Mass action ready to fight the Tory swindle

by HUGH KERR

THE LONG-SHOULDERING STRUGGLE over the Tories' Housing Finance Act—the 'Fair Rents' fiddle—will break out into open warfare next week. In place of mock battles in parliament and debates in council chambers, the fight moves onto the council estates, the streets and the rent offices.

Four million tenants are faced with rent rises of up to £1 a week from Monday. This is the start of the process that will double rents, remove all control of housing from the tenants and subject them to a vicious means test.

But the tenants are not sitting back, waiting to be attacked. In many areas they are going on the offensive. More than 60 towns and cities in England and Wales will be the scene of rent strikes from Monday (see panel).

These areas, housing some two million tenants, will see intense activity. Rent officers will be picketed. Rent collectors will be 'escorted' round the estates.

Rent strikes will be placed in every window. Newsletter soup will be produced regularly. Loudspeaker vans will tour the estates and street meetings will be held regularly.

As well as the 60 areas reported to Socialist Worker, there are likely to be many smaller towns on rent strike as well. And there are some half a million tenants under Labour-controlled councils whose rents have not yet been increased.

It is only a matter of time before these councils surrender to the Tories or the government will send in a Housing Commissioner to try to force through the increases. In either case, tenants in these areas will join the others on rent strike.

EXPLOSIVE

In Scotland the battle is likely to be even more militant. Of the 47 councils there have refused to put the rents up (see panel).

When rent increases are imposed in these areas the resistance from the tenants is likely to be explosive. Scotland's long tradition of militancy on rents looks certain to be surfaced in the next few months. In all the major areas, the tenants' movement is preparing for strike action.

While the tenants are moving into action, the trade unions in a number of areas are mobilising their strength in support. In Liverpool the 10,000 dockers will strike in support of council tenants who start their rent strike on that day.

Liverpool and M birkenhead Trade Councils have called for industrial action from the rest of Merseyside on Monday. A number of building sites are expected to join the strike and two sections at the Standard car factory have pledged support.

Yorkshire miners have promised industrial action to back tenants.

In many areas, trade councils and union branches have pledged firm support. In dozens of factories, shop stewards have given guarantees to industrial action to back tenants if they are threatened or intimidated by their councils.

RENT STRIKE

JUST ONE MONTH to go to the new Socialist Worker! On 28 October the paper will expand to 16 pages a week.

The aim of the bigger paper is to have an improved and extended news coverage and analysis of industrial matters. There will be a regular slot on the trade unions and their internal structure and development to old militants.

And the paper will be the spearhead of the vital fight the Tories campaign being organised this autumn and winter by the International Socialists. Our additional editorial will be strengthened by Paul Foot who, through his work on the magazine Private Eye, has built a reputation as the most outspoken, best-informed journalist on the lies and corruption of the Tories and their system.

We confidently expect the new paper to go from strength to strength. But we need YOUR help—to increase the paper's influence and circulation. As we prepare to launch the 16-page paper we appeal to all our readers to take more copies and win more readers.

ENGLAND AND WALES—Areas include Manchester, Liverpool, Bristol, Greenwich, Swansea, Stockport, Hackney, Wrexham, York, Leicestershire, Luton, Gateshead, Kirkby, Nottingham, Barnsley, Hounslow and Sheffield.

Expected to join if Labour councils surrender or Housing Commissioners are sent in—Birmingham, Doncaster, Walsall, Clay Cross, Halstead, Camden, Saltburn, West Kirby, Llanrannmet, Merthyr Tydfil.

SCOTLAND—Glasgow, Clydebank, Dumbarton, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Falkirk, Linlithgow, Fife and Dundee.

Heath's two quid con game

HEATH's 'anti-inflation' plan is nothing more than an attempt to con millions of workers into accepting a cut in their living standards. The fact that the Tories, like Vic Feather have seen fit to praise the plan shows only how far they have moved from any real concern with the welfare of their members.

The idea that everybody's wages increase will be 'capped' and then reduced by £2 a week for 12 months while price rises are restrained in various ways as 'aid to the lower paid'. Even Vic Feather has resigned in protest at this 'services cap's a good deal of fair play'.

The theory is true. A £2 a week pay increase will no way allow a lowering of living standards, the cost of living, even if it be held back as 'services' money.

Consider the case of a married man with two children living in a council house and earning a wage of £20 a week. Under the new plan the man would be allowed to earn for the next year would be £22.

WIPE OFF

But the moment his wage goes up, so do the deductions from it for tax and national insurance contributions. These would wipe 70p or 80p from the £2 before he has even opened his wage packet.

The next week's council's rent rise would wipe off another £1 a week. That leaves a mere 30p of the £2, or a percentage increase of 1.5 per cent. Yet according to the Tories, prices in the shop are going to rise by 5 per cent.

For those on even lower wages, the situation will be worse. Although their wages might not be subject to income tax, every pay rise automatically leads to higher income tax, national insurance contributions, capital gains tax, rates and health charges, as well as to overcharges by the health service, State Insurance and Private Supplement and free school meals. In some cases a rise as small as £2 a week could even see people are actually worse of even than before.

And the plan contains no built insurance that the express way to cut the level of unemployment, by reducing the working week, will not be adopted. For every hour cut in the working week, you would have to work even more to the £2 of the £2 rise.

GET ROUND

It is claimed that the restriction on wage increases to £2 will hit all of us, rich and poor alike. But it will not hit the very rich at all, it will not hit those who have been making millions overnight out of property speculation, or those who daily exchange trams for their tax-exempt fee. The directors of the big companies will quickly find a way of getting round the limitation with a larger company car, more expensive accounts and promotion to the same job.

Those who are hit will be the slightly better off sections of working people, those who labour for their living and have no property to speculate with or company cars. If the government's plan is accepted, anyone earning around the average industrial wage can expect to see the value of this take-home pay fall to the very rich at all, it will not hit those who have been making millions overnight out of property speculation, or those who daily exchange trams for their tax-exempt fee. The directors of the big companies will quickly find a way of getting round the limitation with a larger company car, more expensive accounts and promotion to the same job.

