Reality behind Heath call for wage restraint

by Jim Kincaid

THE HEATH GOVERNMENT has brought about the biggest redistribution of income in favour of the rich that has occurred in Britain this century. This is the reality behind the demand for wage restraint and incomes policy: while workers and their pay claims are put under the spotlight and blamed for inflation, the rich quietly get richer.

Last year the value of ordinary shares in the United Kingdom rose by a mind-bending £11,100 millions. Happy days for the richest 1 per cent of the population who, according to the latest figures, own 1 per cent of all stocks and shares.

The workers, despite the highest level of strikes since 1926, did not do quite so well. Manual workers-two-thirds of the adult population-increased their wages by a total of £2,500 millions less than one-ninth of what the capitalists got.

In the various Budgets and mini-Budgets since June 1970, the lucky quarter of a million people with incomes of more than £5000 a year have shared the benefit of direct tax cuts amounting to £400 million a year. This enormous handout could have been used to raise the old-age pension by £1.30 for every one of the seven million pensioners in Britain.

The Chancellor has used a wide variety of techniques to raise the living standards of the struggling upper classes. In 1971 Barber decided that for tax purposes it could be assumed that the wealthy no longer died in families. Husbands, wives and children can now choose to be taxed as if they were separate individuals, each earning alone.

Thus a single block of wealth can be parcelled out among the various members of a family who are then presented to the Inland Revenue as an unconnected series of relatively low incomes and taxed at lower rates.

The abolition of the upper class family costs the Exchequer about £37 millions a year.

No tax is easier to evade than Estate Duty—provided you can afford the services of an enterprising and imaginative accountant. But to make it even easier, since 1970 the minimum size of estate on which death duties start to operate has been raised by a massive 50 per cent.

The cost to the Exchequer is £143 millions a year. A further £15 million a year has been given to those inheriting property by the abolition of capital gains on shares sold at a profit.

Both for earned and for unearned income, the level at which duties starts to bite has been raised by a large margin. Already assets was a minor item in the tax budget, providing only 1.5 per cent of government revenue. These changes reduce the revenue for assets by about £146 million a year. The tax payments of asset-payers have been cut further by £150 millions as a result of the increase in personal and child allowances.

The tax system has been reorganised in favour of property owners in other ways, too. An effort to plug up the profitability of British capitalism there have been substantial cuts in company taxation. In 1971, the Selective Employment Tax was halved.

CONCESSION

And Corporation Tax, which is levied directly on business profits, was cut by 26 per cent. These two concessions have been worth more to the Exchequer than annualising £400 millions a year and have been a significant factor in the 17 per cent rise in business profits in the last 12 months.

A large part of these increased government revenue have been met directly at the expense of workers and their families. About £145 million a year was saved by the abolition of cheap welfare milk and free school meals for children between the ages of 7 and 11, by the increases in detail and prescription charges and by the steep increase in the price of school meals.

The total raised by the workers’ share of the national insurance stamp was increased by £370 millions a year in 1971 and by a further £31 millions starting this autumn.

The only tax concession made to workers was the £1 a week reduction in income tax which was introduced last month. Many councils transfer the benefit of this reduction to tenants by reducing rent increases in improving rent rises.

The latest council rents and other benefits is summarized in the table below.

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Rents battle special: centre pages
Martial law as president aims for dictatorship

The Philippines is a gangster society, dominated by the 100 richest families who own 90 per cent of the wealth. It is suffering from the results of the 1969 election, at which President Marcos succeeded in the public purse-pants to stay in power. There is a calculated rice shortage: rice is the basic element in the diet of half the population, and supplies are now being cut off and growing urban slums, a rising crime rate, and a growing sense of alienation among the rich. Last week martial law was declared.

The hand-outs of election year have now been described as economic stimuli in currency reserves and a regime slump, for there are jumping from 15 to 25 per cent per year.

The regime, which is dependent on a system of patronage which gives Marcos and his immediate family large incomes, is using the military as a weapon to bolster its power. The president has already announced that he will not tolerate any criticism of his policies, and that any who do so will be arrested.

The regime is planning to use the military to seize power if there is any attempt to oust Marcos from office.

The Philippines is a gangster state, with the police and the military closely linked.

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Pardon?

ONE small ray of sunshine for opponents of the Tory government is the amazing number of buffoons in the Heath administration who would be hard pressed to pass the intelligence test for the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Even that most respectable of Tory papers, The Times, has been forced to point out that Chancellor Barber’s grasp of economics leaves a little to be desired, but the Freekold Food is a veritable Einstein compared to some of his colleagues.

Take Maurice Macmillan, the Employment Minister. Asked to explain the £2 wage freeze on television last week, he stumbled on unconvincingly about inflationary wage rates and then attempted to tackle the following question posed by his interviewer: ‘Would a 5 per cent price freeze damage profits, particularly as many industrialists are already complaining about low profits making investment in new machinery difficult?’

Mac’s eye went up. He knew the answer to that one. ‘Ah, there’s no problem there, he said. Plenty of money has been borrowed to be borrowed for investment purposes. So there you have it, all your industrialists being caged up into accepting the idea of “incomes policy” and severe restraint: there’s plenty of money around. A government minister says so.

