYNN investigating the prisons revolt and MIKE HAMMOND's calculations for the superevisors' union TASS, on the computer threat to jobs.

SUPPORT

But in most parts of the country it is the tenants alone who will have to lead and organise the opposition to the savage increases. Already the tenants' movement is at its most active ever.

In dozens of towns and cities, tenants' organisations are pledged to plan mass rent strikes in October. In many areas, the tenants are actively supported by local trade unions and pledges of industrial action if tenants on rent strike are threatened with legal action.

It is the task of every socialist, tenant and trade unionist between now and October to develop the tenants' movement to the highest possible pitch.

Many meetings need to be held every week to plan the fight against the increases. Leaflets and posters should be produced calling for support.

The local trade union movement must be closely involved in every area. Above all, a militant strategy must be adopted that can defeat the rent rise.

Every rent increase must be met by a rent strike. Every local trade union branch should call an industrial action to support the tenants.

The miners and the dockers have shown that the Tories can be defeated by the organised strength of the working class. The rents battle can be won, too, if tenants and trade unionists plan for action now.

DRIVING US MAD: SEE CENTRE PAGE

London is members this Friday

(8 September) Tony, an eating council is moving motion at emergency council meeting urging the government to form Asians not to settle in Ealing. By an outbreak outside of Town Hall from 6pm. Called by Communist Party, Indian Workers Association, Eating AUEW No 3, Eating Community Relations Council and West London branches of the International Socialists. All 15 members to give maximum support.
CORRUPTION YEAR is reaching its height in France, too. The latest scandal to be exposed is the network of prostitution in the Lyon region—a network in which the local police force is involved.

Brothels are illegal in France, but some 200,000 respectable citizens of Lyons have been making fat profits off the backs of the local police. The network of brothels along the motorways.

The chain that did best was the one that grew up around the police station. The vice squad and one of his officers had shares. They were able to get rival businesses closed down on false reports, buy them up cheaply and reopen them. Other brothel owners were 'just good friends' with the local police superintendent and a Gaulois parliamentary deputy, Mr Charette.

The national trend towards a decrease in the recent inquiry is worse than the situation in the Lyons basin itself. The former superintendent, Mr Javelly, who has now been arrested, tried to clear up the existence in a murder case four years ago to hide his connection with the night club (called Le Fetich's) when the police chief, determined to explain his longstanding relationship with a local madame, claimed that he had received no connection of charity to her dead-and-dumb son. Last year he raised a parliamentary question about the corruption of French youth by sex boutiques.

The local prefect, responsible for police affairs, stated that there was not a single member of the police force in whom he did not have the utmost confidence. (Does the phrase have a familiar ring about it?) He described the affair as an empty bubble rising up by itself, although he retired or suspended several officers vigorously asserted their innocence.

Two weeks after his statement several of the ex-officers and some still working were arrested by order of the inquiry judge.

The prefect also complained about the shortcomings of the law on the subject, which he thought the practice unavoidable in France, because it has so many untrained and uninterested workers, especially in the French police force.

Most North African workers in France live on meagre wages, in small rooms away from the main target of French racism—and now stand accused of providing a temptation to the police to make extra money.

The Lyons prostitutes themselves believe that they are tied literally to the streets, to be constantly harassed by officious policemen and that they have no one to turn to, and for this to be possible police corruption is necessary.

But the extent to which the up- and-coming police officer is prepared to lie to defend his shady friends is an ever greater embarrassment, as the new evidence exposes last week's big lie.

Legal robbery

A QUEER in the law of Michigan, the American state which includes Detroit, that is notified of 13 weeks of unemployment benefit. Where the state's limited unemployment of more than 6.5 per cent, workers should receive unemployment benefits for six months of normal benefit runs out. The Secretary of Labor forecasts that more than 4 per cent and rising, but so many workers have already left the state for fear of losing their jobs that the state is already 50 per cent over its limit. South Africa is uniquely privileged, but this is the way in which "which we in the church have adopted."

AN ITALIAN court has now indicted two men who sold land to an Italian soldier—between 1944 and occupied Italian territory, with responsibility for the bombing epidemics and re-introduction of heroism, and he was murdered.

The case was moved from Milan to Rome last year because the bomber was in hospital in Rome. This case is now in the hands of a judge in the trial of the bomber.

The trial started in 1970 and has repeatedly exposed the lies of the police, and has built up a damaging case against the two fascist suspects, as the court was forced to admit.

The Italian legal system works by delaying the trial so that the prisoners in Italian jails are waiting trial after trial. The latest charges against these two men will be for the crime of murder, the court said.

IN FRANCE 21 babies have died from the effects of a tallow powder containing chemicals and mercury.

As official American report last month noted that there were no signs of 'salicylate', British manufacturer, with no explanation, modern baby powder. (Though not their usual description, it was the same as the twins they produced it, reported in that a Canadian report of 'salicylate' is never.However, the concentrations (under 1 per cent) may be a factor in the French. Talcum powder made this year could contain six per cent. per cent.)
Under the bridge

headline: In the press: Immigrant Flood May Force Ban, Fear of Panic Rush, Immigrants Foul In.

No, they didn't appear in the papers in the last week. They are four years' old. They were written at the time of the arrival of the Azanas exiled from Kenya in 1967.

So the same rhetoric is reappearing. I am not sure if the actual situation has changed. I think the situation has deteriorated, but it could be worse.