Where will this buying power go? Not to the lower paid, as we have shown. Instead it will automatically boost company profits and the dividends and profits. And the Tories have never even made the promise of restraining these.
**WORLD NEWS**

**BRIEFING**

NEWS from Uganda is at present highly unreliable because of government distortion and harassment of newsmen, but it is now certain that on Sunday 17 September 1000 armed Ugandan exiles attempted to invade and seize power from President Amin on behalf of ex-President Obote.

Probably they expected pro-Obote elements in the army and population to rise in support. There have been reports of such risings in Jinja and two other towns.

Amin claimed that he had not given the invasion and coup control, but if Obote's soldiers have failed to make an impact with conventional methods they will probably switch to guerrilla warfare.

It is also certain that Tanzanian troops and police have arrived in Bukoba and they are probably in Bukoba and may well be a base for pro-Obote men over since the army coup in January 1971 when Amin took power.

Uganda is in the grip of a severe drought. The British policy of divide and rule is above to bear fruit.

Lord Lugard, the famous colonial administrator, perfected his method of indirect rule through chiefs and kings in Uganda before moving on to Nigeria where he kept the kingdoms and many chiefly titles in order to play them off against their own.

The Tanzanian invasion is an attempt by Amin to distract attention from the shortages in Uganda caused by the drought.

**BOOTY**

Amin had hoped to placate the Ugandan middle class by dangling the allure of property and businesses to them. The government has been selling of property and businesses to them. The government has been selling to the middle class.

The few Asians who have so far man for fear of the birth of a black people and the government's Department of Famine, I psychologist has recently been on the go.

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After the rebellion last year, Keenan voted for the Criminal Justice Bill which gave enormous powers to the government. When the Party article, Akin, criticized him, he suspended it, sacked the editorial board, and then restarted the paper with a new editorial board. The recent Party conference replaced him by S A Wickremasinghe, who was the only Communist MP to vote against the Bill.

This is symptomatic of a confused political situation in Sri Lanka. Not only the Party, but also the Malts are split, and there is growing discontent among the unions attached to the formerly Trotskyist LSP as being called on to backfire. While nothing is clear as yet, it is possible a new left grouping may emerge.

Meanwhile 14,000 detainees still riot in the concentration camps. The government has announced that it will release 10,000 and try the other 4,000 who are presumed to be the most 'guilty' of charges of rebellion.

Trade union and human rights organizations called a nation-wide general strike for 18 October and the jaded detainees will take part. The Ceylon Solidarity Committee has called a public meeting in London for the same date (details to be announced later in Socialist Worker).

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**WORKERS' struggle grows in Ceylon**

by Edward Crawford

IN Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon), the continuing deteriorating economic situation has led to an upsurge in working-class struggle.

In the capital, Colombo, two of the best-organized sections of white-collar workers have recently been on strike. A strike by technocrats in the government Department of Famine, I psychologist has recently been on the go.

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**CORRUPT**

The Ugandan working class numbers only 80,000 in a population of eight million and, unfortunately, plays little role in national politics. Strikes were made illegal under Obote and continued to be under Amin. Nevertheless, last year 4000 union workers and 4000 Kampala construction workers struck against the whims of their corrupt union leadership—though they were beaten.

Amin's policies are inconsistent. One day he is pro-Amin, the next pro-Amin, one day he is pro-African, the next supports the Organisation of African Unity.

But he is not mad. Rather he is desperately trying to balance between the different forces and opinions of the many rivalrous groups in Uganda.

He constantly tour the country to meet the people. He sits as chairman to try to settle squabbles between Catholics and Protestants. He has, however, failed to make any real impact on the 'reactionary' Amis.

**CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS in West Germany**

are campaigning for the banning of organized crime. The party's group leader, Eugene, has called on the police, "We must be on our guard against the growing crime wave in Germany."

The party has warned that the growing crime wave could lead to a rise in unemployment. They have also called for the introduction of a national最低 wage.

**SINCE 1971 the French National Union of Students (UNEFS) has been split into two groups, one controlled by the Communist Party and the other by the Trotskyist group. The AII tendancy, which claims to be the true Trotskyist group, has now won a majority in the student unions.**

Since the split in 1971, the AII has been split into two groups, one controlled by the Communist Party and the other by the Trotskyist group. The AII tendency, which claims to be the true Trotskyist group, has now won a majority in the student unions.
ROY JENKINS is at it again. The Labour Party, he tells us, 'cannot hope to put its ideals into practice as a class party, appealing solely to class interests and class emotions.'

Jenkins' representative class interests. The Labour Party was started, as the resolution at the founding conference stated, with the object of 'working class opinion being represented in the House of Commons.' In terms, the 'Labour' member of the House of Lords, had not then been thought of.

Eighteen years later, when the party came to adopt a new statement of aims it described its purpose as being 'To secure for the workers, by hand and by brain, the full fruits of their industry and the basic of the common ownership of the means of production'. That is a class aim.

But hasn't the Labour Party long since abandoned that aim? No, Labor took to its heart. The Labour in power has proved in practice that it is the second party of big business. What then is Jenkins on about? The dispute between the extreme right wing of the party around Jenkins and the Wilson leadership, which is supported by the pietistic Tribune, has centred around how long Labour needs to recover the fruits of its office and get on with the job of showing that the Labour Party can do better for British capitalism than the Tories.

Jenkins wants to rely on the Tories continuing to make themselves so unpopular that the Labour Party is returned almost automatically. He wants to avoid 'dangerous' promises about housing, rents, wages and so on. Jenkins clearly believes that there is widespread scepticism about Labour among millions of regular Labour voters. He sees the need to recover a leftist reputation. He is also aware of a great deal of antipathy and a furore in parliament to persuade people that Labour is a real root-and-branch opposition. And he is not much worried about making promises. After all he has plenty of experience in breaking them.

**Kidding opponents**

The Wilson method is perfectly illustrated by an item on the Housing Finance Bill - the infamous 'Fair Rents' scheme - that appears in the report of the National Executive Committee to next week's annual conference. 'An all out attack was launched on the highly controversial Housing Finance Bill. It was organised in the same way as the very successful fight in the previous session against the Industrial Relations Bill and met with even more gratifying results.'

