Good start for 1S fund

THE RESPONSE to the International Socialists’ fund for new premises and printing equipment has been promising. After one week the amount donated stands at £300.

In addition to a levy on 1S branches we have been encouraged by the number of donations received from many of our readers.

It’s a long haul to £30,000 and the Tory wage freeze does not make it any easier but I appeal to our members and supporters to maintain their efforts to reach the target. All donations will be acknowledged.

Send to: Jim Nichol, National Treasurer, 1S, 6 Cartoon Gardens, London E2 8DN.

First the freeze, now back to the courts

UNIONS FACE NEW ATTACK

MAJOR CLASHES between the unions and the Tory law are on the cards—clashes that will show that, beneath Heath’s new velvet-glove approach to the TUC, the more familiar knuckleduster is still in operation.

First clash involves the Engineering Union. It has refused to pay the £5000 fine imposed by Sir John Donaldson’s National Industrial Relations Court.

Sir John is rigorously enforcing the “law of the land”—the law that says government-approved trade unions must be admitted to the AUEW against the wishes of the members, even though he has been called a strike and three times three has been lapsed for not paying union subscriptions.

The union refused to pay the fine or attend the court means that Donaldson will either increase the fine or arrange for the amount to be taken from AUEW funds.

But Sir John does not uphold the rights of James Goad alone. Lords as well as blacklegs can be sure of his support. This week, too, the giant Vestey empire—owners of Midland Cold Storage—gave notice of an application to the NIRC.

This is the second clash—a claim of “unfair industrial practice” against the Transport Workers Union and the National Amalgamated Transporters and Dockers. The Vestey complaint is that the unions have not stopped dockers members from fighting for their jobs.

Vestey have only given notice of a complaint to the NIRC. They hope Jack Jones and the TGWU leaders will fail in their move and force the heavy money through the dockers’ pockets at their cold steel. If this manoeuvre fails then Sir John Donaldson might well have to obliged with fines or prison bars.

by SW Reporter

400 strikers shake bosses and union

THESE are just a few of the 400 strikers at the Mansfield Hosierly mill in Loughborough, east Midlands, battling magnificently against racism and an undemocratic union. They have struck for 11 weeks and more and an end to discrimination in the plant that gives the best-paid jobs to white workers. In a special report on the back page, Paul Foot says that their stand has changed the face of trade unionism in the area.

Included in the picture are strike committee members J K Naik (first left), Dhiv Patel (fourth from left), A Mansuria (fifth left), A Sattar (tenth left) and M Z Shah (on the far right).

FIGHT THE TORIES! BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!

LONDON REGION

IS RALLY

Hear Tony Cliff, Paul Foot and Chris Davison (TGWU) Music by The Combinations

Friday 1 December, 7.30pm
Camberwell Town Hall, Camberwell High Street, Erston Road, London SE5

Entrance: 10p
BRIEFING

THREATS and intimidation have had 10,000 striking postal and telecommunications workers in Nigeria to return to work after five weeks.

Two days after the strike began, 25 shot door leaders and union executive members were arrested and charged with violating the Trade Disputes Amendment Decrees, which had made all strikes illegal. Armed police kept crowds of angry strikers around the court at Bay. At first the police could then be blamed that their action in bringing the country's postal services to a standstill was unnecessary.

The government ordered the strikers to return to work, and gave them a deadline after which they would all be sacked. The men voted to continue the strike.

Two days later, the 25 were unexpectedly released on bail, and after two angry meetings with the strikers they persuaded them to return to work. They pointed out that the government had promised to meet the strikers’ demands for fringe benefits in October, and that they wanted to continue the fight for a new labor law and to stop strikes for good.
Killing of the week

PRIZE this week goes to a company called Trumettas. The man who runs this firm, and whose family trust controls a large part of it, is called Jeffrey Pike.

His Pike is a man of 32 and had been on record as saying he didn’t believe in money and is said to prefer to let his daughter, Michael Foul, have all the money. He has also said ‘It’s marvellous to work in a company’, on chop, chop and chop the 500,000...


Mr Pike is 51 years old, and is on record as saying he doesn’t believe in money and is far too busy with other interests to be seen.

The&

SW Reporter

THE MAGISTRATES at Tottonham, North London, formed themselves on 17 November by finding five young West Indians guilty of various offences against three Tottenham police officers. They ignored the sworn evidence of a Sergeant of Police, who blamed the police for all the trouble.

Arthur Rosche, 21, Robert Bantin, 17, Rory Mackintosh, 20, and two others who were 15 and 16, and so too young for their crimes to be mentioned in court, were found guilty of threatening behaviour and assault, and fined a total of £120. They are all members of a youth club in Tottenham’s West Green Road which is run by the Rev Rupert Morris.

The police case was that on 15 August this year, they had had a complaint by telephone from a woman who claimed to have been molested and attacked by a group of black youth outside the club. Accordingly, two police constables, Williams and Stewart, went to the club and found a milling crowd of about 150 black youth, ‘fighting and shouting’. The five boys were arrested, they said, after being asked to move on and refusing.

Faith Morris, for the defence, told an entirely different story. There were, he said, about 15 boys outside the club, preparing quietly to go home, when 15 police cars screamed up.

Policemen jumped out and waded into the crowd with their fists. He saw one boy being punched on the ground. When he asked the police man to restrain himself, he (Morris) was punched and later bitten by a police dog.

Dog bite

The police had blocked off all round the club and wouldn’t let anyone get them to concede permission to two young black boys to go to the bus stop. As they made their way down the road, they were confronted by a police dog which was unleashed and barked ferociously.

‘We have two as well’

The boys were hounded into the back of a police car. Rory Mackintosh was later treated for a police dog bite. Pastor Morris told the court: ‘It was the presence of the police which sparked off the trouble’. He also said that there had been no trouble at all at the club in the past, and the only time when he had been forced to call the police was when the National Front organised a jockey picking out.

The police failed to produce the woman who had made the complaint. Independent witnesses were available to support the boys’ story. But the magistrates, who had ordered a trial of the case the previous month, found them guilty of all charges and went on to praise the police.

One of the defendants told Socialist Worker outside the court, ‘Of course, this is the only justice we know. What we are trying to do is to make a stand’. The police are the law and they can do what they want.

The boys replied: ‘We’ve got to fight, or they’ll keep on our backs forever’.

More victims of police muggers

The Anchor site: don’t have a heart attack if you fall 200 feet

The management of J D and S Tighe has an extra inducement to boost profits as high as possible on this job. Tighe started out as a small family business owned and managed by ‘Big Jack’ Tighe and his wife Sylvia.

But in November 1967 the fast-growing London and Northern Securities outfit bought 75 per cent of the shares in the Tighe business. 25 per cent of the shares were left in the hands of the Tighe’s, together with management control.

And London and Northern agreed in return an option to buy the outstanding 25 per cent of the shares at the end of the first four years. The price paid for the remaining 25 per cent of the shares depends on how much Jack and Sylvia Tighe manage to increase the turnover and profitability over the period.

The net effect is to decide how many men, who will be killed or injured as a result of avoidable industrial accidents’.}

OPINION

by Laurie Flynn

Like all contractors, Tighe and Redpath Dorman get their contracts by offering the cheapest price. To keep their profit as high as possible they have to cut down on the equipment and the labour force. They can’t afford to pay enough money to the men who work for them.

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SUDDENLY everyone’s concerned about the low paid. Millions of working people have suffered for years under the yoke of near-poverty wages. Such conditions haven’t done nothing to help them—on the contrary, their policies have further depressed the wage levels of the poor.