And yet, despite the fears stirred up by the press, the new immigrants are finding their way to the city.

'So much for the banks of the Thames as a barrier to immigration. The government's attempts to prevent immigration from the Commonwealth have failed. The banks of the Thames are not a barrier to immigration. The government's attempts to prevent immigration from the Commonwealth have failed.'

Edward Heath's version of the story was that the banks of the Thames were inadequate. The government's attempts to prevent immigration from the Commonwealth have failed. The banks of the Thames are not a barrier to immigration. The government's attempts to prevent immigration from the Commonwealth have failed.

Discredited

JOURNALISTS on the Manchester Evening News were expecting something of an intellectual tussle when they entered into negotiations for new wages and longer vacation. Not only is their editor, Brian Redhead, an advocate of moderation in industrial relations, but this Cambridge-educated trendy is well known for his appearances on the BBC as companion of highbrow philosophical discussion programmes. So it was something of a surprise when the journalists' steward delivered the chapel's proposal to the Redhead with the phrase: 'Thank you. Now fuck off.'

Consuming negotiations were somewhat bitter and for several days not a typist worked as journalists held extended chapel meetings to consider the full import of Mr Redhead's message.

Come again?

REMEMBER Phan Thi Kim Phuc, the nine-year-old Vietnamese girl pictured on front pages in June as she ran screaming in pain and asked down a highway when she and other children were mistakenly bombed by a South Vietnam plane dropping napalm?

Kim Phuc was horrifically burned by napalm on her back, neck and arms and has received extensive skin grafts at a hospital in Saigon. But, explains a doctor, who is not her drinking partner, she is really a lucky girl. For her hospital alone has 50 children and adults even more distressingly injured by napalm, fragmentation bombs, shells and bullets. There are 100 children on the skin and bones.

She is worse off than little Kim Phuc. But to describe her as 'lucky' would indicate that not only have the Americans desecrated Vietnam but they have also turned the Vietnamese against their own people.

EDWIN JONES, Labour Correspondent of the Daily Mirror, has something of a rep as a political flack and that reputation helped elect him to the executive of the journalists' union. Just how radical he can be gauged from his response to a demand at last Friday's meeting of the NUJ leadership that the union members vote on strike at the International Publishing Corporation should receive strike ballots. He said, 'Brother Broy, don't give 'em strike pay, tell them to go to social security.' The Daily Mirror is owned by the International Publishing Corporation.

Four-letter ed

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A gold for the Express — for racist poison  

THE Leicester branch of the Indian Workers' Association is appalled at the way in which the situation is being exploited to encourage racist attitudes and to increase the insecurity among immigrants in this city.

It is clear that the British government is solely responsible for the plight of the large number of Asians who have no legal status since the government has not given them the right to study, work or travel. They have been denied the right to work for over a year now, and this is not only a violation of their human rights but also a violation of the principles of democracy.

The application of emotive words in headlines and articles in the press has created a climate of fear and uncertainty among Asians in this city. This climate is being exploited to encourage racist attitudes and to increase the insecurity among immigrants in this city.

The Leicester City Council's statement on the situation is not sufficient to address the needs of the Asian community. The council should take action to address the needs of the Asian community, not only in terms of housing and employment, but also in terms of education and healthcare.

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A few facts soon neutralise the poison

The case of the Ugandan Asians has revealed just how far the whole political line-up in Britain has moved to the right over the past 10 years.

While Enoch Powell and the National Front have made only the most limited inroads, those who support letting in the large numbers of laborers or who believe that the Asians are a "special case".

In the 1950s even right-wing Tories argued for free entry for all Commonwealth citizens, and when the Tories introduced immigration control in 1961 the Labour Party opposed it.

A letter from the secretary of the Parliamentary Labour Party to Cyril Osborne on 2 June 1961 said: "The Labour Party is, which is, the restriction of immigration as every Commonwealth country has the right as a British subject to enter this country at will. This has been the rule of the CROWN for many centuries and the Labour Party has never altered, immigrants -just because or because the Asians are unwelcome second-class citizens." (20 August 1965)

NO INCREASE

Now almost everyone -except a few groups of revolutionary socialists seem to accept that immigration control is necessary. Is this really so?

Many workers who have no quarrel with immigrants already here still feel that control is necessary because of overcrowding. In fact, immigration does not lead to population increase -for during the sixties more people were leaving Britain than were coming in.

In any case it is not a question of numbers. In old England, there were two million houses and homes. In Britain there are fewer than 600,000 square mile. The problem is not how many houses and homes there are, but how many immigrants.

Immigration does not cause overcrowding because there are so many unemployed since many immigrants are building "second-class" houses but they occupy.

This is the main point. A detailed study of London's housing problems, the Miller Holland Report of 1965, said quite clearly that immigration was not the cause of housing problems.

Nay. Does immigration lead to unemployment. Unemployment was much higher in the 1920s when there were hardly any immigrants, than it is now.

Unemployment is encouraged by the government because it weakens workers' militancy, making them compete for jobs instead of united against the boss. "UCS and the dockers have shown this is "divide and rule" tactic is not working.

Anyone who argues that black and white workers are fighting each other for jobs is in fact playing the Tory government's game by making unemployed do what it is intended to do.

