All out to defend the engineers

STRIKES CAN BEAT TORY FINES!

Pensioners boost our fighting fund

Worker. Many are anonymous but all are welcome. IS branch collections include Cambridge £154.00, Harrow £102.80, Oxford £100, Croydon £10, Paddington £7, Kingston £24, and Tottenham, who raised £48 from a social. The donations from old age pensioners and the lower paid show the extent of hostility and resentment towards the Tory government. If other readers were to subscribe as generously as our target of £50,000 would soon be reached.

Dedicated to Jim Nichols, IS National Treasurer, 6 Cotswold Gardens, London E2 8DN.

DOZENS of letters have been pouring in daily to the International Socialists' office in response to our appeal for £30,000 to help expand our printing works and improve our paper. The total collected has now risen to £5,874.

The Centre of the Storm: a mass meeting of workers at the CAV motor components factory in Sudbury, Suffolk, voting on 26 December to strike in protest at the £50,000 fine on their union, the AUEW. This is the factory where James Good, Britain's Number One Blackleg, broke a picket line and was refused membership of the union.

ONCE AGAIN the working-class movement faces a major assault from the Tories and their anti-union laws. At stake are the rights and freedoms won by generations of trade union members.

- The right to organise in free, independent unions in order to mount an effective challenge to the power of the employers and the state.
- The right to run those unions without interference from government and the courts.
- The right for the members to decide who can join and to refuse admission to declared blacklegs and agents of the employers.

And it is these rights that the Tories and the National Industrial Relations Court — through their despotic creature, James Good, are out to smash.

GOOD, a card-carrying member of the Fascist Tavirs, is now using the law to determine whether the law of the land is supreme or the law of the union.

But the law of the land is the Tory law. It is not impartial. The Tory government has set out systematically to drive down the living standards of working people to boost the profits of their paymasters.

The courts exist to shore up the system the Tories represent in Parliament.

SHACKLES

The centre of the Tory attack is the Industrial Relations Act. Its aim is simple: to make illegal the power of the unions where they are strongest, at shop floor level, and to drive out the last vestiges of unionism.

The current proposals are a deliberate attempt by the government to control the legitimate activities of workers and their unions. To hamper normal trade union activity is in defence of the interests of working people.

But the attacks have failed miserably to lead to any real fight against the law. The attempt by the AUEW to take the NCIR to the court is an example of the miners' struggle against the new state machine.

Feather is preparing the ground for a massive retreat by the leaders of the trade union movement. Co-operation with the Act will inevitably mean recognising the NCIR and backing for favours from Sir John Donaldson.

The AUEW, to its credit, has at least maintained passive opposition to the Act — but that is not enough.

Truly effective action against the NCIR must be taken by the AUEW now that the union is to be dismantled. The right wing in the union, already on the upsurge, will seize the chance to change policy and abandon any opposition to the Act.

HARDER

There is only one way to defeat the NCIR and that is by mass industrial action.

The miners showed that powerful, grass-roots mobilisation, supported by other unions, especially the engineers — could drive a hole through the Tories' pay policy.

And the strike wave that released the Pontefract Workers — the dockers blacklisted by the NCIR — proved that when the working class fights together it can take on and beat the apparently invincible state machine.

Do you want to help expand our printing works? Do you want to help improve our paper? Do you want to help unite the working class against the Tories? Do you want to help fight the Tory government? Then join the IS and become a part of the fight against the Tories. 

AUEW Strike round-up

Profile of Super Scab Union leaders wobble

The Centre of the Storm: a mass meeting of workers at the CAV motor components factory in Sudbury, Suffolk, voting on 26 December to strike in protest at the £50,000 fine on their union, the AUEW. This is the factory where James Good, Britain's Number One Blackleg, broke a picket line and was refused membership of the union.

The AUEW has its way then every union can be killed while its members funds when action is taken against the employers or against strike-breakers.

More likely, a defeat for the AUEW will encourage more and more union leaders to surrender to the Tory law and abandon the TUC policy of non-co-operation with the Act.

The TUC has described the Tory law as 'a deliberate attempt by the government to control the legitimate activities of workers and their unions . . . to hamper normal trade union activity in defence of the interests of working people'.

In military terms this is known as 'cowardice in the face of the enemy'. The Act cannot be amended in our interests. It can only be smashed.

All out now to defend the AUEW! SMASH THE NCIR!
BRIEFING

IN FRANCE the affair of the Lyons brothel keepers and their police protectors drags on. With the arrest of the former head of the vice squad, Tonnell, the case goes off a new odour. For Tonnell has been publicly accused of giving a Lyons police report on Paul Tavner, a local military official during the last occupation of France, to further his case for a pardon last year. These local police chiefs have some interesting friends.

FOUR HUNDRED French footballers went on strike on 1-2 December, and half the first division matches were cancelled. The kind of management footballers are up against is shown by what happened at Racing-Strasbourg. The president of the club was also director of a cable-towing firm, and pleaded himself on having no strikes and if his team lost for 37 years. He turned up at the strikers because they termed back the coach taking them to Marseille for a match. The directors of the club made their position clear: "We are the bosses, we pay you. Our own livelihood doesn't depend on football."

THE WAGES of nearly 700,000 Yugoslav workers are to be cut by 10 per cent next year. This is the government's strategy to cut the losses offirms described as "near-bankrupt." It appears that many enterprises—which are anyway not supposed to compete with one another—have been instituting without adequate cover. Dacia.

SUBVERSION IN CHILE: a case study in U.S. corporate intrigue in the Third World

Price 85c, plus 70c postage
15 BOOKS, 6 Cartons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

by George Gionis
STRIKE THREATS are increasing in France, although strikes remain illegal.