Press and television have studiously avoided mention of the conditions of farm workers and health service workers. It is a deafening conversion to the cause of decency on the part of the Tories and their press friends—or it is just a cheap propaganda device to sell the swindle of the price and prices freeze?

The plight of the farm workers answered that question. It is hard to find a more exploited and kicked around group of workers. Their job is essential to the well-being of the entire community. They provide a rather more important service than, say, property speculators and Stock Exchange gamblers. They work crippling hours, for ungodly conditions.

And yet, despite all the fanfares about fairness that heralded the introduction of the freeze, the farm workers have been denied a pay increase. Property men gain special rights to survive in the face of a living crisis. Gamblers continue to make their fortunes on the Stock Exchange. But farm workers, officially, are denied the right to earn £18.50 a week.

SOCIALLY USEFUL

The basic wage for a farm worker is £16.20 a week. MPs voted themselves a 30 per cent increase last year to take them up to £4,000 a year, while with true deference boosting the Queen’s handout by 106 per cent. Do they deserve such enormous salaries while farm workers exist on such a pittance? A worker in the case of the first two categories, disappeared to the Bahamas for a few months. We would quickly appreciate which group was the most socially useful and which was not.

The same goes for hospital manual workers, without whom the health service would collapse overnight. Their wage rates range from £14.40 for a catering assistant to £18.75 for a ward sister. They are asking for an extra £8 a week. Like the farm workers they will be told by Mr Heath (£20,000 a year) that such wage demands are “inflationary” and against the “national interest”.

The freeze must be smashed. There is only one way to do it—by industrial action. Talks, petitions, lobbying of parliament will not budge this arrogant and vicious government of big business interests.

Every section takes the industrial road to bust the freeze. It must have the full support of every other organised section of working people. And groups like pensioners who have no industrial strength can be helped only by trade unionists taking strike action on their behalf.

The strikes this week by steel workers, miners and others in demand of a £16 a week pension is a major example of the strength and aspirations of working people. It throws back the teeth of the gutter press that the workers are ‘greedy’ and ‘self-seeking’.

Such action must grow and multiply. A concerted movement can defeat the Tories’ aims. We must demand of the Tories’ £16 a week pension. But let us not forget the organising widespread strikes to pursue and obtain every wage demand in defiance of the ‘Counter Inflation’ law. Only in this way can we win. If we do not, it would be futile to wait for them to issue such a call.

Mobilisation at the grass roots in every sector of British industry is the task to ensure that the next 60 days mark a major breakthrough for the workers and implants a few inches of backbone into the men who claim to lead our movement.

THREE JUST MEN

THE High Court decision to ban the Sunday Times article exposing Distillers’ cavalier attitude to the marketing of thalidomide was taken by three judges: Lord Chief Justice Widgery, Mr Justice Brain and Mr Justice Maitland Stevenon.

All three men have within the past six years felt the lash of a Sunday Times expose.

Brain was mangled by the paper after his 1966 report on the Timothy Evans/Christie affair, in which he came to the absurd conclusion that although Evans probably didn’t kill his child (for which he was hanged) he probably did kill his wife. The Sunday Times was the first paper to prove that no ordinary man in his right mind could have worked this out from the evidence.

Stevenon was hazzered by the paper for his bias and spleen while conducting the trial of students involved in incidents at the Garden House Hotel, Cambridge in 1970.

The Sunday Times reminded its readers about a number of rather unfortunate bungles by Stevenon, which had led to genuine criminals going free on appeal.

The most aggressive mauling, however, was reserved for Lord Widgery after his whiskaw on the Bloody Sunday murders in Derry. The Sunday Times took Widgery’s report apart piecemeal, and left nothing of substance. Widgery was reported to be ‘indecisive’ by the Times, it’s chief editor.

We can only be thankful that judges are able to separate their judicial function from their bias or resentment they may have outside the courts.

Trust house

TREMENDOUS relief was expressed in government circles following Lord Carrington’s statement that there was no real damage done to the disgraceful allegation from Willie Hume. However, for West Erc, that Carrington, Minister of Defence and chairman of the Tory Party, has been profiting from improvement grants.

Mountbatten fined £40 on watered milk charge

EVELYN MOUNTBATTEN, the Queen’s cousin, and his wife, the former Lady Colin Campbell, have been fined £40 for selling watered milk.

"Plain clothes’ car stopped Princess

The police stopped the Princess Anne’s chauffeur driven car at 7.45 on Monday in Regent’s Park, London. The police have been ordered to continue monitoring the Princess’s movements.

Lord Lichfield fined and banned on drink charge

The Earl of Lichfield, a cousin of the Queen, was fined £50 and banned for a year from driving after he was convicted of drink driving.

LAW AND ORDER DEPARTMENT: all from the Daily Telegraph of 17 November

It’s all your fault!

FROM THE Sunday Telegraph, 12 November 1972, Ford’s unflattering "hand of god" will and encouragement to the staff, is distributed strictly according to rank; the moment production records are achieved, he grants 300 foremen or supervisors get cigars, shop floor men get two free cups of tea.

Stone sold

THE People newspaper (19 November) exposed Mr James Stone, head of the National Coal Board’s Doncaster area, for directing orders for steel covering in the mines to a firm in which he had a financial interest.

Miners in Yorkshire should also know that Mr Stone bought 4000 shares in Bonsor Engineering when the firm went public in 1965. Soon afterwards, Bonsor started to get some very lucrative orders for roof supports from the Coal Board—supports which were strangely similar to those patented by another firm, who had been forced to surrender their patent to the Board.

In 1967, the Hon Alfred Robens, son of Lord Robens, then chairman of the Coal Board, married the daughter of Frank Bonsor, chairman of Bonsor, and joined the Bonsor board. A month after the Coal Board started to run down, but when the Bonsor share price was still at its peak, Mr Stone and other officials sold their Bonsor shares.

The Coal Board headquarters in Doncaster, incidentally, was designed by Mr John Poulson, the well-known architect and bankrupt. Mr Billy sales, former head of the Yorkshire Coal Board, was one of Mr Poulson’s best contacts. He received lots of Poulson jobs, and after resigning from the Coal Board he joined the board of Poulson’s companies.
CHERRY RIPE

LAST THURSDAY, Mr Alan Cherry beat the freeze. He stood to gain £895 for each of his 927,758 shares in Countrywide Properties, which the sale started poorly. If he sold them all, he would have made a healthy profit, he pocketed £8,127.

The shares had been up a vast wealth for its directors and shareholders. The property hadn't seen such a planning permission it had, especially in the area between Romford and Chelmsford. They have then sold ‘housing units’ on the land and made a profit at a substantial profit.

The result was particularly successful until the election of the Tory government.

PRE-TAX PROFITS

1965 6,906
1966 6,706
1967 6,706
1968 6,706
1969 102,185
1970 312,942
1971 1,100,000
1972 1,100,000

Under Mr Cherry's chairmanship, 100% of the shares were owned by Mr Cherry.

Countrywide Properties is carried on by the Bristow family.

A significant drop in the price of the shares was seen by Mr Cherry.

He points out that in 1971 and 1972 Bristow shares were owned by £144,000 from Countrywide Properties.

In 1972, the payments represented an increase of £2.5 million, 50% of all the shares paid by the group to estate agents in that year.

This £144,000 was paid by Mr Cherry, as managing director of Countrywide Properties, to Mr Bristow, 22.5% of whose shares were owned by Mr Bristow and Mr Cherry.

One of Countrywide Properties' most important developments was the establishment of the former site of Bristow Football Club, which was taken by Mr Cherry and Mr Bristow in the spring of 1965. A prominent director of the new firm, Mr Tom Eaves, later became the chairman of the football club.