And as far as social services are concerned, workers -just because they are mainly young adult workers- take less bread from the average for the population. Since they pay the same taxes and contributions as everyone else, they are putting more in than they take out.

Some socialists argue that since we support planning, we should plan immigration in the same way as we would plan the rest of the economy. The assumption here is that workers are too irrational to know what is good for them, and need wise planners to look after them.

If the entire population of London was to rush to the Highlands at a moment's notice, it would be necessary to put up walls to stop them. But they aren't, so it isn't.

Unless there are except social circumstances, workers don't move from one country to another unless there is a good chance of having a house and job when they get there. This often means leaving a pleasant place like the West Indies-where the British rich pay handsome wages to live in their holidays- to come to a cold damp country like Britain.

And the figures show that in the 1950s, before the Tories took power, there was a shortage of labour in the 15, 20, 25 years. The industry went out to look for immigrants.

There has been so much immigration, not just into Britain, but throughout Western Europe, since the 1950s.

And because industry has developed in certain areas, where it suited the bosses to build, while other areas have been run down. Scotland, the North of Ireland and the South of Italy are left with the most poverty clusters in the centre of the Common Market.

CONTROLS

Socialist planning would reorganize industry to solve the problems of regional underdevelopment, but planning is work that we need to fit in with the bosses' needs has nothing to do with socialism.

Logically, anyone who argues that this is what planning means should demand that workers have to get permission before moving from Glasgow to London to seek work in London. (This, of course, is what happens in Russia.)

Britain has had immigration controls for 10 years and it has done it.

If increased immigration.

Just before the first Tory immigration laws were introduced, there was a huge and violent upsurge of people who might never have come barred here because it was their last chance.

And that increased racism. When the government spends its time debating how to keep the people out of the country, to build more houses and find more workers, it is the cause of their problems.

And that is the government. The industry has done it, it has won the fight to the real racialists and their propaganda. Between 1966 and 1968 there was more or less an agreement to take immigration out of political debate. But when there was no way to accept the Tory terms-the need for still controls.

So when Enoch Powell wanted to cash in on the issue in 1968, he had to go a step further by demanding that immigrants be sent home. Conservatives to the right wing don't satisfy them-they encourage them to ask for more.

There is another, more basic reason why all socialists must oppose immigration controls.

The officers who are enforcing the immigration control are part of the same state machine that put the five million working people in general, through the 'order' in Northern Ireland. Any organization that is working in the interest of the working class, of course, to oppose immigration control is to oppose the interests of the working class. Interest' and to fight for the unity of workers of whatever race or nationality.

IAN BIRCHALL

VINCENT FLYNN CONDEMNS THE REAL PARASITES

'So the Daily Express thinks the Ugandan Asians shouldn't come? I can't believe it! It's the 'new' Daily Express. I mean them, the Express doesn't think that if they didn't come to the UK, it's the Express and its ilk to see these people fly about in aeroplanes for the rest of their lives.'

This comment of Vincent Flynn, general secretary of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, speaking in a programme on the BBC's "Weekend" programme says: "I don't normally give interviews to the press because my views are not so important than those of 10 million other trade unionists."

So he is asked: 'On this issue the Labour Party and trade union people who normally question up for interviews are kept silent by a disciplinary performance."

It is added, in the middle of the building workers' strike for a decent basic wage, Production of houses and schools has fallen because of the building workers, but because of the employees and their refusal to pay a decent rate.

We see thousands upon thousands of building sods putting on the day's work early to go to work, build houses, hospitals and schools, not just for the Ugandans who are coming here, but for all those others in need.

When the Ugandans are coming the Daily Express immigration editor, Mr. Powell, is urging a housing shortage. Hasn't there always been one? And why? Because of migrant workers-Irish, Scots, Jews or Ugandan? No, because houses are built not for need but for purchase and profit.

"The housing shortage is an inevitable by-product of the society in which we live. The truth is that the commercial press, Heath, Powell and Wilson support unemployment. They, and the society they uphold, created it." And now that it suits them they are crying false tears over the plight of the human beings they themselves are pushing off to the scrap heap and they are doing this because they know revolution and fear are powerful weapons for undermining the growing strength of the organised working class.

RUTHLESS

"It really makes me laugh when people talk about overcrowding. All of a sudden in August 1972 Britain is overcrowded. Wasn't it overcrowded in June 1972?"

In any case, what is overcrowded about the North of Scotland, Ireland or Northumbaland? Nothing at all. In three places the people who rule this country have spent a fortune depopulating the areas, driving workers and their families into migration with the same ruthlessness as General Amin. Where did he get the idea? He must have read some books on recent British history.

"I am Irish, but my name is Irish. My people were evicted and forced to leave their land and their homes, They were pointed in the direction of Glasgow's factories and forced to live in hovels. And then when it suited them, the employers and their political allies stirred up anti-Irish feelings.

"Not without success. In the 1930s in Scotland there were those who believed that if all the Irish were sent home the Depression would end."

"How stupid and ignorant, you may say, but where did they get such ideas? The answer is, from the same Daily Express which today says that Britain would be a better place if the Ugandans were left to fly around the globe."

"The Ugandans are welcome here. They have hands and brains and their children have hands and brains. They see not parasites unlike the patriotic Britons who never work, able as they are to live off dividends and shares, the sweat of other people's labour, black and white, African, Asian or British."

"In Britain today we are at the crossroads and I and hundreds and thousands of others welcome the Ugandans on one side of that crossroads."