When bank workers threatened to strike early one month, their appointed leaders were persuaded to call it off only after an interview with the prime minister. Among other workers threatening to strike were the www, asp and railway workers.

The hands of Greek workers are tied by their appointed trade union leaders. Events before and during the student elections last month showed what might happen if trade union elections were allowed.

The minister of education explained why the government had decided to allow elections in the universities and colleges of higher ed-

We tried to show the complete faith of the government in the students, and secondly to show our desire to win the students to the side of the government. People have not the confidence, the government used all the trickery, double dealing and intimidation it has prac-

ticed for the past five years. In March and April, students de-

veloped general assemblies to prepare the elections and see that they were fair. The government had allowed, but various tactics were used to try to intimidate them. In Athens, hundreds of students were marched off to the local police stations and the Militant Drafted for military service.

The law at the faculty in Athens and the University of Thessaloniki, stu-
edents were required to register before the assemblies could take place—but registration offices were kept open long enough for only a small group to be able to vote. The democratic freedoms of the students out of 2000 were allowed into the assembly. Twenty hundred philosophy students who also walked out marched to the centre of the city, where they were attacked by a large force of police and many arrests.

The greatest trouble arose at col-

cenges, in which the election authorities could not organise themselves. At the law faculty and the polytechnics in Athens, the candidates were deluded, sealed ballot boxes and the right to have representa-

tions were used to count the votes. Mass meetings refused to continue with the election, but the de-

mands were not met.

Students were finally dispersed by the police. At the medical faculty, the elections were boycotted because trouble was expected.

In two colleges where the authori-

des were foolish enough to allow students to vote, the vote was not counted, the results were clearly against the government's representatives. Twelve out of the thir-

teen elected at these colleges had been actively involved in the trouble making.

Of the day of the elections the minister of education announced: "We are not going to tolerate any interference with what is going to happen in these elections. We are going to carry on." The student said: "The police were unprovocable. Their only purpose was to guarantee the right to vote to the majority of students."
Labour bows to racists' hate drive

by Mike Cafferty

"DO YOU WANT to see Uxbridge become an Asian stronghold, more like Bombay, Calcutta, or Karachi than a English town?" bellowed the National Front loudspeaker as it passed along Uxbridge High Street.

The roar of a thousand voices, an alarm not to provoke our people against immigration. We have reached the point where the question of immigration is the most serious matter however is the reappearance of Fascism in the last 20 years, for the first time since it was eradicated from this country in the Middle Ages. But so many suffering from terrible diseases should never have been brought to Britain. To wit: Disease, Mr. Churchill, the Union Movement makes its mark in his election manifesto.

There was the same tepidity displayed to the racist candidates in the Uxbridge by-election last week. And the most disturbing factor in the results is that the combined votes of the cut-out-racist candidates has dropped from 823 to a smaller than the racist vote at Hoxton.

The defact Labour suffered of its own making. In a constituency with a strong Labour grouping, with a large working class at work on London Airport, alone, Labour never profited by the election campaign.

Instead of launching a concerted campaign against the menace and other aspects of Tory policy, and fighting for the immediate return of power to the Labour government, we find that even with the help of the Tories and the Labour party for the first time the population of the Communist party was higher than the population of the Negro population of less than 3 per cent.

It seems that the Labour and the Tories are both prepared to make the most of the situation. The result of the election is a consistent fight for the restoration of the comprehensive education and the two-party system to which we have all contributed, which with the strength of 16 years, is the only way to prevent this situation.

The Tories that Labour was soft on immigrants, instead of taking a principled line and launching a counter-offensive against the rich man's Tory government, Labour was close to theUCEP.

Record

Peter Smith, chairman of Uxbridge Labour Party, wrote in the local paper in the following terms: 'To set the record straight, the Labour candidates and their supporters with the clear and firm statement that not only the plight of refugees but also the rights of asylum seekers to be given legal status and to be permitted to work, has been made plain in the course of the development of this campaign.'

Taunted by the Tories that Labour was soft on immigrants, instead of taking a principled line and launching a counter-offensive against the rich man's Tory government, Labour was close to theUCEP.

Education on the cheap—that's new Tory plan

LAST WEEK Tory Education Minister Margaret Thatcher unveiled her White Paper that sets British educational policy for the next 10 years.

It was hailed by the Guardian as "more than half-way towards a re- spectably socialist education policy." The rest of the press and most other interested bodies united in their praise of Mrs Thatcher for her 'progressive' and encouraging plans.

In reality, the White Paper tries to do many things:

1. To make education more free for all children.
2. To reduce the fee burden on education.
3. To increase the quality of education.

These are some of the aims of the White Paper.

NURSERY EDUCATION: The proposed expansion of nursery education will be spread over six years. It will include nursery classes in primary schools.

NUMBERS OF TEACHERS: The proposed reduction in teaching staff will be about 12,000, which will prove that the Tories are not prepared to remedy the existing teaching deficiency in the primary classes. Some children will still be taught in classes of 30 or even more.

TRAINING FOR EXPERIENCED TEACHERS: The present 'window' device with nursery education in the White Paper. But it is really a matter of amending the teaching force more closely. If there is a shortage of teachers in one subject or area, groups of teachers will be forced to use the gap by means of in-service training.