Not to be outdone, Julian Amery, the Housing Minister, explained to the world last week why the government has decided to take no action to clamp down on overcrowded houses and land prices. He admitted that house prices had risen by 17 per cent in the first half of the year and land prices by 20 per cent, figures that forced even the Conservative Party to describe the situation as “a rising sea.”

Amery who asked if he didn’t think it hard for ordinary people to swallow price restraint when they saw cottages being built out of housing and land. Rising to the full

with his family clutching his sole remaining possession, a sewing machine. Customs officials, with their accustomed dignity, had $40 duty on the machine. Mr Mahta had no money so the machine was seized.

FOLLOWING in the footsteps of industry, a town and motion study scheme launched at the Hill Crematorium in Nottinghamshire. The panel of Nottingham and Derby has said that stoppage furloughs in any management without the realisation of the fact that services are “allowed. Our scout says the situation looks very grave.

REMEMBER the fanfare of trumpets when the terms of the Industrial Relations Act were first announced. How they offered a new blueprint for workers against such宣传活动 is not dismissed.

The Act hasn’t worked out that way you wouldn’t be astonished to learn that 79.2 per cent of unfair dismissal complaints in the first quarter of 1973 were 26 per cent of those that reaching tribunals were settled in favour of the employer. The Act provides that compensation of up to 10 per cent may be awarded the average in recent cases has been £150.

As a publicity stunt, the US Army set up a recruiting office at the Republican Convention in Miami last month. Recruiting Sergeant Roy Gaffney persuaded 12 Republicans to enlist. Alas, the gnomish mirth, Nine of the 13 failed the army’s elementary intelligence test.

PTF

ALL the ballyhoo about suspending the Seamen’s and Bank Employees from the 1967 workers that have been overlooked some of the other mighty battalions that have been overlooked recently.

As the National Union of Dock and District Card Bowers and Ring Spinners. And we mustn’t forget the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers, Cabinet Makers, and Gilders, Twistmakers, and Drawers, Blacksmiths, and Trainmen.

It must give enormous satisfaction to Ted Heath, the biggest beaming twinkle of them all, to know that from now on he can have his ring song by a genuinely registered trade unionist.

Flying high

YOU’d think from watching tellies that the Ugandan Asians airlifted to Bola on so-called “mercy flight” were being flown free by the generous, humanitarian aircraft houses. Not so. The airlines are charging £110 per passenger. £30 more than the usual charter flight rate. The combined profit for all the airlines is expected to be in the region of £1.5 million.

The refugees have to pay for their flights on departure. The cost, plus Airline’s policy of grabbing their savings, means that most of them are now on the orders of £300.

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editorial
Newspapers conspire to keep the secrets gag

YOUR EDITORIAL on incomes policy (23 September) went some way to counter the government's smokescreen that must necessarily surround this well tested ruling-class policy.

It had, however, a very serious failing. Incomes policy is polls and propaganda weapon in the battle of the bosses and their government. It is aimed at dividing the working class and the politicians that live off our backs. In short, it seeks to blame the well-organised sections of the class like workers and students, for the plight of the poor, the sick and the old. The result of this last week is proof enough of the way the bosses and the bosses' government have been able to use the tactic.

The government know full well that no voluntary wages freeze will prevent the ruling class from going for higher wages but it does seek to isolate these sections from the rest of the labour movement by talk of the national interest, millions of pounds to save this or that.

As you rightly say it is the duty of socialists to point out that only through militant action, and with better conditions, that all talk of prizes and dividends being saved will ring hollow to the workers if it were true we have to answer our cry of no more cuts; their money is paid to us all together to bake a bigger cake) with the bosses.

We don't want a bigger slice, we want the cut out. MAL COLLINS (CPM), Coventry.

CHINA AND SOCIALISM

THE readers who enquire (30 September) whether IS denounces that China can play a progressive role are asking the wrong question. Of course socialists will often give support to regimes heading the way of the working class and to states that are not workers states.

But the basis for this is not the consciousness of capitalists in former states as in which states are classed as 'Socialist' or 'Social Democratic'. The issue is not with whom we work but with what we work for. To use the conscious socialist working class against the bourgeoisie is a socialist tradition - working class internationalism - and more so today than in the past.

Socialists have to look at the complex situation in China and internationally and look at each case, considering the historical situation and the tasks at hand.

In an article in the socialist weekly World, Edward Thompson states, "It might seem that imperialism and we would have opposed any attempt by Russia to enter the imperialist war...

But what has been the result of China's attempt to break with both Russia and the USA in foreign policy? It has made a series of alliances with the aim of isolating China, and proceeded to go against support for all groups and individuals in China.

China is using all possible means to control the world economy and to advance China's interests, and to suppress all opposition to its rule. China is using all possible means to control the world economy and to advance China's interests, and to suppress all opposition to its rule. China is using all possible means to control the world economy and to advance China's interests, and to suppress all opposition to its rule. China is using all possible means to control the world economy and to advance China's interests, and to suppress all opposition to its rule.