"What we say is, let us organise and unite for a society where working people and their organisations are not subordinated. A society where no man, woman or child goes hungry or badly housed. A society where all work for the common good free from profiteering and the empty office blocks which are such, outstanding monument to the pursuit of private gain."
EARLIER THIS YEAR a group of high-powered BBC executives, under the chairmanship of Richard Cavston, Head of Documentary Programmes, produced an official pamphlet called Principles and Practice in Documentary Programmes. It attempts to lay down guidelines for producers on what constitutes 'balance' and 'fairness,' though of course it would be most un-BBC-like for these to be considered as marching orders.

Rather, according to Huw Wheldon, the BBC-TV boss, they are 'what the group believes or should be the principles and practices that guide them and their work for the BBC. Since the group consisted of the bosses and executive producers of the Television Documentary Department, it is unlikely that what they believe are the principles of producing documentaries will become actively applied to the making of the self-same documentaries.

We learn first of all that a documentary is defined as an exploration of 'factural subject in depth,' that it studies material at first hand, that it is a creative work, that it occupies varying lengths of time, and that it uses fact and opinion but not normally fiction.

All this doesn't really tell us very much beyond the limits of the above, and indeed it leaves much unaided. We haven't a sort of simple rundown about how such documentaries are made, but the pamphlet doesn't start to get interesting until it deals with the questions: 'May a producer express extreme views on a subject of high controversy?'

The answer given is No. For one thing, he is not a contributor, and 'may an acceptable contributor be given such a licence?'

Now, what is 'an acceptable contributor,' who may 'express extreme views'? He can be defined as 'a person who works on one subject after another in a professional capacity.'

This is obvious in the case of matters of science or the professions, but how does one get to be able to express 'extreme views' on subjects like Vietnam, the Monetary, the Industrial Relations Act, and so on?

Apparebly such a person has to be 'a journalist or broadcaster' who 'can put forward his extreme views and not only has the right, but is expected, to express judgments of his own. Certain individuals, like Malcolm Muggeridge or James Cameron, are known to have been in their books about a wide range of topics and views which are clearly recognisable as their own. So in order to qualify you for the privilege of being opinionated on the air, we have to make sure that you are a professional journalist or broadcaster, with opinions which won't be too extraordinary or extreme since we have to choose you and we don't want to lose our job but who, nevertheless, has a well-known bias in his bias.

If we were another century, we would see those terms in our society, perhaps in our press, which certainly seems to fit Muggeridge's function in some society. At any rate, this is the sort of man the BBC considers correct for expressing opinion of his own upon Vietnam, monetary, industrial relations, and anything else which isn't 'excessively intellectual.' The rest of us might as well forget it.

However, sometimes a fellow rises in the broadcasting ranks so that he doesn't have to come on only once a week and is allowed to convey one of his own Weltanschauungen. In 1950 Rene Cutforth reported the Korean War, he was invited in as a BBC man who described what he saw, but whose personal attitude would have been entirely out of place. When, however, Cutforth returned to Korea in 1979 he did it in his own right as a broadcaster, whose views were seen by the public as not only acceptable but of interest.'

So, you see? It's only a matter of 20 years spent in reporting the technicalities of or not contributing in it, by which time the particular man may have acquired to have an opinion has been over, if not almost entirely gone.

The point about the expression of extreme views on television is that, according to what the BBC says—this is no news revealed in our society—Opinions must be curbed among all sorts of officially-approved experts.

Yet nothing is more common than for eminent journalists, professors or experts to bandy the idea that such cases are purely individual. The actions of the BBC make it plain that has nothing to do with the way our society is run. Treatment, they believe, consists in re-educating the sick individual to the society, making him fit for the wrongments of himself.

But one can clearly accept that a society which produces such a high proportion of mentally disturbed people is itself sick! Man's physical illness is not always his mental illness is the hospital is corrected that everyone else is ill also.

Our society has produced in the last 100 years greater material and health than any previous society in the history of the human race.

Yet millions have died in two world wars. We live under the constant shadow of a third world war which threatens to wipe out our entire civilisation.

Our economy has depended for thirty years on the production of weapons of mass destruction. While hundreds of millions of people are near to starvation in the colonial countries, thousands, millions of pounds of spares are spent every year to protect us against 'enemies' that few seriously believe to be a threat. In the US, a good crop is often a disaster to the farmers whose profits are lost.

The experience of those who become mentally ill is not fundamentally different from that of everyone under capitalist isolation. All of us are products of a sick society, and whether or not we actually come to be labelled 'mentally ill,' we all reflect within ourselves its distended values and misshapen priorities.

Quite simply, a society based on the exploitation of man by man cannot produce people who are healthy, who experience themselves and others as creative beings able to realise their human potential. Man under capitalism feels a commodity to be sold on the market by manipulating others. To hold the wealth produced by their class requires people to become impoverished creatures who no longer care for what they are doing. Only when questioning their own situation, irrational or aggressive at the bottom, refuse to accept society and its system, refuse tool of others or appendages to a system that is not worth living in.

The forms of treatment mental hospitals, while in some cases temporary relief from the minor ailments, are in the end only pathetic cover up the root social and psychological disturbance which is in full swing and can be resisted by the workers demand for their extension and of more adequate treatment.