Obvious rumble

HIGHER EDUCATION: Here is the most obvious attack on educational standards. The number of higher education places will actually be reduced over the next 10 years in proportion to the age group. Every proposal points to one thing—education on the cheap. A new two-year higher education qualification is proposed, which is based on a test that will be increased to degree course places in the cost of the more expensive universities. The plan is to increase the maximum number of students and to increase the number of less expensive universities.
12 ANGRY BRIGADES

PROVIDENCE intervened ironically on the Monday before the so-called Angry Brigade verdict when the famous film Twelve Angry Men was shown on BBC television. Twelve Angry Men, made in the 1950s, is the classic liberal statement on the wonders of the jury system. It shows how one liberal citizen, who takes his public responsibilities seriously, can by reasoned argument change the minds of 11 of his countrymen. A boy, who appeared on police evidence to be clearly guilty of a murder, turns out, after the arguments of the irrepressible decent Henry Fonda, to be not guilty after all.

The reasoning behind this argument is that there is always one reliable fellow in a bunch of 12. Which is why at the time the film was made the verdicts of juries had to be unanimous. In America this is still so.

This was the situation which greeted those two liberal champions, Mr Roy Jenkins and Mr Dick Tavener, when they joined forces as Home Secretary and Minister at the Home Office in 1966.

Thirteen wasted years of Tory rule had at least left the jury system intact. But the Home Office backs and the policemen who advise them started to clamour about the difficulty of getting convictions. The Government has, for example, a majority verdict system which would make it impossible to hang a, for example, a two people had been hanged or executed.

Fearless Roy and Slick Dick immediately saw the force of these arguments and drew up a shortlist to be used in the Criminal Justice Bill, 1967 (Green Paper) which was rejected by this reactionary measures legislated by the Labour government. They swept away a simple civil liberty which had been part of English law for three centuries.

Anna Mendelson and Hilary Curray, John Parker and James Greenfield are to spend 10 years in prison because of the palliavals of Mr Roy Jenkins and Dick Tavener.

I can deny a rumour that Jenkins and Tavener are planning a reissue of the film Twelve Angry Men, in which the jury retire, take a quick vote, find 11 for guilty, and return to deliver their majority verdict, which is rapidly translated into an execution.

I DON'T know what has come over Lawrence Daly of the National Union of Mineworkers. He has put his name to a brochure drawn up by the National Coal Board which induces miners to become tenants for total fuel appliances. Commission at the rate of about two per cent will be paid in books of Co-op stamps. Chief beneficiaries will be the Co-op and J M Sackey, the retailing combine which was bought by the Coal Board in 1966 and which still has Lord Robens as a director.

Tender trap

THE Channel Tunnel, which will cost the British taxpayer some £560 million, will provide the largest and most complex contract in the history of the British construction industry. It will stretch on from the submission of competitive tenders by a large number of construction firms.

British companies who are hoping to get a bit of the tunnel action, and Mr McAlpine, have got the contract sewn up. Miraculously Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons last week secured a £350,000 contract from the Transport and Road Research Laboratory (a public body which is part of the Department of the Environment) to conduct tunnel trials in the lower chalk strata at Chiltern near Oxford.

Officially it is denied that there is any direct link between the Chinner job and the massive spoils of the Channel Tunnel. But the chink formation at Chinner is one of the few places in the country where the deep bore chalk conditions of the Kent coast are reproduced.

McAlpine won this contract in competition with five other tunnelling contractors, largely because it is providing a new soft and hard ground digger for the Chinner project at a significant cost.

The diggers, needless to say, would come in very useful for digging the Channel Tunnel.

 naive construction firm directors tell us that it is a Tender trap that a lower tender than McAlpine could still win the Chinner contract. They should remember that McAlpine secured the £50 million civil engineering contract in Sarsenhores despite the fact that the Mc Alpine tender was at least £1 million higher than that of Mitchell Construction.

McAlpine's magic touch with tenders has been proved once again last week when the deadline for submitting tenders for the multi-million pound Hunter bridge was extended by a week. It is rumoured that McAlpine have belatedly decided to put in a bid?
CLOCKWORK ORANGEMEN

THE START of the Scottish football season this year was characterised by a fiercer than usual outbreak of sectarianism in the matches made worldwide events in Ireland. The continued association of the Rangers Football Club with the cause of the Orange Order has given a considerable stimulus to the various Orange Societies in Scotland over the past year.

In a recent meeting called between Glasgow magnates and the managers of Rangers and Celtic Football Clubs (Celtic is associated with the Catholic cause). It was suggested that a public declaration by Rangers that they are prepared to field a Catholic might well alleviate the situation. Protestants have played for Celtic for many years, but never Catholics for Rangers.

Rangers manager Willie Waddell refused to do anything of the sort, shouting angrily: ‘You'll find no sectarianism at Ibrox Park.’

Rangers made a disastrous start to the season, and the only choice for the supporters was the excellent play of young forward called Graham Fyfe. There was some anger among the supporters about the club's refusal to play Fyfe regularly in the first team, despite his good form.

The truth gradually filtered through. Fyfe's crime was that of being a Catholic himself (he would have been signed by Rangers if he hadn't) but that he was engaged to a Catholic girl.

The winning goal

To Rangers, this seems like the worst betrayal since Laurie Blyth, who played for them 20 years ago. Blyth's mother remained a Catholic.

The arrival of this young Catholic at Celtic is a warning to Catholicism. He is swiftly a free transfer from Rangers.

Rangers have trouble with Fyfe because he doesn't want a transfer. But Rangers management seems to have changed.

On 9 November, for instance, when four first-team Rangers forwards were injured, another supporter of former centre-forward Colin Stein transferred to Celtic as substitute. He made his debut on eighty minutes from the end to replace a player who had limped on both wings for an hour. He promptly laid on the winning goal.