"Because the success of the executive speaks of has nothing to do with killing the Bill, it has to do with kidding the Bill's opponents that the Labour Party, which had tried to bring in a law itself, had changed its heart and was now absolutely against antiunion laws.

And so with the Housing Finance Act. There is not the slightest shadow of a doubt that the Labour Party could have killed it stone dead. The party controls the great majority of the big local authorities and a great many smaller ones too. Many Labour councillors had been returned on the specific pledge to refuse to implement the law.

A concerted refusal by the Labour-controlled councils would have made it impossible to introduce the Act away with the increases. However, 'the NEC decided, after great consideration not to recommend a national policy of total non-implementation by Labour councils.'

This is most determined. It means that the opposition confines itself to shadow boxing. Speeches and votes in parliament are one thing. Action is quite another.

**The Tory Frankenstein**

GENERAL AMIN of Uganda looks like God's gift to the Tory Party. How convenient it is to have somebody whose policies are even more reactionary than their own and who, to cap it all, enjoys their support.

As someone who has not heard of Amin didn't exist, the Tories would have had to invent him. And that is the truth of the matter. All the Tory horror over lest this man whom Amin didn't exist, the Tories would have had to invent him. And that is the truth of the matter. All the Tory horror over lest this man whom
Asians get quick taste of ‘apartheid’

HOMELESS ASIANS from Amin’s Uganda are not long settled at the former RAF camp at Stamfordham, in East Grinstead, West Sussex, before they come across the familiar contours of racial discrimination.

As they arrive at the mess quarters they are exposed to the white British staff and army of ethnically different colour, and the working conditions for whites are vastly superior to those of the Asians.

A reporter tried to enter with an Asian family we were interviewing we were refused service. ‘Upstairs, the staff ordered us. ‘you can’t eat here. The real-time apartheid, it should be added, has already started.

The house has already moved into over a dozen Asian women and, although the conditions are by no means as bad as they are in the Sloughs, they find themselves lucky to be among the first to get out—paranoid without possessions they are.

Yet at least we are alive,’ said Kasim Ouma, who fled with his mother, her two brothers, their wives and six children. His brother has explained the corruption that is a way of life in Uganda. The first question every petty bureaucrat asks is ‘How old are you?’

The government is a £5 note which bears the motto of the Uganda independence. The Asians, who are not used to doing so, have been severely masqueraded outside the town of Glocester. They have been shot with their hands tied behind their backs. Their bodies were left to rot and spread disease across the streets.

Another favourite sport of Amin’s is to take their rival to the NLF. Last year there were as many as 100,000 deaths in the war. Those who try to avoid it are shot down. It is a capital punishment.

In military terms the Asians at Stamfordham are treated well and their problems are all still very significant. The victims, treated helplessly, are paraded as the prospect of the future and, after suitable haggling, are seduced to their deathly doom.

So why did Amin make a bid to capture the NLF? Their political system so badly organized that it is being territorial in a crocodile-infested Iago.

In a letter to a friend in London, Amin wrote that he had taken the look at the state of Uganda, the number of new refugees and the size of the public protest in the region.

His offer of support can be given to any state other than the one that was fought over, he writes, ‘If you destroy the possibility that in their historical context the NLF had been taken over, and have some control, you play a progressive role. The best time to make your move at the working class, a more precise, it is.

Amin has no fighters of his own. He would like to describe the conditions when they worked for the People’s Republic, in one of their London offices to try and illustrate the truth behind the current

Although I didn’t go there with ideas of working for a socialist I did expect reasonable conditions: no petty rules, strong union organisation and a fairly friendly atmosphere. I was disappointed.

If you were late twice in one week you were told off. One of my colleagues was dismissed because she would not work the shift on which she had been told to get to Stamfordham, she remained at the week.

R K Nelson

A surprising spread of doubt

I AGREE with Reginald Goss (23 September). But the need to show women how they are treated if they do not support the capitalist system. A fair share of blame rests on the feminist press and inside help to remove the isolation which women experience for not understanding sexism.

Regarding sport, certainly try to show how little sport work we get compared with the pseudo-sport footage by capitalists.

Finally, it seems to me that the main function of Socialist Worker is not to erode the cherished beliefs of conservative men and women. This is what socialist thought can only be done by personal relations.

Socialist Worker can only be begun by people like us, on the basis of understanding, and not by feeling disaffected by the direct approach of the capitalist system. ‘Revolutionary rubbish’ like the plaque. The only way to get this dead is to see the mass of everyday folk that it does not reflect the work of Socialist Worker to take over and broaden the field of socialist education and for the better—JOHN SOMERSET, London N19.

PETER RANKIN fails to see that in trying to dispense Malthus he has taken two sides of the equation. He gives us two sides of the equation, but fails to contact us on the other.

Relating Malthus’ claim that population would inevitably lead to poverty, we write in 1798 the United States had a population of five million people and more than enough food to feed them. Today it has a population of 200 million and still has enough food to feed them.

The reason, he explains, is that the tractor of the industrial revolution and the fritillaries of the chemical revolution have increased food production in a way Malthus did not foresee. But he goes on: ‘We still dare to poverty: A United Nations survey has shown that nearly one third of the world’s children suffer from starvation. This is not due to some Malthusian law, but to the economic system called capitalism, which is the lowest law the poor nations.

This is the REAL Fraser. In comparison the United States still has enough food to feed its 200 million people. Its increased farm productivity since 1798, the American farmers dig in for the future, not for the food they soon from the world’s future.”—PETER MARIEN, Hennon Newspapers, Here.

TRAVERS OF FACTS

I MUST comment on Peter Rankin’s article on consumerism (23 September) which is a travesty of the known facts which are simple and not in serious dispute.

The population of the world is increasing rapidly and in geometrical progression. The world supply of basic raw materials is finite, not infinite.