Class interest immigration

IF your argument regarding the admission of unskilled workers to Britain is correct then the Tory government is the most racist of all. In your reply to Tony Galley (23 September) you fail to apply the basic socialist criterion - a class analysis. If the Tory government, supported by the Labour leaders, are so stupid to bring their Asian stooges here, it is because they represent the interests of the ruling class.

Opposition to the 'British' Asian coming here has nothing to do with racism. It is a general attack on the working class. The Asian workers here are very welcome, but their problem is one of getting a job.

As you say in the column below, the working class is in the vanguard of the European working class and is leading the fight against the unskilled workers. The British Asian workers are leading the fight against the unskilled workers. The British Asian workers are leading the fight against the unskilled workers.

False testament

I PROTEST about the Old Testament item in Cottons York (30 September). The distorted account of the book and of God and religion will facilitate social justice, you are perfectly correct that it is a "mistake".

I am repeating the same in-idea. Of course the Injection of Protestant rectification and of Protestant attacks on the Old Testament is wrong. But surely one must explain the Old Testament in the religious press, and if your careful political analysis suggests that mocking God and religion will facilitate social justice, you are perfectly correct that it is a "mistake".

What I find quite reprehensible, however, is the trick of picking of items in the Old Testament book and of mocking the Old Testament in the religious press, and if your careful political analysis suggests that mocking God and religion will facilitate social justice, you are perfectly correct that it is a "mistake".

False testament
**RACIALISM IN BRITAIN**

Derek Humphry

*Police Power and Black People*

To many blacks in our city, police harassment has become a way of life. The police are viewed as the first army of the enemy, which is the immigration-controlling, arms to South Africa-selling, friend-of-Jamaica-Smith British government.

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**CHALLENGE**

Dorothy said there were few women in the organization at present but there is a women's group with important work to do. "Of course, the basic interests of men and women are the same," she said, "but in particular a lot of BPP men need to have their attitudes challenged. So far the women's group has concentrated mainly on discussion and speaking to meetings." We asked them how they powered the charge that settling up a separate black organization was a drinking tactic. They replaced that the first phase in any group's development is to gain self-confidence. They have found that this cannot be done by first joining a white group. We consider we have a particular job to do and in any case some white groups are unconsciously racist in their attitudes towards the problems and struggles of black people.

We work for unity of black people. At the same time we are looking for a working relationship with white groups where this is possible."
The Great Rents Battle

Involve all tenants through the key to victory

by HUGH KERR

ONLY a well-organised and militant tenants' organisation can hope to fight effectively against rent rises. Some of the important points in building the tenants' movement can be gained from experience.

Maximum involvement of all tenants: This is crucial. A tenants' organisation that speaks for only a few activists will never achieve anything. But getting tenants involved isn't easy. You must begin with maximum publicity on the estate: leaflets through every door, regular meetings, both evening meetings in a hall and street meetings at weekends.

A petition rounds the doors which commits the tenants to action should be used. Many tenants' associations produce their own newsletters telling tenants what is happening locally and nationally. The structure of tenants' associations should allow for one representative from each street on to the committee so that everybody in that street knows who to go to for information.

Union backing

Direct action and sit-ins and marches can also be used but experience shows that many people will not travel far from their estate for this type of event. Getting the backing of the local trade union movement is, therefore, essential. A tenants' successful rent strikes in the past have nearly always been supported by the trade unions.

Many tenants' associations have Joint Action Committees with local unions or delegate to local union branches on their committee. However, it is done, the maximum support should be obtained to make sure that all leaflets and newsletters go round the local factories. Get every trade union branch to give their support in moral and financial terms.

The support of all important, get your local shop stewards committees to promise industrial action to support your tenants. The threat of industrial action should be used to protect tenants being intimidated by councils when they are on rent strike.

Rent strikes - how to organise them: The rent strike is the only effective weapon that tenants can use to fight the rent rises. But it is not an easy weapon to use. It is of little use unless a large number of tenants can be involved. A rent strike with 50 or 100 tenants will quickly collapse.

Partial or total rent strikes: This is another question that tenants raise and the answer must depend on the local situation. If you have power support from the tenants, then a total rent strike has advantages. It is easier to enforce as a rent increase.

Bykidiging the rent offices or ' vacancy the rent collector you get a good idea of how the support is going.

In terms of forcing on confrontation with the government, the more rent strikes the better.

But it is a big step for people to withhold the full rent and many tenants' associations are going for partial rent strikes this month.

It is important that everyone must know the numbers on strike, for the councils are at back and hope that they will decline over time.

One good way of maintaining solidarity and contact is to collect the rent through the tenants' organisations, either the full rent (if on a total rent strike) or the rent increase. But to do this you must have a very good organisation with a separate bank account.

When the strike is won, the tenants can pay off the arrears minus the increase from the central collection.

A new factor in the rent strike from October will be that many of the tenants will be tenants in a Labour council.

Tenants' organisations should get a pledge that there will be no action taken against tenants withholding their rents. A number of Labour councils have given this pledge and few of them are likely to take any action against tenants on rent strike.