The following week, Fyfe scored the winning goal against Hibernian, who are holding out for Waddell's football judgment. But this was a step in the right direction.

So if your club is looking for a bright young forward, you can get one cheap from Rangers. And if Graham Fyfe leaves Rangers, he shouldn't worry. Players like Pole, Eutecho, Punks and Di Stefano would have been treated the same.

They all 'clicked with the wrong ethnic group.'

ON 11 JANUARY at the Savoy Hotel in London the American Chamber of Commerce (United Kingdom) is holding an important dinner at which, according to the invitation card, "the guest of honour and speaker is J. J. (Jack) Kennedy, M.D."

The invitations also note that bookings are being taken for a "social gathering after the dinner where the American women will be covered by the U.S. assists' charge."

Graham Fyfe, the Rangers player who is engaged to a Catholic girl. ‘You'll find no sectarianism at Ibrox Park,’ said the Rangers manager. Fyfe, despite brilliant play, was dropped from the team.

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Pit village where a family face eviction on Christmas Day

OUT IN THE YORKSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE, somewhere between Leeds and Castleford, lies a tiny village with a population of just under 200 called Ledston Luck. All it amounts to is a cluster of houses built around a coal mine of the same name.

The name may be picturesque but this little hamlet would never make a cover picture for Country Life. A third of the houses, though modest enough, are palatial compared with the 44 'cottages' that line both sides of the village's single dead-end street. Most of the better dwellings house families who worked in the colliery.

One of the tenants of the cottages, Mr. John Chatsworth, together with his wife Carol and young son Dominion, will not be living there for very much longer if the landlord has his way.

They have been served with a notice to quit on 25 December - Christmas Day, Mrs Chatsworth is pregnant and the baby is due any day now.

When I spoke to the owner of the cottages, Mr J. E. Whittaker of 20 Castleford Road, near Wakefield, he told me that he knew nothing about the notice to quit and referred me to his agent, Harry Harrison, a prominent real estate agent of Castleford.

I asked Mr Harrison whether he had any qualms about ordering a family out of their home on Christmas Day and he replied: 'It doesn't particularly matter to me which day it is.'

John Chatsworth is the secretary of the Ledston Luck Action Committee, a body formed recently by the tenants to force the National Coal Board and the landlord of the 44 cottages to bring them in to the latter part of the 20th century.

MEAGRE

Life is far from comfortable in Ledston. Their homes are tiny and inadequately heated and the narrow passages in the cottages areודי the national grid. This consists of a meagre 110-volt supply from the colliery generators, which do not provide even enough current to run a television satisfactorily.

The wiring in Mr Chatsworth's house has burnt out twice recently. It has been described by officials from the fire service and independent electricians as a dangerous fire hazard.

Inspection from the Yorkshire Electricity Board went round the village in June 1971 and said that it was necessary to rewire all the houses and convert the appliances to receive the 240-volt supply from the national grid. Since then nothing has been done.

Mr Chatsworth told me: 'When a tenant moves in he is not told by Mr Harrison that the supply is only 110 volts. When new tenants are told about this by their neighbours they often have difficulty in obtaining suitable appliances. They are advised by the landlord to spend up to £25 on a transformer.'

Mr David Kellingbeck, another member of the Action Committee, explained that the situation made no difference at all. And in any case, when the electricity is working the supply sometimes drops to between 76 and 81 volts. When a cage comes up at the pit the village in the village goes down. The lights dim and even go out.

It is impossible to run even an electric cooker or modern washing machine. Last year one of the villagers connected a small baby Belling with the result that the electricity failed in the entire block in which the house is situated.

David Kellingbeck said: 'We had to sell a fridge when we moved in and we had only had it about six months. Some other newcomers are even worse.'

Mr Chatsworth called in inspectors from the County Fire Officers' department a few weeks ago. They were horrified at what they saw but although the wiring

THE VILLAGE FROM THE COLLIERHEAD

by Bill Message

breaks almost every regulation laid down by the Home Office they claimed that they were powerless to act.

Nothing has been done so far because neither the Coal Board, which sells the electricity, the landlord, nor the electricity board is prepared to foot the bill.

SCANDAL

Not only is the Coal Board willing to continue this practice of supplying such a miserable current through decrepit and dangerous wiring, it is also making the tenants pay through the nose for it. There have been three increases in the cost of electricity over the past nine months, and the villagers are now paying for it at the standard Yorkshire rate, minus 15 per cent 'inconvenience money'.

The scandal of this potential death-trap that the NCB calls an 'economic and social disaster' should be of no surprise to the tenants. There is no gas either.

The state of the whole system that condemns workers and their families to live in such conditions was pointed to by Neville Place when he told me: 'Last year they laid brand new pipelines across the top of the street for North Sea gas. The gas now flows directly under the top of the street, but they won't let us have any.'

Most of the tenants cook in ovens built into the fireplace or use color gas. The landlord tells those who complain that they have perfectly good cooking facilities—coal fires.

One elderly man has lived in the village for 30 years. His family is now married and he lives on his own. He was badly injured in an accident at the colliery some years ago when he was trapped between two trucks. His poor health meant that he had to leave the house that he was living in because the fire used to boil out clouds of smoke and nothing could be done to repair it effectively. He moved last year into a vacant house on the estate and he moved as well as £1.50 to £2.50 a week. The landlord brushed this aside saying that 'when a house becomes vacant we can increase the rent.

SUMMED UP

Ledston Luck is a slum in the middle of nowhere. The landlord carries out improvements as much regularly as Ted Heath helps the pensioners.