The ground was handed over for nothing by its previous owners amateur footballers who had enjoyed playing football on it for generations.

The new trust deed, reported the 'Bromley' Review on 9 April 1965, is designed to preserve the ground from being used for anything but football.

The club went professional, and Bristow Football Club, and other directors emphasizing that the club would remain in Bromley.

In December 1969, however, Bromley Town Football Club took over Chelsfield Football Club, and Football at Bromley was moved to Chelsfield.

The Bromley ground was, for a time, used as a coach station by a firm of coaches (directors: Jimmy Greens, John Bristow) who had sold it for £160,000 to a subsidiary of Countrywide Properties (managing director: Alan Cherry).

The properties built on the Bromley ground were promptly and profitably sold by Bristow, estate agents, or, as it put it another way, by Alan Cherry and his brother-law.

Mr. Cherry as a Government minister is a member of the Department of Trade and Industry and confirmed to Society & Country that this was nothing in the government's Counter-Inflation Bill which can take a penny from Mr Cherry's £800,000 haul.

On there were any cry for freezing fortunes from property speculation it would, in the government's view, 'mitigate against the public interest'.

Ho-Ho-Ho

THE Territorial Army, who usually play games, are playing politics. In a recent TA exercise on the island of Man the troops were issued with a bogus leaflet, which was intended to be the kind of thing which the Lefties, having scored position in a area, would hang out to advancing, loyalist infantry.

Carl's forces, like the leaflet itself, flowed back from the arms of your waggling mothers to serve your imperial masters and their lackeys, what do you think you will really achieve in this province?

The leaflet enjoins its readers to 'turn your guns on your own masters', and to join the fight for Marxist-Leninist freedom.

JOHN NAILOR'S FREEDOM FIGHTERS and annihilate the imperialist running dogs. Remember our battle cry: "Ho-Ho Ho Chi Minh."

LONG LIFE TO OUR GLORIOUS CHAIRMAN MAO.

The soldiers by all accounts, managed after superhuman effort to withstand the subtle appeal of this report.

They were determined, so far they operated. They continued even more determinedly in rooting out and exterminating the Marxist-Leninists, as the exercise required.

By thumb

NOTHING could be fairer, so says government propaganda, than the industrial tribunals. For example, take the case of 16-year-old Michael Gardner, a West Indian who has been working for most of his life on the Lucas motor works assembly line in Birmingham. His case came up at the Birmingham Industrial Tribunal where he was found guilty of being drunk at work and it was decided that he was fit for service in the army. His case came up at the Birmingham Industrial Tribunal where he was found guilty of being drunk at work and it was decided that he was fit for service in the army.

The tribunal ruled that Gardner was not fit for service in the army.

The owners of the hotel? The Church of England. Sir Edward was a devoted Christian, and does not want anything changed.

ALTHOUGH he does not make the point, Professor Atkinson's book, Unequal Shares (reviewed at length over page) merely serves to reinforce the political bankruptcy of the Labour leaders.

In the 1960s politicians like Crosland, Gaitskell and Strachey pooked the traditional ideas of socialism. It was an old-fashioned dogma, they claimed, to argue for nationalization with workers' control. The important thing was not this, they said, but to achieve a greater degree of equality—equality was the real aim.

Now, of course, their theoretical edifice lies in ruins. Professor Atkinson and the other Liberals have seen the light, and have been forced to abandon their preconceptions. Indeed, inequality becomes more important now than ever.

Our surveys have been vindicated. We claimed at the time that it was only a matter of time until inequality would be brought to a head. Now the concentration of power in a few hands business and bolster each other.

It is impossible to eliminate one without eliminating the other.

While the rich just stand by... laughing

HOIST WITH HIS OWN PHRASING

THE LADS at a Durham factory where the new steel shipbuilding EPTU official came to address them. They were all lined up outside of the building, eager to return to work.

But it was difficult going, and his speech was frequently interrupted with interjections. So he kept on at it, even when he turned off on "only doing my job," he explained. "I'm an arbitrator.

"What kind of truism did you say you were" bellowed one of the blokes from the shop floor.

TROUBLE IS BREWING

ONE of the lowest forms of animal life is the police informer. Such a man was the assistant of the well-known, implicating in the Aldershot bomb trial and the Hackney arms-frame-up.

Peter, who says he has made a living as a police informer for the last 25 years, belongs to a long line of shady individuals, men who are paid to spy on working-class organization in Britain. Since they are paid by results, there is a great deal of bribery and corruption, and a lot of false reports.

O'Neill's explaining convinced the tribunal, who dismissed Michael Gardner's claim.

Unemployment in Birmingham for men is seven per cent. For black men it is 11 per cent, and Michael Gardner's chances of getting another job before his pension age is negligible.

At the inn

THREE weeks ago I reported that Sir David Bennett, of the notorious Hays Wharf company, had bought the Tillingham Park Estate and Hotel, Tillingham, for a mere £250,000. Sir David, who is a conservative and a conservative, explained that he wanted to keep the hotel and estate just 'as they are'.

Two VIP members from Leicester have written to me with an interesting account of the time they spent working at the hotel recently.

They pay for a 64-hour week was £8, plus house (a small, hard bed) and board (costs from the guests' table. The cook was once reprimanded for cooking the staff something extra).

The tips, meant for the entire staff, were usually drunk away by a particularly unpleasant supervisor. Some staff stayed working at the hotel for an average of only about three weeks.

The owners of the hotel? The Church of England. Sir Edward was a devoted Christian, and does not want anything changed.

exemplary sentence to be given. He was sent to jail for a number of years.

In the meantime, Sir Thomas had been succeeded by his son, however MacDonald accused the government of using 'agents provocateurs' who make people's wrath upon the infringement of their rights.

It may be argued that all this happened many years ago. But we are now entering a period of intense social strife. The behaviour of the government, said John Joseph Parker, shows the authorities are prepared to use the same tactics as 50 years ago to defend their precious system.

SHADES OF DIRTY ALEX

I AM SURE you will agree that there is no better way to understand both the rich and the poor than to show special concern and sympathy for the poor. The poor are the people of the country, public welfare, spreading sweetness and light throughout the land. They are the people for whom we are referring to, of course, those who do not have the means to purchase food and medicine.

But there is trouble brewing at the brewery. The owners of our local one, they complain that they are not supported in their company's produce. But, naturally, this does not stop them from recapturing a barrel of beer with a flute bar while their mates keep watch to see that the foremen are not around.

But this arrangement is not entirely satisfactory. Why should the foremen have their own special bar on company premises? Why are those in higher supervisory grades even have their individual barrels of beer—while most of the men have to buy theirs at retail prices? Obviously, it is a diabolical case of class distinction.

VICTOR SERGE

Memoirs of a Revolutionary 1901–1941

TRANSLATED BY PETER SEDGWICK

The memoirs of Victor Serge, revolutionary, novelist and poet, are a testimony to the experience of three successive revolutionary generations—the historical experience of France, the syndicalism of Barcelona 1917, finally Russia in the 1920s. The collaboration Serge himself survived as virtually a lone witness.

This including postage, from: IS BOOKS, 6 Court Gardens, London E2 8DN
ON THE BOARD of GEC, Britain’s largest private employer, the two gentlemen called Bond and Lewis. Between them, they hold 35 million shares in the company.

With the shares now standing at about £1.50 each that gives them a joint fortune of £51.5 million. Last year Bond and Lewis received (apart from directors’ fees) dividends amounting to something like £1,350,000 between them.