If a council does take action, it will be over a long period. First they will send progressively more threatening letters - one of types of letters - then they may send the bailiffs around to intimidate tenants into paying up.

There is a last resort plan they can go to a court for a possession order. But this takes six weeks and often always gives 28 days' notice.

New attacks

But even if we succeed in that, which would be a victory, we should have no illusions that the tenants' struggles will end there. New attacks will come at a later date from Tory and from Labour governments.

We must build the tenants' movement to resist these attacks. At the same time, we should draw the political lessons of the tenants' struggle.

There is no such thing as a 'Fair Rent' under capitalism with housing tied to the profit system. Until housing is under the control of tenants and trade unions, we will be exploited.

The tenants' battle is only one part of the struggle of working people to change society and establish a socialist system where we take the decisions and not the landlords, profits and speculators or their representatives, the Tory government.

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Centre desk bargain, £180
Pushover party that left tenants in lurch

WITH council rents, the Labour Party has turned out even more of a pushover than the government could have hoped. In the elections last May, Labour won back control of scores of local authorities on a promise to fight the rent increases planned by the Tories for this autumn.

The autumn has come and at the last count only 42 of the 1200 councils in England and Wales are beginning to raise the rents. But this gives only a tiny fraction of the estimates of the extent of real resistance. Birmingham for example is counted among the 42, though Councillor Rapp and his Labour colleagues have actually written to the government inviting it to send in a Commissioner to implement the rent increases.

With only a few exceptions, the 42 rent increases are in small places like Clay Cross in Derbyshire and Halstead in Essex, where local Labour parties still have some roots in working-class struggle.

In Scotland, the pressures of high unemployment and agrarian misery and housing problems have forced Labour to make more of a show of resistance. A further factor is that in Scotland a far higher proportion of the electorate live in council houses than in England and Wales.

Some 28 of the 47 Labour-controlled councils north of the Border are still holding out against the rent increases. But already this brings news of fresh victories.

Implored

This widespread collapse of effective resistance to the rent rises has been skillfully orchestrated by the national leadership of the Labour Party. Their campaign opened in earnest on 8 July when 500 Labour members of local housing committees were summoned to a conference in London organised by Transport House.

Anthony Crossland—the 'shaggy' looking captain—spoke at length the terrifying fate that awaited councillors who stood in the way of the rent increases. They would be stripped of their savings, their homes, jobs and their seats on the council.

The Labour Party, he warned, would not lift a finger to help any councillor who disobeyed the party line.

Crossland on this occasion was vigorously backed by the party chairman, Anthony Wedgewood Benn. He expressed the party's enthusiastic enthusiasm forgrass-roots organization. Benn implored the assembled councillors not to give the Tories any pretext for a campaign on the law and order issue.

The official Labour Party line, repeated endlessly throughout the summer, was that the only correct way to fight the Housing Act was to work for a
crosland: won't lift a finger
Labour government that would repel it.

If returned to power at the next election, Labour may well repel the Act. But, of course, they have given no undertaking to restore rents to the pre-1972 levels. Yet if the Tories are allowed to carry through the timetable they have planned, rents could be nearly twice the present level by 1975 when the next general election is due.

All along, Labour opposition to the rent rises has been undermined by the fact that the Pay Rent Act is a logical conclusion of the housing policies implemented by the recent Labour government. During their six years in office, the amount taken in rent from council tenants practically doubled.

And by far the major reason why rents were increased again and again under Labour was the mounting toll of interest charges which local authorities had to pay for cash borrowed to build houses. And this sums up the whole story.

The Wilson government was made to pay over its power on public sector financial interests in the city who were growing rich on high interest rates. The lending of money to local councils has become one of the safest and most lucrative investment opportunities in the city of London.

A loan of £500 million to build a council house will bring in an eventual return of £25,000 in interest—as well as repayment of the outlay. A sure-fire profit of 500 per cent.

When Labour took office in 1964 local authorities were paying 7.7 per cent for capital raised on the open market. Five years later the rate had risen to 8.5 per cent.

There is an agency under the direct control of the government that supplies loans to local authorities—the Public Works Loan Board. Labour increased the interest rate charged by the PWLB faster than rates rose in the commercial market, from 6 per cent in 1964 to an amazing 9.9 per cent in 1969.

Labour made only one feeble attempt to protect council tenants from exploitation through the mechanism of higher interest charges financed by higher rents.

This was the Housing Subsidies Act of 1967 that allowed local authorities to borrow money for new houses at only 4 per cent.

Monstrous

Whoever lost by this arrangement, it was not the money- lenders since the difference between the 4 per cent rate of interest and the 9.9 per cent rate of interest was met at the expense of the taxpayers. In any case the subsidy made little difference to the burden on local authorities. The 4 per cent applied only to borrowing for a house every 30 or more years.

The main factor behind repeated increases in council rents is the need to borrow and re- finance old debt to cover the monstrous debts that local authorities have built up since the last general election in 1970. Since the total amount of public sector finance was £235 million in 1965 to £840 million in 1970. Near all

Jim Kincaid
DANGER: new road ahead

ONE DAY, out of the blue, the local council announced that they were going to build a road into the village which would completely destroy the beauty and tranquility of the area. The residents were in shock and anger.