Britain has to import half of her necessary foodstuffs. There will be at least 10 million more people in Britain by the year 2000. Even a cursory study of the literature on ecology should convince Rankin that no matter how egalitarian and socialistic our society is made to be, no matter how rational and humane, without a serious policy on population (world-wide, not just in Britain and black), resources and pollution, the end result would be disastrous.

We must aim at a socialist society, but it must be a free society.—DR HARRY F BULLER, Leicester.
THE EVICTIONS of Doc Cook and Arthur Rowe were both victory and defeat for the St Pancras tenants who had created a movement capable of involving 10,000 people on demonstrations and marches and 4000 tenants in a partial rent strike against the differential rent scheme.

The craze of the scheme was the "new idea” that tenants should pay a "reasonable rent" to relieve the inflated costs of land and house. In this it was an important forerunner of Labour's 1965 Housing Act and the Tory “Fair Rents” Act.

In May 1959 the newly-elected Tory Council of St Pancras presented the differential rent scheme designed to cover the £500,000 deficit on its housing account. It was a pretext to get more council income from tenants, and less from his business—the rates were reduced by 4½ in the £ the following year. The council had got another £700,000 from the rent increases.

The defeat had arisen at a time of the previous Labour council’s decision to finance rents at a level which most tenants could afford, at a time when housing subsidies were abolished, the cost of land and building were rising and councils were forced to abandon any pretence of a policy to borrow money for new building at market rates.

Previously, under the Labour council, the differential rent had been reduced by 10 per cent, but 70 per cent of the rates paid were paid by council tenants. The Labour council took exception to subsidising housing.

Shift the cost

The import of the rent rise was obvious. It was not only increased to what the more difficult tenants were to pay the "full cost of their housing". The differential rent was all but a mean test on gross income, taking account of the income earned by other family members.

In response to the scheme, a strong organisation of tenants and trade unionists grew within weeks, where no organisation had previously existed.

The tenant’s associations already in the borough only a few blocks were already working. Yet by September—four months after the scheme was announced—-the United Tenants Association was a central co-ordinating body for more than 30 tenants’ associations and could launch a co-ordinated strike of 4000 tenants.

There were frequent marches, rallies, demonstrations, and by November the associations had got 3000 tenants withdrawn from the rents scheme. There were requisitions and non-council built properties, and left over about 4200 tenants still eligible for rent increases.

On 4 January 1960 about 3000 tenants withdrew the increased. Within a fortnight the council issued 500 notices to quit. Rent collectors and bailiffs began threatening and intimidating tenants.

Many tenants, unsure of the legal strength, unity and potential of their movement succeeded to these pressures and paid up, even before the strike came to an end by the strike of 30 January.

The next few months whisked them down to 300. This disintegration of the strike, with its effect on morale and the tenants’ fear that they might lose their homes, united the Labour Tenants’ Associations to decide it could not defend all the tenants at once. So they chose only two tenants, and prepared to resist the evictions, hoping to use the struggle that would follow to boost the rents strike.

Factically this may well have been the turning point. It helped not only the tenants but the state to concentrate its forces. But this was done at the cost of trust and strength of the tenants’ movement—heavily tenants, even those who paid up, still wanted to fight but fear of using the only effective weapon, the rent strike, led to defeat.

Later, faith in “democracy” or to blame the policy of the council, and many tenants were injured on their action to pass many tenants to vote.

Labour in a vain attempt to repeat the differential rents scheme. By this time the United Tenants Association was too weak to force Labour to keep its pledge.

Stormed the flats

Doc Cook of Kennington House and Arthur Rowe of Silverdale House were among the main leaders of the tenants who, after months of meetings and negotiations, finally took to their houses.

The judge agreed with the association’s criticism of the council case, but for the eviction order. The comment resulted in another 2000 tenants going on strike. Barricades and defence systems were erected and after three weeks of occupying the flats were stormed at 6am on 22 September by bailiffs aided by 800 police and the tenants evicted. The areas were cordoned off and angry tenants kept at bay. Various trade union branches played prominent roles that had been expected, mainly because the evictions were in the road. Railwaysmen from Canada No. 2 NUR branch had a 24-hour strike on 29 August. Council workers had struck on 30 and 31 August and local tradesmen had refused to be involved.

Later on the day of the evictions building workers from the Shell site on the South Bank asked to join the tenants and 100 men from Clapham works of Shell who also took part.

The flats were not ransacked, this would have been a gesture as they were by now uninhabitable. Householders and tenants worked towards the town hall to clear a battle with the police and many tenants were injured on their side.

Caution on the part of the United Tenants Association leadership had dampened the militancy into unions into last minute. It is argued that the Association had fought specifically to avoid a rvation, as they would have been in a much stronger position to make the case. The association had been particularly as rents had risen by another 1½ a week in July.

The Association called for a new rent strike, but by December its committee was changed direction and was giving most of its efforts to support for a Labour Government already, rather than on carrying on direct action. Several of the leaders of the tenants, Doc Cook, were to stand as Labour candidates in the next election.

The Labour government came to power pledged to end the differential rents scheme—buts months dragged on with no action. Eventually the council announced that it had taken legal advice and could not reduce rents without the consent of the government being changed by the government’s district auditor.

It seems unlikely that both the Labour and Communist Parties did not know this before the election—in this case they said the Labour and Communist leadership simply sold out the tenants of St Pancras, for a bit of opportunistic electioneering.

Critical

That the Labour and Communist parties must be blasted for this. It is easy to make a critique of the prospects of the continuation of the differential rents scheme. Such lies certainly seem to have been the case. The tenants have been able to point out that the differential rents scheme is a single clause. Indeed, they hardly seem to have tried.

The last story, read the report, which also deals with the council’s illegal rent increases, its price-fixing activities and its international connections. It is a valuable addition to the propaganda armament of the socialists.

GEC-AEI Act is an agreement that followed a long-time dispute between the company and the GEC-AEI employees. The agreement was signed in 2000, resolving the long-standing conflict and ensuring peace and harmony between the two parties for the next five years.
WE ARE a democratic, socialist party and proud of it. We put the principles of democracy and socialism above consideration of class and market economics. We aim to bring about a society based on co-operation instead of competition, where production is for people's needs not for private profit.