Pills and electro-shocks may cut deaths for certain patients, but leaves patients in depth, analytical treatment is more likely to enable the patient to reach a state of self-awareness and potential, to bring his illness and the produced it. Ultimately, of course, the working class abolishes the production of mental illness.

International Socialism 52

Labour, from the safety of opposition, once again plans a commitment to a society.

Raymond Challinor, in 'Labour and the parliament: road-strips away the party's referential pretensions and the Labour's hopelessly declarative to evolutionary change.'

PLUS

Nigel Harris on India
Tony Cliff on Lenin
David Rodgry on Hayakovsky

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Robert Harrington
Dealing with the symptoms -but not with the cause

RESULTS of a recent London study, carried out to see whether existing psychiatric and social services were meeting the aftercare needs of former mental in-patients, suggested that the services were only dealing effectively with the patients' clinical needs. A large proportion of social needs were not being met.

A majority of patients interviewed were in need of some kind of social service, whether during the day or at night. Housing was a particular problem, reflecting both the housing shortage in the general population and the hostel shortage in the psychiatric population.

Most patients in need of alternative accommodation were on council housing lists but had been waiting many years for rehousing, meanwhile living in the most terrible circumstances.

In some instances overcrowding was the most pressing problem. Conditions of cold and damp, collapsing ceilings, deficiencies in heating and plumbing facilities were all complaints. Requests for repairs had been ignored or put off by the local council or private landlords, especially if rehousing was not believed to be available.

"So what else is new?" one patient asks. Can it honestly be suggested that difficult circumstances can actually cause mental breakdowns?

Not necessarily. Hundreds of thousands of working-class people are subjected to similar conditions every day of their lives and don't end up in mental institutions.

What can be said is that such stresses can contribute to mental health and can only aggravate and add to other problems a person might have. It is very difficult for a patient, thrown back into an environment, to overcome the same stressful scenes he faced before hospitalisation, should it be "the peak".

Directly related

The only puzzle is why more people don't crack under the strain of such appalling conditions.

Who are these patients? It is only when an explanation will be solved.

Sabby Sagall

pick-up: ‘There I was, crying like a baby...’

case made for the several doctors and the report by the psychiatrists. Dr. Red Saunders.

One hospital doctor, a member of the psychiatrists' union, told me if he had my parents as a patient, I have now six weeks. I am just in the same position as you, Dr. Red Saunders.

I don't know the root cause of my problems, but I do know that part of the problem is to do with this society, as said, Stan. He thought that work had some part to play in building up frustrations.

Work is soul destroying. It gets to the stage where the machine is more important than you are. When you think that what a worker produces comes back to him when he buys the article, you'd think he would want to do a good job. But he never sees the thing for himself, he's just working on a meaningless object.

Men like Stan are not just a few isolated cases, although every one who suffers mentally has been through such breakdowns. The fact is that the mind doesn't know the root cause of his illness is also a sign of the inability of this society to help him.

The doctors he was only try to bolster him up with pills or shoot him out of his depression, which only push the problems further back in his mind.

In many ways he feels even more inadequate for having problems, because it is generally held that the mind is something bad, something to be embarrassed about or even that it is a flaw in characters which certain people earn with.

Every day of Stan's life only serves to make him more frustrated. Just like a machine on the line, the system makes men as products to serve the capitalist system and not to serve themselves.

Ginny West

Sent home to cramped rooms and low wages

Harry Smith

fails health is a problem to be a good mother and a good wife. For the poor child care welfare department has not explained how and why he would be treated with her. She has had three child care offices within the past 12 months and "no one will give her a straight answer.

It would seem in case of the housing of the poor children would be in the interest of all concerned since it would reduce the local authority's expense of keeping the children in care.

Those are just three examples of the many poor families who have concrete problems. Rather than attempt to deal with the very social problems which may be related to, if not responsible for, such stresses as anxiety and depression, the doctors cope only with the symptoms themselves—with pills, with destructive support.

This is the result of a system in no way designed to meet the problems of a society which has no social needs, no social needs of ordinary people—adequate housing, financial security—to go with unemployment. We have to label it as "insufficient" or "ill" that they are taking care of their children for the social consequences of unemployment. We have to do something about those conditions.

Delores Raymond

exhaustion. They never have an evening out and need time to be with the children at the same time, much less to take them out on any sort of family outing.

Mrs S feels that the present council isn't a good one, and if she were married and living in her own house she would have a family. At the moment the four children are all with her brother since she became her own ward in 1972.

Mrs S is 27-years-old, legally separated from her husband and desperately in need of accommodation for her four children and herself. At the moment the four children are all with her brother since she became her own ward in 1972.

She has a good job and is reconciled with the fact that her ex-husband (who is in prison) is offering her more and more nesting. She is on a tight end of money, but she is finding it.

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Those are just three examples of the many poor families who have concrete problems. Rather than attempt to deal with the very social problems which may be related to, if not responsible for, such stresses as anxiety and depression, the doctors cope only with the symptoms themselves—
Solidarity pays: The workers’ message reaches through the prison bars
by Laurie Flynn

IT IS not just in the 40-hour-a-week jail of the factories, docks and pits that people are organising and fighting for change in the quality of their everyday lives. Over the past fortnight the “outcast” the “blackbirds” have swung into action to demand their human rights, in particular the right to their own trade union organisation free and unfettered from the state.