A few weeks later, a public meeting was held to discuss the proposal. Many people attended, but the majority were against it. They argued that the proposed road would destroy the local wildlife and that it was a mistake to develop such a pristine area.

But the council was undeterred. They went ahead with the construction, despite the protests. The road was opened soon after.

The results were catastrophic. The local wildlife and environment suffered greatly, and many residents were left feeling devastated.


do not cut short the road to socialism

by CHRISS HARMAN

But a different kind of problem arises for socialists. This concerns whether we should support individual actions against capitalism. It is a question of whether or not to support such actions as strikes or demonstrations.

The problem is that, in a society with such a high level of conflict, it is often difficult to determine the best way to proceed. The question is whether or not the best way to resolve the conflict is through peaceful means or through more violent ones.

The dilemma is that, on the one hand, we want to support those who are fighting against the system, but, on the other hand, we want to avoid escalating the conflict and causing more damage.

The solution to this dilemma is to support those who are fighting against the system, but to do so in a way that minimizes the risk of escalation. This means that we need to be careful about the tactics we use, and to ensure that we are not supporting actions that are likely to cause more harm than good.

The most effective way to support those who are fighting against the system is to provide them with the resources they need to carry out their work. This could include financial support, legal advice, and other forms of assistance. In this way, we can help them to carry out their actions without putting themselves and others at risk.

In conclusion, we need to be careful about the tactics we use when supporting those who are fighting against the system. We should support them in a way that minimizes the risk of escalation, but also ensures that they have the resources they need to carry out their work.
THE CITY's sounds are brutal and aggressive, imposing themselves on anyone who comes into its streets. Many of its residents, committed by their jobs to live in the city, measure their freedom by the frequency and accessibility of departures from it.

'But during the mid-Fifties, in one of the most populous sections of the city, the adolescents staked out their freedom in the streets... Rock and roll, with its enormous mass of popular culture to celebrate, with its violence and its muscularity, became a form of city life that had been among the most licentious. In rock and roll, the strident repetitive sounds of city life were, in effect, reproduced and magnified.'

So begins a brilliantly researched book by the author, a new generation was able to smash the music industry's 'establishment' and develop a music that reflected its own aggressive and confident response to the boredom of the decade.

The revolt was not merely musical: the music generated the broadest and most engrossing of all the 'new' trends. Hip检查 outlandish teddy boy clothes, peacock-americanised city-centre, working-class youth.

Let's begin to understand why America made this revolution in working-class culture. Its ascendency was achieved easily; behind it lay centuries of successive waves of immigrants.

Blues

The most oppressed of all has been the millions of black slaves, shipped from Africa to the Southern cotton states. 'Freedom' at the end of the Civil War only changed the form of oppression, and left many wandering the country starving and rootless. The most heartfelt expression of their misery was the blues, later adopted by American blacks to produce rhythm & blues and jazz.

Poverty-stricken rural whites, also in the South, developed hill-billy music, which later became country and western with the aid of the record companies.

Gillett is rightly not too concerned with early country music, but it is worth nothing that it has always had its radical side. In the 1920s some of its most famous exponents were members of the Communist Party (the 'IWW'), the Industrial Workers of the World. In the 1930s, the leading figures were the first singing cowboy, Harry Melton, later known as Roy Rogers, and the singing cowboys, the Candian Mountain, 'Hallelujah, Bum Again' and 'Les James' Gillett takes up the story where blues and hill-billy music were transformed into rock'n'roll. He identifies five early varieties of rock'n'roll:

Norther Band rock'n'roll — such as Bill Haley and Freddie Bell.

Haley's main innovation was to emphasise the rhythm section in his neo-country and western band, borrowing heavily from blues styles, and to develop a distorted chord. 'See ya later, alligator.'

New Orleans dance blues — such as Fats Domino and Little Richard.

By the mid-50s the variety of saxophones to great effect to give permanent growing support to a soloist.

Presley

Memphis country rock (rockabilly). Gillett thinks this is the most complete of the rock'n'roll styles. Sam Phillips's Sun recording label began with black performers such as Rufus Thomas, mainly uncles piano, guitar and sax. But after success with Elvis Presley's 'That's all right', Phillips abandoned black singers altogether and used white singers such as Presley, Carl Perkins and Jerry Lee Lewis. When Presley went to RCA-Victor, Charltte Atkins featured him with vocal groups and heavily amplified guitars and drums, separating him from his early country and western influence.

Chicago rhythm and blues. This music is often associated with the blues, but the 1960s blues revival led by the Rolling Stones. Throughout the 1950s the 'great' Chess and	

THE SOUND OF THE CITY  THE REBELS WHO ROCKED THE 50S

THE REBELS WHO ROCKED THE 50S

The first part of Gillett's book is titled 'They got what they wanted', and argues that finding their identity in rock'n'roll would not be foiled off with substitutes. Against the manipulation of the big companies they clung to the 'genuine' independents.

'But by the 1960s the major companies again had things under control. The independents had been either absorbed or bludgeoned. Most of those who had clandestinely tried to Radio Luxembourg, when the BBC had refused to broadcast rock’n’roll were aware that things were going wrong.'