David Kellingbeck summed it all up when he told me: 'It's about time something was done about this place, so we are forming this action committee. And we are going to get something done.'

'We shall be holding meetings to involve all the tenants and plan the campaign. We are out to get something done about this electricity supply, get the village cleaned up and pull back on the map.'

Taking the council for a ride

CONCORDE: Ten Years and a Billion Pounds Later by Chris and Liz Edwards 31p

In this pamphlet, Chris and Liz Edwards of the Anti Concorde Movement explain the economics, uneconomical, outdated, unmarketable, ecologically harmful, supersonic folly in detail.

PLUTO PRESS for the Anti Concorde Movement
unit 10 Spencer Court 7 Chalcot Road London N1 6LH

THE COUNCIL for the London overspill town of Haverhill, West Suffolk, have their own 'fair rents' scheme. But it has been running for years. It is extremely unfair—if you are an industrialist.

For between 1958 and 1965 the council granted 50-year leases at fixed low rents for factory sites to 13 firms moving into the town. And not a word of it got out in public until last month.

What has since emerged shows how industry can take a town council to the cleaners so often that the houses can treat the council with contempt—and still get away with it.

The prime example is Haverhill in the anti-union firm of Project Office Furniture. Managing director Ivor Blooth was given a 59-year lease for a 4-acre site at a fixed rent of £1000 a year. This meant that Blooth, one of the town's most successful businessmen, was paying a protected £213 per acre with the comfort of knowing that his rent could not be increased until the year 2008.

On the other side of the town, tenants on the council's Clements housing estate, struggling to meet their increased rents imposed by a compliant Labour council, are paying several times the rent that Blooth has to pay. And they face the steady climb in rents until they reach the 'fair' (say £5000) a year.

Houses on Clements have been built to high density specifications and there are as many as 16 to an acre in parts of the estate. Rents at present are an average of £3. This means the tenants are paying as much as £2495 a year per acre—and more than 11 times the amount Blooth was allowed to pay.

But as things get worse for the tenants they get better for Blooth.

Barrel

He has bought the freehold to his factory site, plus adjoining 1½ acre plot for expansion, for a giveaway £25,000. At first he offered the council only £14,000, but even they weren't going to have that and the price was finally fixed at £23,000—£3000 a year.

Blooth was so confident at getting the land at a knockdown price that he started his expansion work several weeks before the council agreed to the sale. He knew he had the council over a barrel, because if they didn't sell to him he could wipe the 90-year lease at them and just sit tight until the next century, knowing that his grand children would be paying the same rent
Welfare cuts begin to bite

BY LIONEL SIMS

Staggering

When the effects of being a worker and living in the North are combined and are then compared with a middle-class manager living in the South, the difference is staggering. Only 10 per cent of the housewives living in the South-East have no teeth, but 75 per cent of the housewives living in the South-East have lost all their teeth.

A decade of chewing sweets to relieve the boredom of school, skimmed and unbalanced meals for the housewife, rushed meals and Mars-bar snacks for shiftworkers, all contribute to the collapse of the petty authoritarian in the dental profession. No wonder almost half the men and women in this country refuse to attend dental check-ups at all. They have to put up with school dentists like this one:

In other words, the underserving poor a lesion by pulling out their children's teeth.

Despite all the evidence of recent statistics, and although there was a 30 per cent drop in the demand for dental treatment when charges were first introduced in 1952, the Tory government is giving us a nasty kick in the face with its scheme for greater personal responsibility in dental health. Under the new system, which began on April Fool's Day last year, the patient pays half the cost of treatment up to a maximum of £10 and the age of exemption is reduced from 21 to 18.

CHEAPER

Since the more regular are the check-ups the less extensive is the treatment needed at each visit, the Tories argue that their scheme will raise the level of dental health by making it cheaper to attend every six months rather than wait three years until you get a tooth-ache. This is just the reverse side of their argument against Bevan in 1948 that under the National Health Service working people would go wild and obtain free pills, wigs, bandages and grab whatever else they could get free.

The truth is that under the dental service as it now runs the only financial rationale is corruption! General dental practitioners are not paid by salary but by contract for each service they provide the patient. The government draws up the scale of fees for these different services.

No differences at all were made to this scale by the Wilson government, yet it has no therapeutic value whatsoever. It is far more profitable for a dentist to repair bad teeth than to spend time attempting to keep a set of good teeth healthy.

How many people know that adult teeth first appear in the mouth when you are six years of age? That whether the movement of the toothbrush is across or up-and-down the teeth is irrelevant to dental hygiene? That a balanced low sugar diet is essential? Well you are not likely to find out from a dentist. He gets paid 60p for educating a patient and he has to pay an administrative assistant to fill in a complex form which comes to 10p. In the same time he could have earned £3.64 doing fillings, and the form he has to fill in is ridiculous.

The result is predictable. There were 8,282,000 fillings done in 1963, rising to 10,481,000 by 1970.

For every tooth pulled out in 1963, two were filled. By 1970 for every tooth pulled out, four were filled. There is enough metal in British working-class teeth to keep the UCS yards supplied with raw materials for years!

BRUTAL

The Wilson government did nothing to change the brutal facts of short supply and large demand in the dental service.

There were 10,496 dentists in Britain in 1963. By 1970 this had increased to 11,600. But an increase of 50 dentists a year is not even close to meeting the needs of the population. In 1963 there was one dentist for every 10,496 people falling to one for every 11,419 people by 1970.