These are the opening words of Labour's 1972 Draft Programme. Fine, brave words. They would be excellent, if true. In fact, they represent the most dishonest, hypocritical statement imaginable. Labour's 1972 Manifesto has one clear purpose, to patch over the huge divisions that have appeared within our party, to put forward an official policy that has all the trappings of radical intentions, and commits them to nothing.

Nonetheless, it is being pushed by the Labour Left and the Communist Party. Eric Heffer MP won the membership vote, and the organisation has a recognition that the party has moved and continues to move left.

It is time to check the record. Labour in power, with the chance to put through their fine-sounding policies, is nothing but the employers' bully boys. Anyone who wants even minimal reforms in this country, let alone a fully-bloomed socialist system, need not join the Labour Party.

Whose party is this?

WE ARE a democratic, socialist party', says the draft programme, and spends a long time spelling out what this is supposed to mean.

Tory policy is developed in private, and bandied about from the top.

The Labour Party does not work this way, and has no wish to do so.

Check the record. In 1965, Labour presented its National Plan to the public. It was not just for the country, but for the country and the working class. The plan was prepared in consultation with the trades unions, not the centre. Nor was Labour outside the cabinet until the signing of its publication.

The draft programme says: 'The Labour Party has been in government since 1945 in the form of the Labour and Co-operative Government. It has had a Labour majority in parliament since 1945. The cabinet has always included at least one Labour MP.'

The cabinet system was designed to control the working class. The centre aims to make sacrifices, the working class to make sacrifices, the working class to make sacrifices.

WHAT made the Labour Party rat on all its fine promises? Can they be stopped from rating again?

When Labour came to power in 1964, the first thing they did was to try to prove they were in power to be good boys. After all, they had won a landslide victory and had the opportunity to change things for the better.

Firstly, they had to ensure that Britain’s economy was on the right track. They needed to create jobs and ensure that wages were adequate to meet the cost of living.

The government then turned its attention to social issues, implementing policies to improve the living standards of the people.

The Labour Party made a number of promises during the election campaign, such as reducing unemployment, increasing public spending on health and education, and improving housing conditions. However, once in power, the party struggled to deliver on these promises.

The government’s record on these issues was generally poor. Employment rose and unemployment fell. However, inflation soared, pushing up living costs. Social services continued to suffer from underfunding, with hospitals, schools, and other public services struggling to cope with increased demand.

The government’s failure to deliver on these promises led to a loss of support, and in the general election of 1966-70, the Labour Party was narrowly defeated by the Conservative Party.

The lesson for the Labour Party is that promises alone are not enough. They must be backed up by实际行动, and the party must work hard to deliver on its promises to the electorate.

Vicious

Why Labour Surrendered

In opposition the Labour Party talks about socialism and equality. But in power, Labour is the party of organised capitalism. It is essential to the survival of capitalism in Britain. In 1945 millions of voters sickened by the Labour government’s profiteering, by useless slaughter, elected a Labour government with enthusiastic enthusiasm. As one militant put it: “We voted for revolution and get the Labour Party.”

The Labour Party siphoned off that enthusiasm and created disillusion and despair in its place. Because Labour, working within a system of profit, could not help but fail in its purpose. The Labour Party is an essential safety valve for the system. So now that millions of workers are looking at the system and seeing its weaknesses and corruption, Labour turns its leftward face towards us.

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A Whiff of Burning Books

Tucked away in the legal proposals of the government's Trade and Industry policy that followed the publication of an "opinion article on the government's approach to a "cultural goods" strategy".

What is the government's approach to protecting and promoting cultural goods?

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DO YOU SINCERELY WANT TO KILL PEOPLE?

ARE you reading those long winter evenings? Have you nothing to look forward to except nights in front of the telly watching murder, genocide, rape, pornography and Lord Longford?

Do you want to get a bit of the action for yourself? Do you feel that you’re missing out when you could be shooting Israelis, expelling Ugandan Asians or napalming South East Asia?

Well Socialist Worker has found the ideal way to involve you in the events that have turned the world into the blazing shambles it is today.

Don’t get worried though, you’ll still be safe in your front porch thanks to Infinity Communications Limited of Chalton Street, London NW1, the proud inventors of ‘The Pentagon Game’.

Iffy say hon Kim Cuthbertson, is one of a group of companies producing games for ‘adults’.

“We’ve designed the game for people in this country and understand what is going on in Indo-China.”

And of course to make a few shilling on the side for the directors of Infinity Communications Limited

'We are tired of the increased wages they have been forced to accept.'

The software is said to convey the current conflicts between capital and labour, with war, fascism, the common market and the industrial revolution all becoming ink blots over the survival of capitalism itself.

The book isn’t without faults, the writers argue that their book isn’t just about the British economy but too often it is. It’s too simple, for example, to say that the Industrial Relations Act 1971 just introduced between police and pickets.

The thinking behind the Act has deep roots in the outlook of this country and its introduction now was seriously delayed.

Mess

Similarly, the profits squeeze doesn’t automatically transform the class struggle into a war of survival. Whether this is or not depends precisely on the political awareness and strategy of the working-class movement.

And this doesn’t just mean making aware of the mess the bosses are and acting on it. Being a socialist means understanding the way people think now, meaning the difference between the ruling class and the working class, and having understood it, acting to change it.

The book’s shortcomings don’t make it any less worth reading, even if it is half-hearted. We may not have a wealth of detail and the history in it but it is a good analysis. It is a sign of the growing movement among workers which must continue if we are to succeed in developing a coherent revolutionary strategy.
The International Socialists is a democratic organisation whose membership is flexible and whose members pursue its aims, principles and who are willing to pay contributions and to work in one of its organisations. We believe in independent working-class education and training of the working class and its replacement by a classless society through the education and training for use and not for profit. We strive to make the mass organisations of the working class and are firmly committed to a policy of internationalism. Capitalism is international. The giant firms make investments throughout the world and even the great social security systems are mutually beneficial and the economic system they maintain.