They are by no means Britain’s richest men. Lord Cowdry, for example, has a fortune estimated at £1 million. To understand how much this is, imagine it converted into 50p pieces. If all the noble lord’s cash were then stacked in three-inch thick piles, placed end to end, they would stretch from London to Birmingham and back again.

Professor Atkinson of Essex University has just published a book (Unequal Shares: Wealth in Britain, Allen Lane: The Penguin Press, £3.50) which highlights some aspects of the enormous inequalities in wealth in Britain. Most of the information that follows is taken from this book.

An example of the difference is that Bond and Lewis get £1.35 million a year just for being the shareholders of a large company. A worker, on the other hand, would have to earn for over 7,000 years to get the same amount.

Atkinson shows that, as a result of the severe redistribution of wealth in recent years, the top 5% of the population have 72% of the total wealth.

The result is that the average worker now has £1.25 for every £1 earned by the top 5%.

The rich have the advantage of holding their wealth, not in national savings (in a good way of actually earning money), but in shares. The degree of inequality is even greater than that of wealth as a whole.

The top 5% of the population hold 96% of all household wealth. Financial assets are the most effective way of increasing your wealth.

Lord Cowdry: up the M1, round Spaghetti Junction and back again

DUKE OF NORFOLK: unexpected bonanza for a 10-year-old

The reason for this ‘sharing out’ was simple—to dodge death duties. Those readers of Socialist Worker who have a few million quid no doubt take up the kind of offer made to them in the pages of The Times.

GREAT NEWS for the AFFLUENT UNDER 60! At last your Estate Duty problem can be solved without disturbing the composition of your assets in any way. Heirs, or estate duty? Choose while you still have a choice. If you let it, Estate Duty will make a mockery of your life’s work.

There are manifold ways of avoiding paying your wealth over to the state through death duties. As the rich know, only fools pay estate duty.

Give away your wealth before you die, or invest it in agricultural land, or in growing timber, or put it into the form of a trust, or emigrate or . . . The possibilities are as endless as the number of tax accountants ready to assist you.

And how easy it all is! Take the time in 1966 that the Queen’s old uncle, the Duke of Norfolk, saw his financial affairs dragged through the High Court. The Duke has estates valued at £5 million, and as he was being pushed on a bit he was worried that the taxman might get greedy claws into them.

So he ‘rearranged’ the terms of a trust. As a result, one of his beneficiaries, the 10-year-old son of General Fitzalan Howard, saw his expected inheritance grow from £46,000 to £1,246,000, with the full approval of the High Court.

In percentage terms, the rates of taxation on which estate duty is payable are a mere 0.5% per cent, less than before the First World War.

Most of the really wealthy in our society, in fact, owe their riches to inheritance. There are a few ‘self-made’ men, who amassed vast sums for themselves by various dubious methods. A favourite, recently, has been the exploitation of loopholes in the legislation on office building in London and other city centres.

But, by and large, it is almost impossible for the small saver to become rich. Adverts for the ‘Save As You Earn’ schemes showed a former worker in a chauffeur-driven limousine, billed as ‘the small saver grown big’. In practice, the ‘small saver’, especially given today’s inflation, is lucky if he ends up with what he put into the savings bank.

THE ‘PUBLIC SECTOR’ has enormous assets, but these are matched by enormous debts, normally known as the ‘national debt’. So the NET worth of the public sector is a very long way in balance. Until fairly recently, in fact, the public sector was a severe drag on the balance of payments.

The net worth of the companies sector is different between the net value of all the companies in Britain, less the value of their shares on the Stock Exchange. Most companies are really worth a lot more than the total price of their shares on the stock market.

BY COLIN BARKER
ONE key reason for Labour winning the 1964 election was its housing policy. The housing problem was in everybody's mind.

Three million families lived in slum conditions—a fact that had become a hot political issue. The Rachman scandal of private landlords had been highlighted in London by horrific tales of harassment of tenants. The growing problem of homelessness and the activities of land speculators and property speculators had been given wide publicity.

As a result, Labour's pledges on housing were given great support and were certainly responsible for the party's narrow victory in 1964.

Labour's election manifesto of 1964 and 1966 both gave pledges to build 500,000 houses a year. We have announced and we intend to achieve a government programme of 500,000  to 1969-1970.

But Labour's firm pledges became worthless. In 1964 the Tories built 374,000 houses. In 1965 this went up to 413,000, well short of the 'firm pledge'. The figure declined until in the last year of the Labour government in 1970 fewer houses were built than in the last year of the Tory government in 1964.

This failure was not because Labour politicians were lazy—though some of them are—but because they were unwilling to tackle the way the capitalist system controls, constrains and exploits housing.

The devaluation of 1967 and the credit squeeze that followed knocked back private house building. Also, the huge and increasing burden of interest charges means that local councils could no longer afford to go on building houses.

Interest rates under Labour rose to a new high of around 9 per cent a year. This means that whereas the council house cost the council and the tenants more than ever before,

More than 80 per cent of the extra subsidies given by Labour between 1964 and 1968 to encourage more council building went not to houses, but to higher interest charges.

Council tenants confronted with the rising prices of the Housing Finance Act might think they would like to go back to the Golden Age of the Labour government. On examination they don't appear so enticing.

In fact pledges that they would get on average nationally by 70 per cent between 1964 and 1970. Labour made no attempt to stop these rises—in fact they often talked up those rises as a sign of the fact that the government was not encouraging building and corporations to raise rents.

The only limit placed on rent rises was a maximum rise in any one year of 7½d (3.75p) a week in 1969 and that was largely in response to rent strikes by tenants in London and other places.

MAX SHACHTMAN is dead. Of recent years, age and the programmes and rapid rightward drift of his politics have meant that the new generation of socialists is unfamiliar with his name. Shachtman's later political positions were not to his credit, in the recent past.

He was a founder-member of the American Communist Party, a portion of the Trotkyist group in the party and, with Cannon and Ahrens, was expelled in 2004 as a member of Trotsky's Left Opposition.

In the event, Shachtman's abilities as a speaker and a brilliant journalist were a large element in the emergence of his considerable craft, even in the circumstances of the late 1920s and early 1930s, which were hardly modern advances made by the American Left Oppositionists, in the Communist League of America.

Indeed as individuals can represent a movement, Shachtman, with Cannon, represented the American Trotkyism throughout the 1930s. Cannon was the organizer and Shachtman the publicist and editor.

A distinguished, and a splendid writer, Shachtman was Trotsky's superior and if there were any literary independence in some of his work it cannot detract from its quality. His politics, however, can be admired if one agrees with the Trotskyists and those who now follow this political tradition.

In 1940 a struggle in the American party against the American Communist Party (Trotkyist) between the Cannon group and the Trotskyist group over the war question and support for Russia, developed wide differences about the party regime and the class nature of Bukharin-Rosental  in 1930s. A report followed, that year.

Unfortunately 40 per cent of the SWP split with Shachtman and Burnham to form the Workers Party. The argument about the class nature of Russia had not been clarified in the SWP split and it was only later that the Workers Party developed its own special characteristic of Russia as 'bourgeois collectivist', in the original model, more progressive than capitalism, with a more progressive view to Russia. In later manifestations it was transformed into a series of slogans, a regime which was Stalinist capitalism and nowhere in the dictatorship of the proletariat.

In the political world, the Workers Party was no exception.

Shachtman was a Trotskyist and Shachtman rejected the Workers Party. The argument was over.

The party that almost 20 years before he had described, with some justice, as a corpse. Once in the Socialist Party, Shachtman moved rapidly to the wide right of the Trotskyists. He supported Kennedy's 'B of F', figures, American involvement in Vietnam and the many other things.