At the time Gaido-Selkol was consolidating the Labour Party's movement rightwards away from working-class politics. But the trajectory was worrying about wasn't the diversity of Presley by RCA-Victor from the rebellion classic of 'Hound Dog' to the pseudo-operatic trivia of 'It's now or never'.

The rebellion was the clearest of all the important developments were at work within the working-class traditions. But class consciousness always finds some way to survive, and it is essential that we don't sink it.

Charlie Gillett's book has weaknesses, including at times reliance on the American sociology, but generally it is fine example of the sensitivity.

A few more twitching liberals

The Weekned World' (Sunday ITY 11.00am). London Weekend TV's long-promised, much vaunted, over-budgeted current affairs spectacular, ground to a depressing start last Sunday.

'It had no idea on how to deal with politics on television so simply re-organised the usual topical format for the late-night audience — the Forum Programmes and the Front Street Journal — into audio-commentary shows. (What The Pages Say, The Political Lamp, The Politics of Power, From the Front Line.)

The first of the programme was a studio discussion of what was tellingly described as 'the New Heath initiative on Homelessness'. As this paper has been predicting for months the £2 wage freeze has only been kept above water by a lot of sickening talk about how much the homeless' pensions are moved by the plight of the pensioners and the distance of the lower-paid.

Presumably this was a perfect chance to advance the debate.' It may have failed and the whole non-existent myth that if a Food worker writes for less, the axes cash finds its way into a pensioner's purse. But instead a studio full of spectators were put through their paces like so many sea lions in the circus.

In fact it's a truth to the right-wing Rock'n'roll affairs television that Weekend World's vintage 1962 Panorama-style Sherman should stand out at all. With the consistently brilliant World in Action now a military exception, the bulk of current affairs television appears to consist of films of William Whistler walking and lengthy interviews with leading capitalists about how they got their first million.

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**Bossses out to break rank and file**

by Dave Gibson and Neil Davies

The site shop stewards committee at Drax power station has launched a nationwide campaign to break the rank and file, target a half a month wages battle is still on.

Through the determination of the site shop stewards committee has built up Drax which has pushed the union rate to ensure a living wage. So the four contractors Babcock and Wilcox, Parsons, Varrods and British Steel Corporation set out to break this rank-and-file strength.

Earlier this year a similar national agreement for the coal industry established an increased basic rate. But a strike at Drax which doubled this increase from the basic.

In some regions with normal working for instance making sure that safety regulations were very strict. Two riggers who refused to handle a pipe which had been inspected on the site but not received the necessary certificate.

A third rigger who refused to work on a pipe which was being cut by riggers was clocked off.

After 12 weeks the situation is unchanged. The NCB has been asked to meet and members will not return to work until receive a written offer.

In the ICB there are differences in detail about the ‘other three firms’ dispute and the strike by management.

The nationalisation of the industry began with the nationalisation of the coal industry by the Conservative government in 1947.

The struggle continues as long time. Workers’ power is always under threat, and a world based on the principle of human solidarity is what is needed to fight back against the forces of power over the world. The struggle to change the world, and build socialism, must go on.

The stewards have been sacked by the company, but the National Coal Board and the other power companies have not been unaffected. The stewards who have been sacked in the past have met with management without even discussing the sackings.

The stewards are convinced that the local union officials have been handed the union leadership for a long time, but the full meeting of the union leaders and workers’ committees have been handicapped by the lack of support from the Central Committee of the T&GWU.

The stewards have been hand-picked for their lack of contact with the Central Committee, and the dominance of the union leaders has been reinforced by the union’s failure to consult the workers’ committees.

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**WHAT'S ON**

**MEETINGS**

Ealing 15 Sally and Seedy: To launch the new campaign against the National Coal Board, and for a discussion on the need for new tactics.

Wolverhampton: A public meeting. To discuss the new tactics and the need for new tactics.

Dudley: A public meeting. To discuss the new tactics and the need for new tactics.

**NOTICES**

COMRADE requires seem in Comrade Office. You should have your phone number available at all times.

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National Office requires experienced office assistant. Details available on request. Apply to the National Office, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 9RN.

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Business
DOCKS COLD WAR SEEM TO BOIL UP AGAIN

The cold war in the docks is boiling to a new pitch. In one of the biggest disputes of the year, Midland Cold Storage in East London has been under an official union ban for the past week. The company has been trading, but the picketing line was official. So far, Transport House has refused to intervene.

First, the dispute began with a strike by the dockers at Weymouth, where the picket line was official. But, so far, the Transport House has refused to intervene.

Then, this week, a new major of cargo was involved. It was the first big consequence since the picket line for months. The dockers, in a move to maintain their position, have sent in their strike action.

The picket line was set to the picket line by private detectives taking photographs.

The storm clouds are looming. It looks as though Vesty is stepping up to the picket line for another stand-up fight. Already, since the announcement, the Vesty strike has has gained ground. Vesty has condemned Newton's Strike, but it could change if the workers get some support. Vesty is adamantly refusing to make any offer of redundancy pay. And through

by Bob Light

GEC strikers reject offer

by Dave Peers

NEWCASTLE--The report of the Commission of Enquiry on trade union membership at C A Parsons has the appearance of a mere event.