In Europe, the Common Market has been formed for the purpose of increasing the trade and profits of these multinational firms. The International Socialists can only be overcome by international action on the working class. A single socialist state cannot economically survive unless workers of other countries actively come to its aid by extending the socialist revolution.

In addition to building a revolutionary socialist organisation in this country we believe that this is the necessity of building a world revolutionary socialist international, independent of oneself, Washington or Moscow. To this end we strive for relationships with a number of other socialist organisations throughout the world. We believe in the necessity to unite revolutionary activity with the day-to-day struggles of working people and therefore it is our task to point these struggles to tend to improve the position and self-confidence of the working class.

We fight:
For rank and file control of the trade unions and the democratic election of all full-time officials.
Against secret negotiations. We believe that all settlements should be subject to and rejected by mass meetings.
For 100 per cent trade unionism and the defence of shop stewards.
Against anti-trade union laws and any curb on the right to strike, whether the strikes are official or unofficial.
Against productivity deals and job evaluation and the trade union treatment and joint shop stewards committees both in principle and in practice.
For equal pay and a better deal for young workers.
For a minimum wage of at least 20p a week.
Against unemployment, redundancy and layoffs. We support the claim: five days' work or five days' pay.
For all workers in struggle, we seek to build militant groups within industry.
Against racialism and police victimisation of black workers.
Against immigration restriction.
For the right of coloured people and all oppressed groups to organise in their own defence.
For real social, economic and political equality for women.
Against all nuclear weapons and military alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact.
Against secret diplomacy.
Against all forms of imperialism. We unconditionally give support to solidarity with the drive for national liberation movements.
For the nationalisation of the land, banks and major industries without compensation and under workers control.
We are opposed to all ruling class policies and organisations. We work to build a revolutionary workers party in this country and to support the unity of all revolutionary groups.
The struggle for revolution is the central struggle of our times. Workers' power and a world based on human solidarity, on the increasing of man's power over nature and the increasing of the power of man over man, is certainly worth fighting for.
It is no use just talking about it. More than a century ago Karl Marx wrote: "The philosophers have merely interpreted the world. The point is to change it."

What to do?
Copy for What's On must arrive at first post Monday or be phoned Monday, 2 p.m. Sandown library. Deadline Wednesday, 2 p.m. Display 10 p.m. CASH WITH COPY. No charge without payment. Incorrect cannot be sent.

A SÉRIOS split has grown among workers at UCS on the question of continuing the struggle. It is a danger which has been on the cards for some time.

The 4100 workers at the old Gowan Shipyards, now known as UCS, have been on strike since 1969. The new owner of the Clydebank yard, Gowan Shipbuilders, has promised to opener the strike by 200 jobs for Clydebank workers. This leaves 1300 men for the dispute. A mass meeting of all ex-UCS workers last week discussed the problems at Clydebank was boycotted by virtually the entire Gowan Shipbuilders workforce. The meeting decided to continue the "work-in" and to organise the 700 workers who are working in Gowan Shipbuilders. The meeting was closed on the demand for a strike ballot.

In recent meetings, the Gowan Shipbuilders have made an announcement that they will resign if the Gowan Shipbuilders workers abandon the strike to save the Clydebank workers' jobs.

There are several reasons for the split apart from the obvious one that the Gowan Shipbuilders have a different policy. Firstly when Marathon took over the Clydebank yard, the workers there received redundancy payments since they were to be re-employed in a different industry. (Marathon builds oil rigs, while the Gowan Shipbuilders make designs.) The Gowan Shipbuilders have promised to pay off the redundancies of the workers who sign on with the Gowan Shipbuilders and not to follow the Gowan Shipbuilders into the agreements which lay down compulsory arbitration and penalty clause.

The Gowan Shipbuilders have a new owner and they have obviously got massive support. Instead the leaders against the workers is are seeing the evidence of their fear of the industrialists and the workers' movement and they are seeking to direct confrontation with the Tension. When Marathon decided to take over Clydebank in July, the "work-in" was stopped and separate discussions took place with Marathon and Gowan Shipbuilders on wages and conditions. Marathon was able to blackmail the union into accepting an agreement which lays down compulsory arbitration and penalty clause. The Gowan Shipbuilders have imposed wages from the field of negotiation.

Now, with the workforce already 1200 fewer than at the time of liquidation, another 1000 men have been threatened. Marathon has said that it hopes to be able to employ everybody and the Gowan Shipbuilders have stated that there is the chance of obtaining a conversion order before the end of the year. Even if this depends on orders flowing in and since there are an ever-growing number of companies entering the rig-building business, they are almost certain to find that the Gowan Shipbuilders have already had a share of the market. Glasgow already has one man in nine out of work, and that is before the winter. In a recent survey, the Gowan Shipbuilders' attack on the question is long overdue, and a move in their direction could mean a showdown with the Tension.

Now the Reformation has begun for the Clydebank workers threatened by Marathon and the Gowan Shipbuilders are trying to force the responsibility of socialists to make it a reality.

An anti-apartheid meeting at the Labour Party Conference, 1000 Westminster, London, on Thursday, September 17.

COMRADE, with care, needed to lake Sociology. Applicants should have A-level. Salary attractive Must be available. Please telephone 01 310 8491.

ADVANCE, rank and file supply workers' paper—from 68 Fountain Rd, Stretford.

PROTEST:
WHAT'S ON

WHAT'S ON

WHAT'S ON

WHAT'S ON

WHAT'S ON

WHAT'S ON

WHAT'S ON
THE RENTS BATTLE
Row over 'unfair' rent aid

A BIG ROW blew up between the Independent Television Authority and the-, National Union of Miners over the Fair Rents Act.

But Anthony Crossland, Labour's spokesman on housing, designed to his old mate Herbert Bowden, 24-Labour MP and now supporters, head the Aneurin Bevan Party, pointing out that to call the Act the Fair Rents Act is a gross distortion of the truth.

After being shown for only three days in the House of Commons, no doubt they will be reintroduced this week in another form.

NEATH-Tenants are 'going it alone' against the Tory rent act after the council decided by one vote to implement the act.