It was recently reported that he supported the right-wing Democrat, Scoop Jackson for presidential candidacy. Shachtman's political Odyssey had come to an end, possibly for good.

Robert James

Isolation

With the war's end, however, the return of demobilized workers and the contration of war production drastically reduced the party's influence. Post-War America, with its McCarthy witchhunt, was a far cry from the pre-war era, and the party had to exist, let alone expand. The Workers' Party was no exception.

Isolation and frustration are poor guides for any movement, even with an impeccable theory. The bureaucratic tradition, lacking the spirit of the Bolsheviks, was empty.

For many, the isolation of the past American socialism in the light of its historical role, led to the rejection of the Trotskyist sect as a group of people who had rejected large sections of the mainstream tradition. A brief resurgence of hope with the defection of many Communist Party members after the 1950s Congress speech and the Hungarian revolution, was dashed.

Shachtman prepared for a dissolution into the American Socialist Party, a tax capital gains and costs to tenants. In 1972, the Tories brought in £27 million last year alone. But only Fianna Fáil would not pay this tax under Labour, they got increasing amounts of relief on their mortgages. In 1972, this came to £300 million compared to only £21 million for government subsidy for council tenants.

Shachtman in the 1930s: with Cannon he represented Trotkyism in the United States

Engels

Engels is known to think of Friedrich Engels as a political and intellectual leader for the working class. He was born in Germany in 1820. He was married to a woman of outstanding ability in his day, and his wife was a woman's rights activist. He died in 1895. He is known for his work on the Communist Manifesto and his book "The Condition of the Working Class in England in 1844". The book is considered a classic in the field of sociology and is still widely read today.

IS BOOKS
6 Cottons Gardens
London £20

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Shachtman in the 1930s: with Cannon he represented Trotkyism in the United States
NO CIVILISED SOCIETY would tolerate such barbaric behaviour, Mr Justice Sebag Shaw told Noel Jenkinson when he was found guilty of the Aldershot bombing at Winchester last week.

Jenkinson, a former full-time official with the Transport and General Workers' Union, was sentenced to a minimum of 30 years in jail. He had strenuously denied all the charges. He told the court: "My own experience as a trade unionist has shown me that a lot more can be achieved peacefully than with violence."

Franch Kissane was sentenced to two years in jail for perverting the course of justice. Michael Duigan got three and a half years for having a sawn-off shotgun and perverting the course of justice.

The fact that Kissane and Duigan were in the dock at Winchester at all raises serious questions about the conduct of the Aldershot investigation. The state offered no evidence whatever that these two were involved in any way in the planting of the bomb.

Kissane was accused of leasing a false driving licence to Noel Jenkinson. It was accepted by the jury that, even if Jenkinson did use that licence to hire the car used at Aldershot, Kissane knew nothing of it.

In normal circumstances a man with a clean record found guilty of leasing his driving licence to someone else would certainly not receive a jail sentence. He would be fined. At most he might be given a suspended sentence.


duignan's case was even more grotesque. The "perpetration of the course of justice" of which he was accused concerned an offence committed in Fiddler months before the Aldershot affair. Yet the police chose, and Shaw agreed, to have it deal with in the emotional atmosphere at Winchester.

There was no suggestion that the shotgun, which was unlicensed, had anything to do with the Aldershot affair. Yet Shaw, despite fierce protests from Duigan's lawyers, decided to hear that case too, alongside the Aldershot charges.

What happened at Winchester was that the police and the Special Branch were determined to have someone—anyone—put away for the Aldershot explosion and that Jenkinson, Duigan and Kissane were the likeliest candidates they could lay their hands on. So all three were roped in on any charge—relevant or irrelevant—that could be dreamed up, the charges lumped together and the trial conducted in an atmosphere charged with recrimination, with the result that all three ended in jail.

The result of the trial tells us a lot about "justice", as it is understood by the police and the courts.

Michael Duigan goes to jail for having a shotgun. In Northern Ireland everybody knows the army and the police certainly know that there are tens of thousands of weapons much more deadly than shotguns in the hands of Unionist extremists. They refuse even to look for them, let alone charge their possessors.

\begin{quote}
\textbf{Noted.}
\end{quote}

The message that will come through loud and clear to the people of areas like the Bogside and which ought to be noted by every British worker, is this:

If you wear an army uniform and plan, supervise or participate in the murder of 13 innocent Irish civilians—as Lieutenant-colonel David Wilford of the 1st Para troopers did—you will be invited to Buckingham Palace, congratulated by the Queen and invested with the MBE.

If, on the other hand, you found guilty of causing the deaths of a soldier and six innocent civilians in attempted retaliation, you will be locked up in a high-security prison for 30 years.

That is what "justice" means in this society. Which is just one of the reasons for getting rid of it.

\begin{quote}
\textbf{Political and social freedom are not two separate and unrelated ideas, but are two sides of the one great struggle, each being incomplete without the other.}
\end{quote}

\textbf{JAMES CONNOLLY}  

\textbf{Works include:}
- \textit{LABOUR AND EASTER WEEK}
- \textit{LABOUR IN IRELAND}
- \textit{SOCIALISM AND NATIONALISM}
- \textit{THE WORKERS' REPUBLIC}
- \textit{ERIN'S HOPE AND THE NEW EVANGEL}
\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{LABOUR, NATIONALITY AND RELIGION}
  \item \textit{LABOUR IN IRELAND}
  \item \textit{LABOUR IN IRISH HISTORY}
\end{itemize}

\textbf{IS BOOKS}  

6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN
THE KEY SPEECH
THE PRESS
IGNORIN

With its usual disregard for free speech and "minority" opinions, the press ignored Bernadette Devlin's speech in the parliamentary debate on Northern Ireland last week. We reproduce it here.

THE CLEAREST indication of the thinking behind the Green Paper, behind the policies of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and, indeed, behind the entire government, is possibly to be found in the simple questions in the referendum.

There are also explanations why the government is incapable of solving Irish problems. In their starkest and simplest form, those questions ask whether the people of Northern Ireland want to be ruled by Ted Heath or by Jack Lynch. They are based on the fallacy that the only quarrel that we, the people of Northern Ireland, have is over whether we want to be ruled by a royal blue Tory or a white-flag-waving green Tory of the Free State.

That is not our problem. We are not two groups of the population arguing only about whether we should belong to the Republic of Ireland or it exists, with its low welfare benefits and its present constitutional, or to the United Kingdom as it exists, with its present system of government.

MURDER

The implications of the struggle in Ireland go much deeper than that. The implications of the struggle in Northern Ireland are much more fundamental. We are going to be dealt with in the Green Paper on the referendum.

We are not asking to exchange one flag for another. We are not asking the working class of Northern Ireland to take their pick between Long Keb and the Curragh Camp.

We are not asking them to take their pick between the Special Powers Act and the Offences against the State Act. We are not asking them to exchange the dale queues of British capitalism and Toryism for the dale queues of Free State Toryism.

The back in William Whitelaw's teeth without apology some of the words he used to indicate to the Provisional IRA, "How can they justify killing being carried out by people who have brought nothing but murder and bloodshed?"

In the name of my dead constituents—the name of the mute Eamonn McDermott, the youth Tobias Molloy, shot dead by a rubber bullet which struck his heart when he was returning from a dance in the name of John Paddy Mullan and Hugh Herraon, shot one within the past month—and I ask the security forces of Britain, "How can you bring law and order, when you have already brought murder and bloodshed?"

RELEASE

Therefore, if the Secretary of State really wants to bring about peace he will not do it by repression, not in the South, or by having the Special Branch in the North of Ireland working in cahoots with the Special Branch of the South, turning over political prisoners from one side of the Border to the other.