After months of deliberation, the Commission's verdict is 'to change'. The CRB will now have to reorganise its system of granting negotiated rights for technical staff. The result of the Commission's report is that no union can be granted negotiating rights above grade E.

One of the recommendations will be the formation of a new trade union for technical staff.

In line with national union policy, TASS has already been retained to get this new union up and running, and the CRB will be responsible for drafting the details.

Support

ASTMS had nothing to defend, only the 22 of the 143 technical staff below the line were on strike. The only chance of stopping the closures was an obvious attempt by ASTMS to use the strike to get recognition from the CRB.

There is no proposal, that, and that of UKAPT, which sought to create a new bargaining union, that could have been better supported. The non-cooperation at Parson's was a complete failure.

As for TASS, despite the loss of the dockers, it is obviously the only strong bargaining power left in the industry. The commercial success of the Parson's strike was directly linked to its success in maintaining its bargaining power.

For TASS, despite the loss of the dockers, the strike has become a militant strike. It is a strike that is not afraid to stand up to the employers, and is not afraid to stand up to the government.

Strike wins £3

JARROW--The strike of 22 Engineering Union members at Jarrow's Bovington, Dorset, was called off last week when the company agreed to give a guaranteed earnings minimum of £30 per week.

Sacking sparks off walk-out

by Eve Brook

BRADFORD--Workers at Baines Television walked out last week in a magnificent show of solidarity with Bill Stuart, the deputy works convenor, who had been suspended for marching from one department to another. In fact, his job was to show a union.

The factory, part of the giant Thorn Group, employs almost 600 workers, nine out of ten of whom are women, most of whom have families. For too long, the management has pushed the workers around, with petty rules, line-speed-up pay and unequal work opportunities.

The workers walked out, held a mass meeting and organised an effective picket line.

The workers won their victory. Bill Stuart was reinstated at lunchtime the next day. But the workers gained a greater victory: they came out without any official 'leadership'. Ronnie Savage, the shop steward, was away doing his traditional official OFFICIAL.

The fight against trade union democracy on the shop-floor is needed to be won.

The picketing committee tours every day.

A new charge was brought against the pickets.

by Bill Message

NALGO militants push for rents action

STRICT pressure is growing within the NALGO, whose members include council tenants, to organise rent protests, for action over the rent rises.

The case of a recent housing resolution condemning the Tory rents policy is the latest in a long line of efforts to get council tenants to assert their rights. The NALGO's positive action in support of tenants' rent bills.

Attempts are being made to commit the council to organise rent protests, and to refuse to co-operate with the housing department.

The workers are beginning to realise that the council is not a place to go to for help.

The pickets on the factory floor are directly linked to the success of the council tenants in winning their rights.

Tenants organisations should use the official NALGO position to put pressure on individual NALGO branches to give support for tenants action.

by Eve Brook

WALMSLEYS back

REGEN--Workers from the four Walmsleys factories voted at a joint mass meeting to go on strike last week, accepting a £2.32 across-the-board increase. The strike was called after the firm, the largest of the group, refused to take no action.

As far as dockers can discover, the company has accepted the settlement. But, behind the scenes, dockers' representative organisations have been told that the original decision was altered, when the Industrial Relations Act (IRA) was passed, and that the Transport Union is pledged not to organise a strike.

Why is Jack Jones so quiet in his reply to this? The firm, in the context, is TGUW drivers taking a strike, casuals, by TGUW drivers, across an official TGUW picket line.

The issue is that affects the livelihood of every registered porter.

A local of the transport unions against this settlement, even though it was recommended by the company, and the dockers fear there may be more redundancies.

by Bob Light

BLACKING

That is why Midland Cold Storage is once again turning to the Industrial Relations Act. That is why it is crucial to that the blockade of Midland is effective.

The decision was made at a Recalled Dockers Delegation Conference last year, after the matter had been referred to the TGUW Industrial Delegation Conference. It was decided to block two companies: Midland and one in Hull.

by Bill Message

stocks are being traded out once again.

What gives the government hope this time is the attitude of Joe Gormley and the TUC. While the leader of the British Trades Union Congress has been lukewarm about the General Strike, the TUC is now on record as being for it.
Thousand-strong counter-demo stops racist march

BLACKBURN--A thousand people demonstrated against racism and prevented the fascist National Front from marching through the centre of the city last Saturday.

The Front were forced to flee to their back-street headquarters instead of to a police station, and were prevented from putting out their race-hate propaganda.

But the local police did their utmost to allow the racist parade while disrupting the anti-racist demonstration, which included local Asians, members of the International Socialists and Rebel groups and which was led by the Accrington branch of the Engineering Union.

The demonstrators refused to tolerate police disruption and after a meeting they surged down the hill to the station forecourt shouting "Fascists out, Asians in" and "Defend the Asians, defend the unions". A police car was flipped over and two cars parked across the street to allow the racist marchers to get through were damaged.