Nine tenants' associations have formed a federation which last weekend held a 600 strong march through the town. A mass meeting was held at the general strike throughout the area.

The federation, an executive committee member of the South West mining waters, told the meeting that the National Union of Miners would take industrial action if any individual was put under pressure or if any adviser, leader or member of the Labour group on the Greenwood Council, if trying to implement the Act, said: "As we are an authority we are prepared to support the miners. The government, the Tory government, which is reducing the miners, is responsible for the situation." 

GOOLE-The council is dithering about implementing the second rent increase this week, before the rent act is due to come into force.

Old Goole Tenants' Resistance Association have written to the council's members to cover the estate and delegate of the council to meet union officials and branches.

The drains were designed to meet the needs of the streets in which they have supported.

BIRMINGHAM-The Labour council last week postponed the rent increases on the rents up. Despite Environment Minister Peter Weatherill's threat that they would be in contempt of court, the council voted by 23 to 11 on Wednesday that until 3 October.

Prospective tenants and trade unions prepared plans this week to fight rent rises. The organisation is being discussed by the council on Housing Commissioner.

DONCASTER-A senator moving in the Doncaster council of the National Union of Miners, one of the few not implementing the rent increases, was warned by local trade unionists, who heard a speech against rent increases at the Rye, which was the miners' union joint tenants association in Yorkshire.

Sheffield- Tenants on the Blythe Moor and Halsbury estates in Sheffield have decided to go ahead with rent increases. The council hope to rally support in other areas of the town while the tenants are not in opposition to the scheme, he was told into a false and unfair rent strike, and council, which had the fight against implementation and then collapsed in August.

LONDON-A rally against the rent increase has been organised for November. This Square on Sunday 1st November. It is to be held by the National Association of Tenants and Residents, the week tenancy associations established by the TUC and not for its military.

NOTTINGHAM-Tenants on the Belvoir estate in Nottingham have joined the rent strike. The council has voted to withdraw their £1.04 increase.

GATEHEAD-St Cuthbert and Charnwall Tenant Association has voted to withdraw the increase.

BARNLEY-At a meeting on the Act, the Labour candidate in the constituency, Jim Scargill, a leading militant in the miners' union, accused the council of being a midnight strike. He stressed that with the solidarity and support of miners the council will lose the general election in the county.

In a movement in favour of the miners, victory, the Tory rent act set to claims to be straightforward.

Percy Riley, secretary of the NUM Joint Tenants Association, said: "We will not accept the National Union of Miners response so far. We must stop this ridiculous rise, otherwise a rent increase is a wage cut," he said.

NEW COURTS JUST A SHOESCREEN

from Mike Miller, Belfast

THE introduction of special courts as the 'alternative' to imprisonment has been welcomed by every newspaper in Ireland outside the republican and socialist camp.

Although the Social Democratic and Labour Party has also endorsed the idea we can be certain that it is not from priests or out of any great consensus for the purposes of gaining for the leaders' future as politicians depend on effective social control.

When these courts were introduced to away at deviant acts into the heart of Ireland the SDLT stayed away. When some reformers expressed their disapproval in Jack Lynch's Curragh concentration camp, it was claimed the SDLT made no moves on their behalf.

The SDLT silence on exclusion in the South is an indication of their belief that the ruling class is interested in power if British economic imperialism is a fact of life.

British readers should not be fooled by the huge propaganda campaign which has been launched to sell special courts as a way to prevent a drive to trial. In fact they open the door to every type of violent crime.

The absence of judges will ensure that opposition political infighting totally will not have a force to hand to repress any movement. The holding of the secret will enable that despotic class will get on to come into their own. The relaxation of the law by the SDLT to the present capture bunches to begin extracting information which can be used in the knowledge that they will be now from open courts.

VIOLENCE

Now that Whitelaw has a widely acceptable alternative to imprisonment he is going to use the special courts with maximum activity once more. Such have been seen in the SDLT, the Navy, the State Security, the Special Powers Act to cover the written and spoken attacks on the social conditions and an added incentive to pick off their political enemies.

Whitelaw has stated that the special courts are used to try those who attack violence as well as those who slightly are part of it, in recent months the most public and conspicuous of these have been those of the Unionist camp itself.

The British government are now ready to eradicate the enemies of Unions and has admitted that the support of the unionists is the body of men, whose trust will be to resist any settlement with which they do not agree. John Taylor has called for the distribution of guns to even more people than they have already, and has publicly threatened rebellion and widespread bloodshed if Unionist Party demands are not met.

The Ulster Defense Association, according to the army, has been engaged in gun battles with the British forces. Yet the prime minister of the UDA appears openly on television and radio, and makes the time to visit the army camp to meet with the British officers.

The army is well aware that soldiers are facing attempted murder charges and from which soldiers have been granted in cold blood.

The UDA is a not only legal, but it is armed and trained by the British government. The UDA and on friendly terms with the army. Vanguard is legal. The Belfast Daily Telegraph is legal.

Yet all these organisations are closely linked with the most severe sectarian violence there has ever been.

No said-Unionist for one moment recognises that special courts are going to deal with Craig, Taylor, Faithful, or any of the other things of the extreme right wing. Fear from being designed to come up with the 'men of violence', these courts are simply going to be imprisonment with trial instead of without it, aimed as always at republicans and socialists alike.

Last Sunday, in one of the biggest demonstrations to have taken place here, the nationalist minority expressed their total rejection of these new repressive measures. The demonstration was addressed by representatives of the Civil Rights Association, the Trade Unionists' Defence Committee, the Irish Congress of Trades Unions, The Irish Congress of Trades Unions, and then called for by the Ulster Workers' Council. The army did not intervene to prevent the peace march proceeding.

But although the opposition to special courts is widespread within the Catholic community, much of the drive has gone from the resistance movement.

NEED

This is because many people are still not clear just what Whitelaw is here and what he is doing. Many express sympathy with his 'healism' of trying to placate the Catholics while dealing with the Protestants, or not alienating the loyalists too far. The fact is that few recognise the need to go beyond anything that Whitelaw might have offered.