If Mr Whitelaw really wants to bring about peace he will not do it by bringing all the interned—something for which we have been campaigning from August 1971.

The reason of bringing them before special courts. The most innocent people in Northern Ireland are the people behind the wire in Long Keb. How can those men, who have been there since August 1971, be responsible for anything that has happened since 1971?

The message comes through loud and clear: if you wear an army uniform and plan, supervise or participate in the murder of 13 innocent Irish civilians, you will be invited to Buckingham Palace, congratulated by the Queen and invested with the MBE. If you are found guilty of causing the deaths of a soldier and six civilians in attempted retaliation, you will be locked up for 30 years.

One final point: after the dramatic end of the Hackney trial and under pressure of questioning by the Sunday Times, Robert Marx, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner announced on 16 June an investigation into the circumstances, so far as the Metropolitan Police are concerned, which led to the discontinuance of a prosecution at the Central Criminal Court on 12 June.

Five months have passed, but not another word has been heard of this investigation.

Last week in Parliament Bernadette Devlin put down a question to Home Secretary Robert Carr asking what had happened to this investigation. The answer is awaited with interest, not least by Noel Jenkins.
How the army stopped Home Rule

Volunteers, armed with rifles smuggled in from Germany and trained by past and serving officers of the British Army.

The avowed purpose of the Ulster volunteers, proclaimed by Carson and his associates in the House of Commons, was merely to prevent the force of an Act of Parliament, the Home Rule Law.

Needless to say neither nor Carson nor F E Smith nor any other of the Tonies who were calling for armed resistance to the government were ever prosecuted themselves.

Indeed Carson and Smith were later raised to the peerage.

How, as the Ulsterans Cole and Postgate pointed out, "what defeated Home Rule was not an Ulster rebellion but a mutiny in the British Army. No one, to be sure, consulted the common soldiers about their willingness to coerce Ulster: it was already of officers, overwhelming Tory in politics, who, encouraged... at the War Office, announced their refusal to obey orders.

The encouragement is the key point. It was not merely the mutiny of 57 relatively junior officers at Curragh Camp that caused the government to surrender. It was the support the mutineers had from the Army chiefs.

Lord Portarlington, Commander in Chief in Ireland, openly encouraged them. Sir Henry Wilson, Director of Military Operations at the War Office, was a firm supporter of the Carson line. John French, Chief of the imperial General Staff and later in that same year in C in C of the British Army, later claimed that no action was taken against the mutineers and furthermore that the Liberal War Minister, Sedly, was, dismissed--and both 'requests' were granted.

The military and police authorities in Ireland 'allowed to run un molested at Larne a large supply of guns and ammunition for the (Ulster) Volunteers, whereas as an attempt by the Nationalists to run a cargo supply at Howth promptly brought British soldiers on the scene and led to an arrest in which several Irishmen lost their lives.'

The whole episode is a particularly profitable subject for study by parliamentary roadies. For even though the ruling class was far from entirely united in opposing Home Rule, the opposition of its most prominent political opponents -- Protestant Ulster, the Tory leader, openly encouraged Carson and the army chiefs--was sufficient to turn the 'neutral' state machine against the government they were supposed to obey without question, against the 'sovrenial parliament.' And government and parliament backed down.

Greece

At that time there was no standing plan for a military takeover There now. In Britain, as in every NATO country, there was a 'counter-insurgency' plan providing for a military takeover.

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THE BBC: FAITHFUL SERVANT OF OUR RULERS

THE British Broadcasting Corporation is busy congratulating itself on its 50 years as a servant to the system. The sound coming from Broadcasting House this month is of pugy hands slapping on backs.

And toasted most lavishly is the BBC's much-vaulted 'objectivity'. For like the British legal system, the BBC's effectiveness as a propaganda weapon has been its carefully cultivated image of impartiality.

Unlike Free France or German Broadcasting there are no civil servants in the corridors or government centers blue-panning. But the BBC's commitment to objectivity is a system is equally strong if much more subtly disguised.

Two quotes sum up this relationship.

The first is a circular from the first director-general, John Reith, to all departmental heads after the General Strike of 1926.

The broadcasting of official communiques by the government would have been expected and demanded irrespective of its political complexion....

Since the BBC was a national institution, and since the government in this crisis were acting for the people, the BBC must support the government in the crisis too; and we had to assist in maintaining the essential services of the country, the preservation of law and order, and of the life and liberty of the individual and of the community.

What Reith actually meant by the 'national' is the interests of those very few people who owned and controlled industry and state by 'preserving Order and Law', allowing the police and army to do what they want. As we see every night, it's something called The Nation which requires us to make the sacrifices and something called The Country which has lost so many millions pounds by a strike.

Impartial

Forty-four years after Reith's comment, remember of ports and telecommunication and Tony Arthur who came away was even more frank.

The BBC has made it clear over the years that impartiality could not mean impartiality between right and wrong, between success and failure, or between the criminal and the law. No obligation of impartiality could obscure the broadcasting services from exercising their editorial role.

But is the thing it within the context of society they are there to serve?

The BBC has no trustees for the public service, no national police force, no national laws, no news terms, but what is in the national interest.

So don't adjust your set, it's simply what the Nation thinks is fit.

Anyone, therefore, who believes that the BBC is an impartial arbiter in the class war is sadly mistaken.

The BBC, in its own way, has been a source of strength to the working class in Britain in the last 50 years.

As a 16-year-old, I used to listen to the BBC's Big Four - the Forces' Programme, the Spoken Word, Radio 3, and Radio 4 - and for most of the time I was in the armed forces, I never missed them.

The BBC's role in the last 50 years has been a vital one.

For example, in the 1960s and 1970s, the BBC played a key role in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa.

And in the 1980s, the BBC was at the forefront of the struggle against the Rhodesian government.

But in recent years, the BBC has been increasingly restricted in its ability to broadcast the truth.

The government has placed strict limits on what the BBC can broadcast, and the BBC has been forced to censor its output.

This is a悲哀的 situation, but the BBC has done its best to maintain its independence and to provide a voice for those who are marginalized.

The BBC's role in the last 50 years has been a vital one, but it is clear that its ability to do this in the future will be severely limited.
WHAT WASTED FOR... 

The International Socialists is a democratic organisation whose membership is open to all who accept its ideas and who are willing to give active contribution to work in one of its organisations. 

It seeks a world-wide independent working class organised on the basis of economic self-sufficiency, independent of all states and nations, and its purpose is to organise the working class for an independent working class.
SIMPLIFYING UNION FIGHT

I AM a member of the Communist Party but I read Socialist Worker regularly since, on the whole, I consider it valuable assistance to the labour movement. But one of the features I find least encouraging is the personal contact that trade union and Labour 'bureaucrats' inevitably will try to make with your column from this that the only way forward lies in the formation of rank and file organisations independent of the union structure. This, I think, is a dangerous simplification of the problem of the relationship between leadership and membership in the union.

No serious socialist could dispute that one aspect of a union's job is to regulate the more chaotic relations between management and labour and that therefore seems union leaders were to role as mediators between the two sides rather than as workers' representatives. However most of these 'leaders' became union struggle managers and in some sense reflect the workers' wishes if only because this is a more productive role for them.

But of course the interaction runs both ways. Most people seem to have become convinced of the need for personal struggle in strikes generally and in successful struggles since failure leads to demonstration. Thus a whole range of more or less militant courses of action which the leadership can adopt which will be tolerated by the rank and file. According to which line is taken, workers learn more or less from the struggle.