It is a momentous development, an affirmation that no matter the restrictions and tyrannies imposed, the human spirit and the will to struggle cannot be destroyed.

In Peterborough jail in north-east Scotland prisoners went on the read demanding union recognition and in solidarity with their oppressed brothers 700 miles to the south in Athens, Algiers and Tamil Nadu.

For the press it is all a dreadful conspiracy stirred up by the Kepi troops and others who want to impose a “surge in terms” of capital accumulation. Nevertheless the prisoners’ struggle will all have been documented.

Victims

Though there is now a prisoners’ union seeking affiliation with the broad labour movement and longer. This means the Home Office, the movement is almost totally spontaneous.

Work of the violence has as likely been quieted off by sections of the prison workers, those other, sadder victims of the state, the prison guards. Some of them are all for the law and order that the Heath ministry wants. They are for policing a real showdown where the right动手 and wrong do battle.

PROP, the prisoners’ union, fear that this may indeed come to pass. Their talk of an Attlee-style bloodbath is far from mere words.

PROP wants to see the entombing of people and their taking care from life abolished entirely. This would need a society that would concern totally different from the protection of property above all.

In the short term the prisoners’ union is determined to organise and agitate until the most obvious tyranny of the prison system are changed. This means that trade union recognition, the right for prisoners to elect officers who will represent them on wages, conditions and discipline.

Families

Although this list is proper sanitation, privacy, and an end to the many petty indignities of prison, PROP is out to secure the right to vote, the right to education, to marry when they want to—this is some genuine approach to human life.

We want the right to make love to their loved ones, to see their wives or husbands. That is as plain an appearance as the right for children. It is revealing that the denial of family contact is more stridently used in British prisons is far worse than the regime in Russia’s terrible system of prison and labour camps. There, prisoners are allowed to see their families only occasionally.

The question of pay and working conditions is also vital to the prisoners’ struggle—and indeed the right to work, for if unemployed they are locked up 22 hours a day.

We also have a direct bearing on the basis and furtherance of the labour movement.

For example, every morning a bus leaves Pentonville Prison in London for a Watford factory called the Brookside Metal Company. There prisoners work a 12-hour week. They get 5l an hour. The Home Office gets 5l a week.

Brookside Metal simply cannot get workers on the open market to do their filthy job of changing down scrap metal for much less. The Home Office provides the bulk of the Home Office.

Even the Community Service Orders are to be introduced next month. This will mean judges will specify sentences or order offenders to do up to 240 days of supposed “community work” instead of prison time.

Very hard to beat a destitute or building workers’ strike, and a few others come to pass.

And there is another reason for the entire working class movement to take the prisoners’ cause to heart. Sir John Donaldson is only away on holidays.

Whose finger on the computer button?

In this interview, we asked Mike Cookey, executive officer of TASS, about his book Computer Aided Design—In Nature and Implications, which the AIEEE (Technical and Supplementary Section) is publishing free as a service to the wider trade union and labour movement.

WHY HAS your union taken the initiative to publish a free book on the effects of computerisation?

Our union was the largest organising designers and technologists and we have in membership those who design many of the computer systems being introduced throughout industry and commerce.

We feel therefore that we have a social and political responsibility to bring to the attention of the trade union movement what the consequences of the uncontrolled introduction of this kind of equipment are likely to be in our organised and unorganised.

The trade union movement in this country has not faced up to the enormous problems which technological change can bring in its wake in our form of society. They seldom analyse these problems in a real class basis, and simply react to their effects rather than anticipate them, and evolve policies prior to their introduction.

We hope, however, that this will not prevent all active trade unionists irrespective of industry or occupation reading it and by far the most important and large section deals with the effect of technological change.

In the section, we attempt to identify some of the laws which govern technological change in a profit-orientated society. Having done so, these laws are then used to explain the trends now beginning to be evident over a wide spectrum of industry.

Although we look at these trends within the engineering industry, they abide by the same laws in other fields as technological change alters the organic composition of capital and makes processes capital rather than labour intensive.

Computerisation is a case in point. We tried to demonstrate the contrast in the relation to production in our society and a socialist one. We attempt to show that in capitalist society, production will increasingly dominate the producer and alienate him from the product of his labour.

In the third, self-contained section “Technological Change: its effects which you mentioned, you give concrete examples of the consequences of technological change. Which of these do you regard as being most important?

This section is basically a reframing of the idea, carefully engendered by the mass media, that technological change, automation and computerisation will free man from routine, soul-destroying tasks, and automatically lead to a shorter working week, longer holidays and more leisure time.

We attempt to identify those forces in our society which will seek to dictate that such equipment will be exploited for 24 hours a day, while creating a frantic work tempo for those involved and a death spiral for those displaced by high capital equipment.

We are not the processes which give rise to the further subdivi- dion of the worker (whether white collar or manual) to the machine and the devastating effects from this which will mean that workers will be more and more regarded as ‘machines appendages’ and ‘man components’ in the total machine system.

Brutal

Against this background, we look at the fragmentation of skills and attempt to show that in functions (even white collar ones including design) are computerised and those involved will be ‘prelternised’.

A part that is particularly relevant at the moment is that dealing with the permanent elimination of work and the consequential growth of unemployment. Other sections deal with the brutal manner in which older workers are replaced; not simply because they have committed the hideous crime of beginning to grow old. We hope this part of the book will also be of interest to educationalists, and teachers. Having shown the evolution of the ‘dedicated machine’, we show how also required dedicated operators.