Many people are saying that Whitelaw will have to talk to the republicans at some point, but few have any idea what they are prepared to say, or what they should get out of Ireland.

You cannot negotiate imperialism out of existence, nor can you blow it out of existence. The only way imperialism will ever be defeated in Ireland is when the working class of all the 32 counties get power into their own hands.

Imagine the possibility of a people's republic, or the possibility of the people's power of the state. If this is what it means to end an empire.

It is not the task of the working class, to fight for the short-term solutions to the problems of imperialism—which is what Whitelaw's 'healism' is about. This can be no genuine civil rights or national rights movement that departs from this side of social revolution.

SETBACK FOR CAR WORKERS' JOBS FIGHT

WHILE British Leyland workers at Longbridge are fighting for jobs, other workers in the combine have the chance to find work with the company's attempt to cut out the workforce as a result of the factory's closure.

Last week 2000 workers at the Cowley, Coventry, Morris plants and the Flint, Newark and Pleasley factories, which are not being employed there in three years time.

The redundancies at Thornycroft's are the tip of the iceberg—the whole workforce are fighting back. The whole combine must be mobilised in their support.

Donations and messages of support to: Roy Jones, Joint Occupation Comittee, Transport Equipment (Thornycroft), Basingstoke, Hants.

Keeping tabs on the bosses

WHAT size wage rise will keep up with recent price increases? What are the XLS LA's plans for redundancy? What's the cost to priority groups in the manufacturing?

Last Saturday 20 International Socialists met in London to start ISIS an IS group for redundancy and other such questions.

The meeting opened a research register and launched a few pilot projects for future publications. The group also decided to invite questions from regional sections of the movement and applications for enrolment on the short term solutions to the problems of imperialism—which is what Whitelaw's 'healism' is about. This can be no genuine civil rights or national rights movement that departs from this side of social revolution.

I would like more information about the International Socialists

Name

Address

Send to: IS, 6 Cottages Gardens, London E2 8DN

Bid to deport victim of US frame-up

AN ATTEMPT was made this week to deport to the United States a Taiwanese opponent of dictator Chiang Kai-shek. Tsu Tai Chieng, who took part in a New York demonstration two years ago against a visit by the dictator's son, would face a 30-year prison sentence on trumped-up charges if deported.

Chang was jailed by the police during the demo after he went to the help of another demonstrator who was being beaten up. During the demonstration one shot was fired, and someone else later attacked by the police.

Nevertheless, a year later Chang found himself in court charged with attempted murder and illegal possession of a gun.

To avoid this virtual life sentence, he jumped bail and fled to Sweden. But the Swedish government decided to deport him back to the US and he was sentenced to a prison, although he was unconscious and seriously ill after a hunger strike. When the plane landed in London, he was considered too ill to continue the fight.

He has been recovering from his illness, but the US government has determined to send him back to an American prison.

When his wife, Cecilia Chang, arrived in London on Monday for the extradition hearing the next day, she had to face three hours of harassment and interrogitations by the immigration authorities.

Pickets and contacts are needed now. Write to Tsu Tai Chieng Defence Campaign, 3125 Goldsmith Road, London N7.
STRIKING ENGINEERS TAKE OVER OFFICES

by John Deson, AUEW

WIGAN: —The Wigan workers who seized their factory a fortnight ago after a week of conventional strike have been backed by the firm's workers at Bushey who occupied their factory's office block this week.

All four factories in the group—Bury, Bolton and Wigan—have been on strike since the Bolton workers were locked out, but began as a fight for a wage increase has developed into one for job security.

In the past 18 months the group has lost the Bury works in Wigan and destroyed 500 jobs in the closure of the Lodge Rack works in Bury has been announced since the strike started.

The success of the Wigan works followed a two-day mass picketing and police harassment. George Naylor, Engineering Union shop steward, said: "The takeover was a direct result of the action of the rank and file. Early on Monday morning's pickets determined to keep a side door open. The 50 or so pickets simply took over the building and charged it.

GUARD

The police superintendent made it quite clear that they were prepared to come in and forcibly eject us. But a number of higher management who was present restrained the police. By midday we had complete control of the factory. For the first day or two of the battle the lockout was a bit chaotic, but we are now well organized and able to deal with any attempt to kick us out.

This is a most important test case for the future of shop-floor organisation in engineering. The workers in Roly's are setting an example to all employers. Their decision to back Wigan management is in tune with the trend of employers everywhere. At the Bury works, police kept a constant watch to prevent another takeover.

In the meantime the Bury and Bolton district committee of the Engineering Union have organised official lists. In Millwall, other factories are following suit for a series of one-day solidarity strikes. But the union's Wigan district committee has been particularly slow in moving. In spite of resolutions from branches, they still have not organised an official district strike.

The role of Wigan district secretary Bill Burns, JP, has been decisive. He has only 100 yards from the factory, yet has not visited it since the occupation. When stewards visited him on the morning of the takeover at 6.30, he told them: "Don't bother me, I don't work until nine o'clock."

Thankfully, the strikers themselves recognise that winning such struggles is not a one-off victory. A joint meeting of workers from all four factories rejected a management offer on Tuesday and voted to keep up the fight.

Support is urgently needed. Donations and messages to: AUEW office, 12 St Mary's Place, Bury.

Textile occupation goes on

GREAT YARMOUTH—The strike at the defence contractors on the Gainsborough Yard, owned by the Great Eastern Yards and tricks, is continuing. Last Saturday there was another march and a coffee morning attended by 340 workers who were placed on the town hall steps, to the amusement of 300 on the 4 estate.

The occupation committee is now trying to contact the Defence Secrecy in which Itsyrite is trying to remove workers and stop of the state. But the Negroes have remained in Vitsyri.

A letter put out by the committee argues that this struggle is part of the national fight against unemployment.

90 sacked for joining strike

BLACKPOOL—All 90 apprentices who were sacked for joining the 600 workers in their six-week strike against low piecework rates. Management was said to have started at the new lower rates before any negotiations over the offer for £3 on the basic and a 379/- weekly hour.

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