I see the role of the party in Britain as initiating an alternative leadership to the 'workers' organisations in the TUC and support-left wing alternatives based on rank and file organisations.

I think it would be a good idea for the party to be clearer about this and I think the party is not clear enough about this.

TOM GALLAGHER, Manchester 20.

SUDAN

THERE are several mistakes in Paul Foot's piece on Lonrho and sugar production in Sudan (4 November).

Firstly, Marketing Protection does not prove that 'This is the best line to establish new fields of sugar.' World sugar consumption is rising rapidly, especially outside the developed countries. Consequently, the EEC there is an expanding market. Lonrho knows this well.

Secondly, the statement that Lonrho can expect nothing more than the fees for the feasibility study, Foot calls the affair 'a pot of gold for Lonrho.' But the fees alone are chicken-feed.

Lonrho's sugar needs are rising sharply and are away above domestic capacity. Increased production will relieve the balance of payments. The company must sell sugar in the international market. This would be, with or without Lonrho.

So why not take advantage of this opportunity in the international market. The government of Sudan is looking for sugar producers and it would be a good opportunity for Lonrho to take advantage of this opportunity.

By making use of the facilities provided by the government of Sudan, Lonrho could increase its sugar production and improve its financial position.

TOM GALLAGHER, Manchester 20.

SLASHED

At the beginning of 1969 the UK labour force of the group was 15,000 and annual trading profits were £6.5 million. By January 1972 the labour force in Britain had been slashed to 2,736. The labour force overseas, where wages are even lower, had risen to 2,758. The other end of the story concerns the shareholders. Their share price has doubled in the past year is expected to be 30% per cent up on next year. If Lonrho has enough is enough to pay each worker in England an average of £6 a week about the world an extra £6.84 a week.

This slaughter of jobs has largely unindustrial and completely unanticipated. One reason is that Lonrho has kept its mouth shut. In order to avoid publicity they have even refused to go to the City for more money.

Lonrho have closed their plants and factories, and installed labour saving machinery. All at a cost of more than £27 million. These savings are being sold to property worth around £1,15 million and using £17 million of 'deprecation allowances.' If you want to know where Lonrho are going to expand, look at the financial statements.

T. M. PROCTOR

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THE BRITISH PRESS & NORTHERN IRELAND: EMMA ELYN McCANN

"I think the British press and Northern Ireland are not doing enough to expose the injustices of the Irish political system."

By Gilbert Proctor

Frank Allum, MP, Norman Atkinson, MP, Lawrence Daly (NU), Michael Foot, MP, Brian Jones (TGWU), Ernie Roberts (AUW), Ken Graham (UCW), Appeal Treasurer, 73 Rideaway Place, London SW9.

Rank and file paper needs your support

YOU will probably have heard of the libel action between the Electrical Trades Union and Orange Tots Ltd. Total costs to date have exceeded £2300, the greater part of which has fallen on our print. Ripley Printers Ltd will not allow a small producers co-operative to bear these heavy costs, and we therefore ask you to support this appeal.

Failure to raise the sum involved may well mean the end of the largest and file journal in the British trade union movement, as well as the possible disappearance of a firm of printers who have served the needs of the labour movement over a great number of years. Please give generously and do all you can to help in the appeal.

Frank Allum, MP, Norman Atkinson, MP, Lawrence Daly (NU), Michael Foot, MP, Brian Jones (TGWU), Ernie Roberts (AUW), Ken Graham (UCW), Appeal Treasurer, 73 Rideaway Place, London SW9.

TAXES

If former tax officer Sandra Wells (4 November) looks back through the April budgets she will find tax relief for the rich, money for private education. For example the Tories recently re-introduced education maintenance for private education which attract tax concessions at top rates. At least government has had the courage to bring this loophole back in 1968 or 1969.

BERNARD BARRINGTON, Manchester M14.
LONDON:—After 15 weeks on strike, building workers on the huge Cubitt's World End site in Chelsea have won the most significant victory in the London construction industry for 10 years or more.

Work resumed on the multi-million pound project this week. The site, on Monday entirely on the strikers' terms.

Cubitt's World End building workers had decided to continue their strike the day the national building strike ended because the employers were trying to throw out the negotiated bonus scheme, victimise one shop steward and blacklist a leading militant in the industry.

The strikers have won on all three points.

This is a magnificent victory and World End workers' return to work is stronger than ever, site convenor Don Quinn told Socialist Worker.

Every site in London has been watching this one and we have shown that unity and determination can beat the employers back.

It will encourage every organised trade unionist on the city's construction sites, he added.

Aside from ensuring that employers will have to continue meeting national standards, the victory of the World End strike further reasserts the importance of the nationwide building strike which has given rise to victimisation and the blacklist.

Cubitt's supercontractor, Barcotti, has been forced to guarantee that the next two carpenters it takes on will be Dave Donovan, the victimised shop steward, and Lou Lewis, a member of the local and the Daily Worker building workers' branch on the Barbican as at the time of the national strike.

World End will be the first major site on which Lewis has worked since October 1966. For six years the employers have successfully used the blacklist to keep him off anything but the most unimportant jobs.

"There can be no doubt that I would still be blacklisted without the whole of the World End labs," Lou Lewis told Socialist Worker.

Victory was achieved this side of the New Year by a combination of the strikers' solidarity and organisation with a fairly firm official stance on the part of the union, UCATT.

Before the recent national strike, top officials of the union were involved in outright collaboration with the employers. Now they have shifted into the centre, and over World End threatened to withdraw all conciliation procedures unless the employers used the line.

The full significance of the victory can be seen from the fact that this is the first successful strike after which the employers have been forced to back all the pickets on the first day. Usually they take back only one or two of the strikers alongside their own hand-picked men.

Peter Waring, deputy bricklayers' steward, said: This is a great victory because we've beaten the blacklist. Cubitts will think again before they take us on again. We have the whip hand now.

IS MEETINGS

TOTTENHAM 15 Christmas Social, Sat 9 December, in St John's Community House, Tottemen (near Langdon Park Road).

SWANSEA 15 public meeting: "It's which way to Ireland?" Politics pages we CAN read. Midlands: at 3.30pm, Town Hall, Swansea, Thu, 30 November, 7.30pm.

CAMBRIDGE 15 public meeting: Tony Vickers on The German Left, Thu 9 November, 8pm, Linton Hall, Linton Rd, for NIP.

LONDON REGIONAL

The History of Socialism and Class and its Meeting for Today: Special Meeting for the 15th anniversary of the Spanish Civil War (1936-1941) and Peter Loyn on Saturday 9 November, 7.30pm, Council Chambers, Town Hall, Holborn (no Hall), 8-10 Holborn, WC1.

BUILDING WORKERS' PACTITION: meeting at 7.30pm, on Friday 16 November, 8pm, QEH, important that all 15 is building workers attend.

LONDON IS TEACHERS' MEETING: Sunday 26 Nov, 10.45am at 6 Cotmans Gardens, WC2. Bill Lloyd (left), UCATT district organiser, and Don Quinn, the World's End convenor.

Dublin repression against IRA leaders

by Brian Trench

DUBLIN.-The arrest of Provisional Republican leader Sean MacBride in the latest in a series of attacks by the government regime on Republicans, both Provisional and Official, continues. The leader of the IRA, James O'Malley, has been living up to his promises of some weeks ago to 'harrass' Republicans in the South.

Michael Collins is now appealing in the high court against an extradition order. If his appeal fails then the Southern police will try to put into effect a dozen more arrest warrants which they have from the North. They are prepared to exchange wanted men with the Northern authorities.