This is true even at graduate and post graduate level where the tendency is to train people for a job rather than educate them to think. More and more students are being used as industrial fodder for the monopolies.

At a tactical level we show how technological change and the concentration of capital increases the sterile power of those involved and how this should be used to offset the worst excesses of the system.

Mike Cookey does not have a different approach to the narrow field of economics. It is therefore implied throughout that the strategic level that the real requirement is for a revolutionary change both in ownership and in the means of production, exchange and distribution.

Copies of the book Computer Aided Design—In Nature and Implications, are available free from AIEEE/ TASS, 61 Greenside, Richmond, Surrey, Tel. 01-948 2271.

Our Norman

Hello Brothers!

Have you any other troublemakers working on this project?

P.E.O.P.L.E. IS THE DELEGATION FROM THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.
CRUSHED

Then, a hundred years ago, the new working-class organisation began to make this traditional bourgeois view of the world unconscious. Labor's artists now superimposed the powerful ruling class and so condemned to hunger, despair and their various dreams came face to face with reality. The task they undertook was learned from psychology that all men have dreams and dreams and tremendous creative powers, but that these powers are not released in their political systems they live under.

In its study of the new science of the century that is, not simply the work of order and order in which has its rightful place the dreams of the masses and possessive commodities—articulates the most important work of art, the invisible forces in a constant movement.

Einstein, to describe the new science he has made, has written a book that is in the Revolution: I saw a new heaven and a new earth and they have not passed away. As the capitalist class lost it hold on progressive ideas, most modern artists have been revolutionary in some way. They have said that in the past art was to represent and oppose people, and not as a liberating force, that artists had been encouraged to help the creative and expressive part of work—in the interests of their masters—while other men were left with just the drudgery and repetition. They set out to destroy art as the middle class they knew it—although in the absence of a real social revolution they have had to work alone, in a world of ideas, becoming more abstract and removed from ordinary people. Not surprisingly then, many middle-class critics have turned away from this period and look back with nostalgia to the time when Lenin was alive.

Not only not but also the new art is not art by the people and for the people, but by the people for the people.

Would the real Lenin stand up

LENIN IN HIS OWN WORDS by Ernst Fischer, Allen Lane, The Penguin Press £2.25

This is an honest book. That will be the great tribute of its subject was French literature or flower arrangements. For a book on Lenin "the real Lenin" this is the only book.

"During the lifetime of great revolutionaries, there is no need to apologize for the oppression of classes and the bourgeoisie to treat them with malicious hostility and fierce hatred. Lenin never gave the reason for this great campaign of lies and slanders."

"But the question of the campaign of lies and slander is different. It is not a question of converting to them harmless icons, to contemporary art, to music, or to fashion. The question is to one's own people to surround them with the names of a certain class."

"The great class struggle is the struggle between the classes and with the object of defeating them, while at the same time unmasking the revolution, the doctrine of its content, which is the struggle of the revolutionaries to fight against the revolutionary edge."

"In Lenin's 'campaign of lies and slanders' continued long after his death and continuously today. This, perhaps the most widely read book on Lenin in battle today is the evidenceless opposition of his to-day. The whole world of Lenin's time regarded as the greatest practical political and trade union rights that had existed under Marx."

"And so the writers, bourgeois, 'liberators' and Soviet idealism, have all been the subject of distortion, revision, and invention, created Lenin the Devil and Lenin the Devil in the interests of the struggle against the polarisation Lenin stood for his life—the politics of revolutionary socialism dedicated to the self-organisation of the working class."

"The impression of Lenin's concern for effective democracy—indeed legitimate and necessary emphasis, given the activities of the myth makers, is that the same prominence to Lenin's uncompromising hostility to all bourgeois democratic governments; but he does not appear to be, it is the same with Lenin's opponents.

"In 200 pages we have a fair, if sometimes controversial, summary of Lenin's statements on the party, revolution, the state, imperialism, war and peace, strategy and tactics, and revolutionary dictatorship. It is closely and simply written."

"As a valuable introduction to the most important revolutionary thinkers and events of the Russian Revolution. Readers of Socialist Worker should buy or borrow this book."

Fred Hall

CRUSHED

The development of the art object gave greater power to the basic concept. The class structure is a mystical concept of the working class and the revolutionary class. The working class is the class that can change things."

"I was told in the 1960s that I was a Marxist-Leninist. I was told that I was a Marxist-Leninist. I was told that I was a Marxist-Leninist. I was told that I was a Marxist-Leninist. I was told that I was a Marxist-Leninist."

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As a valuable introduction to the most important revolutionary thinkers and events of the Russian Revolution. Readers of Socialist Worker should buy or borrow this book.
Sack for 1000 R-R aircraft workers

The lessons and lost jobs of UCS

by Peter Baker

Despite a last-minute dispute (dues wages and retraining with the Boultermakers’ Union, Govan Shipbuilders will almost certainly be operable by the end of this week. It will employ just over 4000 ex-UCS workers in the Govan, Linthouse and Southbank yards, including the 140 men still on the books.

Some workers now employed at Clydebank will also be transferred to other yards in complete UCS orders now that Marshall Manufacturing has taken over John Brown’s yard.