One IS member, a shop steward from Wigan, was literally thrown into the back of a police van. He was kicked and punched by one policeman, and when his wife attempted to stop this, she was punched in the face, black and blue.

Now both have been charged with assault and with contravening the Race Relations Act! Other demonstrators were also beaten up, including a worker from the Kirby Fishery Bench factories.

A local Asian leader, Nazim Bajwa, said afterwards that an Asian Workers Federation of both tenants and shop attendants who were mobilized to stop the march. The demonstrators remarked on the strength of the Asians' support "like never before." They said: "The Asians are demanding Jackson's reinstatement."

CARDIFF -- A two-week strike by 300 workers at the pyrotechnics manufacturing plant in Tividale has now been won, the majority of the workers having gone back to work over the weekend. The women have also been won back, ending the 300-day picket line, threats of dismissal and the company's policy of refusing to employ both men and women. The pickets were informed by the company that every job was cut out, and that the workers were to be dismissed.

They drove home their point that "People work the pants off us" by heading this slogan with a line of pickets. They say that the company was forced to concede a £1.40 rise without any bargaining, although generally they were trying to insist on productivity concessions.

LONDON--Workers at Cubitt's World's demand for reinstatement was resolved to stop the rise in the cost of living, by cutting wages and to prevent victimisation of a steward. The men have now been out for nine weeks but the London action committee and the regional executive committee have been demanding job offers and permission to meet on the picket line. Stewards have been guaranteed to go over the picket line, threats of dismissal and the company's policy of refusing to employ both men and women. The pickets were informed by the company that every job was cut out, and that the workers were to be dismissed.

They drove home their point that "People work the pants off us" by heading this slogan with a line of pickets. They say that the company was forced to concede a £1.40 rise without any bargaining, although generally they were trying to insist on productivity concessions.

Foxes at militants

YORK -- Building employers are still trying to beat the beds. A strike by engineers at Foxes hit the rent strikes hit more than 70 towns and cities throughout Britain this week as the 1972 Rent Act came into force. On hundreds of council estates, tenants' organisations have put plans into action.

In Liverpool, the opposition to the rent rises got off to a flying start on Monday with a one-day strike in a number of industries and a 6,000-strong demonstration through the city. The 9,000-strong docks workforce stopped completely, as did the Vesley plant and a number of smaller firms. And they were joined by several sections of the National Theatre factory, as well as by thousands of tenants.

A resolution was passed pledging full support for those refusing to pay the increases and for tenants in Birkenhead, Kirkby and Fazakerley who have already gone on rent strike.

Elsewhere, pickets have been placed on rent offices, defiant tenants are putting stickers in every window and rent collectors are being "sacked" round estates.

These areas will soon be joined by thousands of other tenants where Labour councils have not yet put up the rents. It now seems certain that within a matter of weeks the Tories will force these local authorities to put up their rents.

It is now vital to spread the rent strikes to every area of the country and to develop the trade union support essential to the success of the strikes.

CANTERBURY--200 tenants and trade unions marched through the centre of Canterbury on Saturday to a rally in St. Thomas' Hall where they heard speeches from Hugh Kerr of Harlow Tenants' Association, and from Alan Crenn, NUR secretary at the Housing Action Committee. Hugh Kerr stressed that Canterbury tenants must organise and prepare for rent strikes to meet the increases when they come.

BACK FINE TUBES

The Fine Tubes Conference, planned to organise nationwide action to win the two and a half year strike in defence of union organisation.

This week the workers' delegation which has been touring the country was in London, meeting stewards in the docks and many factories, speaking at union branch and district committee meetings. The conference will be held in Birmingham on Saturday 28th October, to continue the widespread support for the struggle into a major show of solidarity which could bring a victory.

The strike committee of the National Union of General, Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Workers was led by the News of the World, JM, with 25,000 members, pledged full support for the rent strikers and to Scottish councils that refuse to pay the rent are.

SOUTH WALES--More than 100 tenants from the Pontypool area have been excluded from their homes and are now living in the empty houses. They can be threatened only with eviction, for which they cannot be prosecuted unless damage is done to the property.

South Wales miners have promised strike action if tenants are evicted. They have been threatened with eviction to close a neighbour's house and members of the tenants' association will now refuse to pay the rent.

WOLVERHAMPTON--More than 500 workers at Jaguar Defoe are on strike to beat the beds. Recently a shop stewards' committee agreed there was an average week of £1117, Management said the financial loss was £9,500 and the workers were now prepared to accept a pay increase--although reports suggest the company has had to pay out.

The answer from the shop floor was clear. The resolution was passed and took place and, after getting a meeting and a letter from the shop stewards about the whole workforce walked out of the factory.

Manchester--The National Union of Shipbuilders' strike on Alpena, received a friendly reception from the local Labour and Co-operative committees. Recently a shop stewards' committee agreed there was an average week of £1117, Management said the financial loss was £9,500 and the workers were now prepared to accept a pay increase--although reports suggest the company has had to pay out.

The answer from the shop floor was clear. The resolution was passed and took place and, after getting a meeting and a letter from the shop stewards about the whole workforce walked out of the factory.