The worst year of dental health was 1958, when only five per cent of 12-year-olds had no decayed, missing or filled permanent teeth. The figures improved after the start of the Health Service and four years later Wilson and the 'white heat' of medical and biological revolutions. 5.1 per cent of 12-year-olds had no decayed, missing or filled permanent teeth.

REDUCE

The state of dental health has nothing to do with Heath's 'financial revolution'. It has to do with the decay of dental health and save money why not put fluoride in the water supply? It has been known since 1953 that this reduces tooth decay by 60 per cent.

The real fact behind this so-called reform is obvious. Just as the same that lies behind the cuts in welfare and school milk, the cuts in medical prescriptions and private and council rents. Through these the Tory government saved £330 million.

No prices at all for gumming how much the Tories put out in tax cuts and concessions to their parochial big businessmen.

International Socialism

The monthly journal will be a real weapon in the struggle says Tony Cliff

"Do we want to bring ourselves down, as I say the miners did, to the gutter to hold the whole country to ransom?" asked the Communist general secretary, Mr. Bloch, at the union's 1972 conference. Roger Rosewell describes the background in 'The Seamens' Struggle' in International Socialism 54, the first issue of the new monthly version of the journal, out next month.

The emphasis is on shorter articles than in the past with a wider range of topics. The January number also includes Chris Harman on the crisis in the USSR, Tyrryl Harris on Wilhelm Reich, the prophet of sexual liberation. Lenin Hallas on the attitude of workers to demands, Jim Kenain on Who Owns Britain? and Nigel Harris on marxism and anarchism. Reg Groves, one of the leading pioneers of the left opposition in Britain, begins his 'Recollections of a revolutionary between the wars' and there is a new 'Notes of the Mouth' feature plus reviews of books of interest to socialists.

The price is cut to 15p, a move that is based on a drive for wider sales. The new-style journal aims to provide background information on the movement at greater depth than is possible in Socialist Worker together with simply written articles on marxist theory, contemporary economics and the way forward, ammunition for our members and sympathisers and monthly analysis of the situation in Britain and internationally.

I urge all readers of Socialist Worker to take and study this new venture. It will be a real weapon in the struggle, Tony Cliff.

In the past couple of weeks the Western powers have been reporting rumours from Moscow that a new social democrat or moderate is expected to be the most prominent defendant is likely to be the historian Pyotr Yavlinsky, son of one of the most famous victims of the purges of the 1930s.

Pyotr Yavlinsky has had plenty of first-hand experience of repression at the hands of the security police. His father, a major-general in the Russian army, a hero of World War II, was arrested in 1937 and executed the following year. The secretary of the Communist Party of the USSR, was arrested in 1937. Yavlinsky was himself, at the age of 14, sentenced to 17 years in prison. He was rehabilitated until 1956. Yet at the 22nd congress of the Russian Communist Party in 1962 the Russian leader, Stalin, could give details of how his father had been arrested on charges trumped-up by Stalin, Voroshilov, Molotov and Vyshinsky.

Repression

Pyotr Yavlinsky has recently been one of the better-known of a circle of intellectuals, writers and artists who have stood out against what they regard as a revision of Stalinist policies towards the children of Stalin's years. They have protested at political trials, at events such as the invasion of Czechoslovakia and at executions.

They have also organised the unofficial distribution in hypodermic form of novels, poems, discussions on society and accounts of political trials. The government's official version of this report is the Chronicle of Current Events.

Most of those involved in this movement have been drawn from the upper-middle class and have produced scores of Russian writers, artists and intellectuals who have been or are in danger of being arrested.

Orders by and large, have not challenged the fundamentals of Russian Marxism, men and women for the most part went on to political trials and the arbitrary powers of the Soviet Union, but they quoted the Soviet constitution against the trial judges.

But this has not stopped them being given progressively worse sentences. In 1967 the authorities drove first with the Comedians, Andrei Sakharov and Sinyavsky. In the years since, there have been 15 cases of people being arrested and cases of imprisonment without trial—on the grounds of alleged 'alienation of land'—in mental hospitals.

Exiled

But now the repression is rising to a new peak.

In January Vladimir Bukovsky, who after almost 15 months of freedom, was sentenced to death and served only one day to seven years in prison and labour camps, to be followed by five years in exile in some remote area. He courageously defended to the court: 'My only regret is that in the one year, three months and three days (of freedom) I have lived for nothing.'

Since then dozens of people have been imprisoned when charges were brought against the country for "unofficial literary activities. But they are only the tip of the iceberg. Reports from the Ukraine indicate figures approaching 500. Reports from Lithuania, where large crowds demonstrated on the streets in March.

In the last few months it has become clear that the authorities are incapable of keeping many of its promises to stop the growing number of exiles. The failure of the grain harvest has led to a rise in prices, deepening black markets and the increase in trade with China which means further emigration.

The Russian leaders fear that in this situation the distance between themselves and the people is growing. More and more people are being arrested for minor crimes, wrongs committed by workers and taken on a new, and more important, role in the life of Russia...
Republicans have no real answer to the crackdown

THE TWO bomb explosions that shook Dublin's city centre two weeks ago helped to put Jack Lynch's rocking boat back on an even keel.

The joint Provisional IRA had lain within hours of death. The government seemed to face imminent defeat in the Dáil. Thousands were marching, calling for 'Lynch Out' and 'O'Malley Out!'

It might look as if the Fianna Fáil Government had an unexpected windfall of edge of disaster. But was this really the case?

The debate have been a charade.

There was no argument about the need to crush the IRA. Indeed, the opposition parties had, if anything, been more insistent on this than Fianna Fáil.