While all this is going on, the Fianna Fail government—surprised by none of this—has been conducting regular searches of homes in the Six Counties at the European Court of Human Rights. The IRA is banned in the South, but the authorities have had difficulties putting the ban into effect. To show just how effective O'Malley will next week present a Bill to the Dublin parliament which will define IRA membership more closely.

Marched

The special courts, which sit without a jury, are continuing to pass sentences on Republicans. The government recently issued an order prohibiting pickets on the homes of judges in an attempt to stop members of the People's Democracy from campaigning in this way against the special courts.

The latest phase of repression against Republicans is not going unnoticed.

Two thousand workers from the Shannon industrial estate marched to the local police station in protest against the arrest of Northern Republican leaders. Further meetings are planned in the area.

The local branch of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union has threatened further action if their extradition goes ahead.

IS NEWS

NORTH LONDON:—120 people packed into the WImplementation Hotel last week to hear Tony Cliff and Paul Foot speak at a Fight the Tories meeting organised by the National Socialists, with help from neighbouring branches.

Henderson includes a large industrial complex. The local 15 branch was only set up six months ago. In July, when the five dockers were jailed, the branch carried out an intense propaganda in the area to put over the dockers' case. Although some of the local factories were on the employers' side, Park Royal Vehicles, a large car plant, came out on strike in solidarity.

More recently the National Front organised a petition inside Park Royal Vehicles, protesting against the arrival of the unit of the Irish Army in Britain. It received some support. The 15 branch issued a leaflet for the factory denouncing the myths about immigration.

It had its impact and has now blossomed into a regular factory bulletin.

The strikers from Fine Tubes have visited most of the factories around the Park Royal estate and have received leaflets. Delegates from these factories recently attended the conference to support the Fine Tubes strikers.

KENT:—The struggle to build a fighting opposition to the Tories got off to a good start last Wednesday when more than 130 people heard Paul Foot speak at a meeting at New Ash Green, near Gravesend. The meeting gave added impetus to the building of 15 in this important industrial area.

Further meetings are planned at Dartford, Moch targets, where a new 15 branch is being formed, and the meeting in support of the Fine Tubes strikers.
Lead: dusty answer for tenants

by Mary Phillips

LONDON—"All families in Downtown to be rehoused as top priority," said one council spokesperson. "Leasehold lead factory closes down," boasted another. According to the tenants in this part of Rotherhithe, London, can not live in this area.

After all, lead manufacturers H. E. Kinsella and Co. have been on the scene for quite some time, using the glaring of public for pumping lead dust into the air. The open lead factory and the streets where lead dust powders and lead dust powder were used as paving for streets were washed down in full view of the tenants.

The true position is this. The London Borough of Southwark has banned dust carts. For personal guidance, this offer of some more elementary directions. These include washing your hands (frequently using a cloth brush—particularly before eating. Toddlers should not be allowed to walk in streets or courts and patio should be kept indoors.

After a meeting between council representatives and H. E. Kinsella management, at which tenants from the five downtown estates and their tenants' associations were allowed one representative, the firm has just shut down the lead-making process "until a new filtration process is installed."

Meanwhile, council is still in limbo and standing up to the dust. Local children cannot play outside in Baw-Baw. They still have to be washed weekly, thepx.

Bob Mitchell MP ("Why wasn't I told?) says he was not aware of the housing estate here in the first place. But there are three schools and the people have to live in them.

While dust tests are being conducted on other factories in Southwark, Baw-Baw is now a dust-free zone, so there will be no follow-up. There have been promises, however, that even in Southwark there would be "no lead free zone in any area." Asbestos workers

on strike

ROCHDALE—Asbestos workers at Turner Brothers Asbestos walked out last week in one of the first strikes under the new asbestos freezing law.

However, North asbestos workers have been on strike for almost ten years, and the 100 days increase in the asbestos law now stands at 130 days. The law has been criticized by unions and by the workers themselves, who argue that the new law is unfair to the workers.

The men, members of engineering, electrical and other unions, are out for a fortnight's protest strike. They have received no help from their unions.

Linked

The effect of the closures on asbestos workers would be enormous. The closure of Ford's asbestos factories in Ebbw Vale, South Wales, has been described as a major blow to the local economy. The closure of the Ebbw Vale factory, a further 5000 jobs and more, will be felt across the country. The asbestos industry is vital to the health and safety of workers, and the closure of the Ebbw Vale factory will have serious implications for the health and safety of workers in the country.

The social and economic consequences for what is a steel town, will be far-reaching. The closure of Ford's asbestos factories in Ebbw Vale, South Wales, has been described as a major blow to the local economy. The closure of the Ebbw Vale factory, a further 5000 jobs and more, will be felt across the country. The asbestos industry is vital to the health and safety of workers, and the closure of the Ebbw Vale factory will have serious implications for the health and safety of workers in the country.
BIG BREAKTHROUGH
BY INDIAN WORKERS

LOUGHBOROUGH—Trade unionism in the sweat-shop mills of the East Midlands will never be the same again after the strike of 400 Indian workers at the Mansfield Hosery mill.

Directors of the multi-million pound Nottinghamshire Milling & Trading Ltd., one of the largest employers of mill labour in the area, and the officials of the National Union of Hosery and Knitwear Workers have been forced to understand that they cannot forever ignore thousands of low-paid mill workers, many of whom are women and Indians.

The strikers, who are all bartenders and runners on supplying the knitting machines, demanded a £5 a week increase to bring their wages into line with other similar workers in the area. Even more crucially, they asked for an end to racial discrimination in the factory which ensures that only the skilled, highly-paid jobs on the knitting machines are reserved for the Indians.

The white knitters get a basic £5.50 for a 40-hour week. Those who have beenbiology to the machine operators, £5.50 a week.

On 27 October the 120 bar-landing and 80 runners on, all of them Indians, went on strike. At least one other Indian worker came out in support. Indian workers at small mills at Shenton and at Lincoln McCarthy of Loughborough, have come out in support.

The local National Union of Hosery and Knitwear workers has no branch. Its only localsections of the district committees, which elect its executives.

The Indian strikers are heavily represented in the Loughborough Mill committee, chairman, Ron Underwood, is a white-skinned man. So is the vicechairman, Dennis Perkins. Of the 19 representatives on the committee, only six are Indian, though the Indians make up the majority of the labour force.

The strike is now in the hands of the Race Relations Board. Having now recognized the union has implicitly accepted the right of the workers to strike. Race divisions coincide with skill and pay divisions in the mill.

PROPOSALS

When last week the union offered to mediate in the conflict and reluctantly to management that the union now accepted a scheme which would see half the strikers back to work.

The officials hurried back to the management for more concessions. Their latest proposals include some movement in management and union strikes. They are offering assurances of no victimization and immediate discussions to end the calls blacklisting on knitting machines.

The strike committee had some help from the local Race Relations Board. Authorities had also been in the massive knitting and electrical engineering Mill, Loughborough and Lincolnshire Printing helped organize a demonstration andxffffffff capitalism, the Marxist model and Spencer, which use the Mansfield goods and own 20 per cent of the factory.

LEADERS of the main teachers' unions, the NUT, have abolished the annual conference of Young Teachers in an attempt to rebuild the influence of student leaders' influence in the ranks of the National Union of Teachers. Under the conference, which includes student leaders from the student unions and the NUT, the new conference will be held on 21 October.

In protest at a dinner held at the London Tradesmen Club, the NUT executive voted to rebuild the conference for its 25th anniversary. The new conference will be held on 21 October.

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The teachers' union is a militant, radical union with a long tradition of student activism. It has been a major force in the British educational movement for decades.