By the end of the year it is hoped that 1000 of the 3000-plus Clydebank workforce will have a job either with Govan or with Marshall. But a large question mark hangs over the fate of the remaining 1000 workers.

Unions, forced to accept an agreement which has been forced upon them, are now seeking to win sympathy for their employees to try to get them accepted as a measure of stopping disputes.

That is dangerous enough, but if the workers are granted a series of conventions in order to save the jobs, it is unlikely the employers will decide to allow UCS into the companies to the extent worthwhile.

The trade union movement has little doubt that it was the Tolles’ decision to close down UCS companies too.

We are opposed to all ruling class policies and organisations. We work to build a revolutionary workers’ party in Britain and end this support of all revolutionary groups.

The struggle for socialism is the central struggle of our work. Power and a world based on human solidarity, on the increasing of man’s power over nature, with the selection of the power of man over man. No doubt worthwhile fighting for.

It is no use just talking about it. More than any other year, the Tolles have written to the Tolles to discuss the power of the world and build socialism, join us.

WHAT’S ON

NOTICES


WOLVERHAMPTON is in full swing on this Saturday 18th.

GREAT LONDON AND MORE COUNTIES

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ACTION

Birmingham

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Camerbrook NE

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Coventry

Edinburgh

Exeter

Lincoln

London

Manchester

Midlands

Northern

Northwich

Northwood

Northampton

Norwich

Nottingham

Oxford

Peterborough

Portsmouth

Reading

Sheffield

Southend-on-Sea

Teddington

Tottenham

Wolverhampton

WOLVERHAMPTON

Wolverhampton

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GREAT LONDON AND MORE COUNTIES

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Southend-on-Sea

Teddington

Tottenham

Wolverhampton

WOLVERHAMPTON

Wolverhampton

Wolverhampton

Wolverhampton

GREAT LONDON AND MORE COUNTIES

TRADE SERVICES
Wages: Britain is being left behind

by Mike Miller

Belfast—Army repression of anti-Unionist areas is growing out of control, according to demands from the extreme right-wing to get in "and wipe out the royal family." The Catholic community in Andersonstown has been deprived of its schools and other facilities which have been converted into Army barracks where the terrorism of the working-class areas has been taking place and carried out.

In Ballymurphy, Parnell have been beaten up and in Broadway, Green Jackets have joined in with the UDA to attack anyone who resists Army orders. Massive armoured cars with cannon and machine-guns patrolled from urban areas by the Geneva convention and are used against security forces that trigger their actions have cost the deaths of two of their own members within a few months.

Arrests and detentions continue at a level approaching that of the aftermath of internment. An average of 10 men a day are rounded up for interrogation and training.

Those who are not released are being detained at Long Kesh; detention is the law of the land.

The right wing is now advocating the removal of special courts where a man would be presumed guilty unless he can prove his innocence. They want these courts abolished and say that if the Unionist and Republican communities are to remain as such, then the exclusion of any such courts must be upheld.

The Taoiseach is intent on a total depoliticisation of the political situation. The Loyalist houses are in a total political crisis. They have no political solution to the problems of their own people. The Army has no political solution to their problems. The Loyalist community is isolated from the Labour Party.

TACTICS

Under such conditions, every socialist must recognise the need for the anti-Unionist sections of the population to retain the gains for self-defence. The Loyalist houses are intent on a total political crisis. They have no political solution to the problems of their own people. The Army has no political solution to their problems. The Loyalist community is isolated from the Labour Party.

By giving Loyalist workers a free hand to organise, arms and kill, the Army is trying to enforcing an ironclad policy of no politics and no politics.

The Army Force was taken over in May by Hirst, a subsidiary of the Bankers Trust Corporation of New York, a multi-national company known for its habit of subcontracting workers after takeovers. At Johnston's, the photographic manufacturer of Hirst, Hirst sacked a third of the workforce and at Yorkshire Vehicles a quarter. Very recently the Guildford branch of the International Socialists got wind of coming sackings and put out a leaflet. Management's strategy denied them no right to sackings withrupting through the factory, letters to the Stop new plant and articles in the local press. They denounced the authors of the booklet as fascists.

When the Engineering Union's national pay claim was submitted the firm offered a pay rise with productivity rates. This was rejected and the threat of a strike brought an offer of 4% a week, which was accepted. The resulting agreement, which is due to be renewed by the end of the year, would be followed by 31% in 1973.

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Victory for car depot strikers

by David Gibens

EAST KENT—20 Transport Union men forced a 48-hour strike at a car depot at Lydd, Tunbridge last week after a worker was sacked for refusing to work overtime. The strike was called by members of the East Kent Industrial and General Workers Union, which is one of the few remaining industrial unions in the area.

The workers have gained union recognition and have been demanding better pay and conditions. They were joined by workers from other car depots in the area.

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Socialist Worker

Jaguar strikers settle for £44

By Dave Lyddon

COVENTRY—The Jaguar strike at the Brown's Latch factory has now ended. The workers involved voted on Tuesday by a small majority to go back after eleven weeks out. Factories are already backing open when the company refused to give an increase in basic wages for about 4000 workers.

The strike lasted for about one and a half months. The firm's attitude to the workers was very strong. The blacklegging continued at times in a very serious way.

The company tried to get back as quickly as possible but the workers continued to strike. The strike got a strong backing from the trade unions.

In the end the company did make some concessions and the workers have now returned to work.

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