Finn Ceide and Labour—pursuant to parliamentary opposition—found it hard to put much effort into their objections to the government's proposed new legislation.

The Dáil itself—beset by the Dáil of the bombs of Liberty Hall and the Bouxton Club, Fine Ceide was changing course towards accepting it. Labour stuck to its position in the same critical knowledge that they would not be called on to do anything at all.

**TACTICS**

If the government had been defeated on the amendment to the Offences Against the State Act, it is likely that the joint government would have fallen.

The government of the day would have found it hard to put a constructive case for the Bill in the Dáil or to persuade Dáil members to vote for it. 

A new government would have been in complete disarray, and at least a general election would have been necessary.

The different sections of the Southern Irish ruling class were last week not arguing about policy but, merely about the best tactics for achieving policy. If the government could have got the Bill through, it would have been better able to work with Britain in the exploitation of the Irish working class.

**The real crisis is in the response of the working class and anti-imperialist parties to this situation.**

The introduction of direct rule in the North took much of the strength out of the ruling class and anti-imperialist campaign. The popular political organisations were ill-prepared to adapt adequately to the new situation.

It is clear that this is a direct outcome of the failure that the government has failed to crack down on the republicans. Their base among the people has been weakened.

But nobody should underestimate the power of the republicans. It was the tradition, and the prestige of the Sinn Féin name, that brought thousands on to the streets to protest against the dismissal of the High Court judges, and the Dáil has remained strongly anti-imperialist in its stance. The republicans have shown their strength in the street fighting.

**In the North, workers march against army repression. Sinn Féin has forced the officials to back out of 'civil liberties' campaign—just that is the new line in the South.**

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Many of the Republican Clubs in the North have sent resources out of the civil rights movement because they have seen the intervention of the British and the Dáil, but the officials seem prepared to keep up the struggle in the South.

Up to now, they have been more uncertain in practice than in theory. They have no clear strategy on how to react. There is still a chance that they might be more consistent in the future.

The Dáil has been more consistently anti-imperialist in its stance. The working class has been using its strength to press the issues.

The statements by the officials on the current crisis have been made with the intention of placating the workers and unions. The trade unions, on the one hand, and the republican movement, on the other, have tended to see the political and economic problems of the Irish people as two quite distinct things.

The workers of the 26 Counties have also been long to wobble between tough economic militancy and violent national self-sufficiency. The combination of the two around a revolutionary programme should contain enormous potential.

But the general pattern has been to separate them completely. The trade unions, on the one hand, and the republican movement, on the other, have tended to see the political and economic problems of the Irish people as two quite distinct things.

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**Circumstances have forced the republicans to recognise one crucial fact: that their first line of attack, and their last line of defence, are the organised workers. The call has come from Provisional platforms for strike action against Fianna Fáil repression. The suggestion for a General Strike has been put forward more urgently.**

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MAN IN A TANGLE...

DIVERS

Mansfield Hosiey strikers and their families occupied the union's offices in Loughborough last week to protest at the officials' indifference and lack of action. Next day the dispute was made official.

unemployment will continue to harm the British worker...

Socialist Worker 16 December 1972 9

SOCIALLY REPORT BY PAUL FOOT AND VICTOR KNIGHT

This is the only point on which British and Asian workers agreed.

Both groups are fed up with the NHS because of its inability to secure a proper system through which prices are set for new piecework jobs.

--- get comment from the Runcorn Trust report

WISDOM AT THE TOP

Secretary Gibson: Buy British.

Official Roma Dexter: 'I believe in work study.'

Mansfield Hosiey workers were immigrant workers, mainly Asians. The figure is contested by Harold Gibson. 'I'd say it was nearer 80 per cent,' he says.

Whatever the figure, Mr Gibson agrees that not a single member of any of the union's district committees is an immigrant worker. Nor, has his union conference at any time in the last 10 years discussed the problems of integrating immigrant labour into the trade union movement.

'You haven't discussed it,' he told us, 'because we haven't had any problems.'

Buffer

The union's district committees, permanently cut off touch with the ideas and aspirations of the shop floor, have served effectively as a buffer between the union leadership and any militancy in the rank and file.

As a result, the union membership has been completely exposed to the ravages of the employers.

In 1959, for instance, the mill bosses, using as an excuse the increased competition in the trade following Britain's membership of the European Free Trade Area, announced a 25 per cent cut in knitters' wages. After some show of 'negotiation in protest', the union leadership recommended the cut to their members in a postal ballot.

The ballot overwhelmingly rejected the recommendations and the employers' demands. The union promptly called a 'delegated conference', composed in the main of its precious district committees, which duly voted against strike action. The union negotiators crawled back to the employers, whined pitifully for a few marginal concessions, and settled for next to nothing.

A large part of the general president's address to the following year's national conference consisted of the 'outside interference from the Socialist Labour League, without which, it was suggested, the knitters would have accepted a wage cut with better grace.

Since the 1959 upheaval, the union has settled down to its accustomed 'responsible' relationship with the employers. The members have continued to suffer. Some 700 redundancies have been declared in the industry in the last 15 years; and in 1966 an arbitration court removed the workers' cost of living bonus.

Some mild protest at this decision was quickly dowsed by the president's reminder that there was nothing whatever the union could do about the decision of an industrial court. Since the loss of this cost of living bonus, the hosiey workers have been subjected to the full ravages of inflation.

Politics has never been much discussed at NUHKK gatherings. The union is not affiliated to the Labour Party and its officials have always sternly resisted any move in that direction.

In 1968 the annual conference rejected a call to reintroduce the 'national' political party for the party to be no rival to the Labour Party. It was said that the union was 'too small' to be effective. As the conference report to the members pointed out, its 'principal function is the economic and social sphere.'

Halmark

On the other hand, the union is always the first to raise the flag for British hosiey goods against their competitors from India or Korea. Immense chauvinism about foreign goods entering the country and competing with British goods has been a hallmark of NUHKK officials during the last 25 years.

'If it's always,' said Harold Gibson at this year's annual conference, 'then an axiom that we are proud to label our goods "British" or "Scottish" or "Made in England", and I cannot see why this principle should not apply to any goods that people in this country purchase.'

In the September issue of The Hosiey and Knitwear Worker it is only the fifth issue ever, the union leadership stated demands for some kind of union journal or newsletter) there is an article by a Leicester

RACIALISM IN BRITAIN

Derek Humphry

POLICE POWER and Black People

To many blacks in our cities, police harassment has become a way of life. The police are viewed as the principal oppressors, which is the immigration-controlling, arms-to-South Africa-sellng, friend-of-Iran-Smith British government.'

Price 40p, plus 5p postage

ALSO

The Rode of Enoch Powell

By Paul Foot

Price 20p, plus 5p postage

IS BOOKS

6 Cottons Gardens

London E2 8GN
OUT OF YOUR MIND
Duncan Hallas on socialist ideas and capitalist myths

"WHAT about Russia then? Is that the sort of society you want?" Socialists are often asked this question. The short answer is no, certainly not.

But of course it cannot be left at that. Many socialists themselves have illusions about the real state of affairs in Russia and the rest of the so-called communist camp.

The Russian revolution was a genuine working-class revolution. Of that there can be no doubt at all. The Bolsheviks took power with the active support of the great majority of the working class. Even the Mensheviks, the right-wing social-democrats, admitted in a resolution passed just after the revolution: "The Bolshevism revolution of October 1917 has been historically necessary and expressed the endeavour of the toiling masses to seize the power of the revolution wholly in their interests."

Yet it was a workers’ revolution in a country in which the working class was a small minority—five million out of a population of 160 million. And without the support of the peasants, the great majority of the people, it could not have succeeded in the first place, let alone survived the four years of civil war and armed intervention by the armies of 14 capitalist states, including Britain.

But the peasants did not support the Reds because they wanted socialism. What they wanted was the landlords’ land, the cancellation of crippling debts, the right to develop as capitalist farmers, and the end of Russian participation in the first imperialist world war. Peace, land and bread was the Bolshevik slogan, alongside "All power to the soviets."

So there was a contradiction built into the Russian revolution right from the start. The Bolshevik leaders were well aware. They knew very well that Russia on its own, with a small working class, poorly developed industry, and a very backward economy, could not make what was later called the "great leap forward" into socialism.

The revolution created a workers’ state but, as Lenin said in 1921: "What we actually have in a workers’ state with this peculiarly, firstly, that it is not the working class but the peasant population that predominates in the country, and secondly, that it is a workers’ state with bureaucratic distortions."

The bureaucratic distortions" were themselves a direct consequence of the weakness of the working class. Small in 1917, it was much smaller by 1921.

Russian industry, weak to start with, was ruined by war, civil war and foreign intervention which completely disrupted the supply of raw materials. By 1921 the total output of manufactured goods was down to one-eighth of the 1913 figure.

The prominent communist leader Bukharin, later to be shot by Stalin like so many others, spoke of "the actual disintegration of the working class.

The trade union leader Raskrats, noted: The workers thanks to the contraction of production in the factories, are being absorbed in the peasant mass. By 1921 the working class proper was down to one million!

In a series of tributes—a million people died in the Ukraine in the famine of 1921 thanks, in part, to the blockade of Soviet Russia maintained by the British Navy—the peasants supported the Soviet government throughout the civil war.

They did so because the victory of the white counter-revolution would have meant the return of the landlords. But once the war was over their support vanished.

Doomed?

The Soviet regime found itself, by 1921, ruling through the party and state apparatuses without the support, and even against, the immense majority that Marx had regarded as the basis of a workers’ state. The communist leaders hung on grimly, repressing a peasant rising in Tomsk and putting down the revolt of the Kronstadt sailors, because they believed in the international revolution.

"The socialist revolution in Europe must come and will come," wrote Lenin. "We are now, as it were, in a besieged fortress, waiting for the world socialist revolution to come to our relief."

And, in particular, if the German revolution does not come, we are doomed."

The German revolution was defeated by more resolutions in number of other countries in Europe. Was Lenin right in thinking that in this case Soviet Russia was doomed?

In one sense, no, the regime survived. In another sense yes, he was right. The death of the workers’ state but a dictatorship over the working class and the pauperism.

"We are now, as it were, in a besieged fortress, waiting for the world socialist revolution to come to our relief," wrote Lenin.

We actually derive from a black dance done in poverty of the slave-owners’/oppression. But such musical and political subterfuges cannot save Whitcomb, who proceeds to give a poetic history of the black struggle, flagging off the social injustice, virtually attributing its incidence to the American Civil War and its popularity to Paul Whitcomb. The book is packed with the now consciously racist thefts of the black music of the South to the Chicago touchdown and downbeat to swing Broadway and the songs of Ian Whitcomb and Jimmy Young.

Whitcomb again plays down black blues influence but has promoted them to the urban ethnos in favour of his choral arrangements. After the Blues proves once again that you need more than a chappy groove and a vague resemblance to Mick Jagger to produce a good book on music.

Michael Walz’s collection of interviews and pop is the best of the lot. But this comes from the various layers of the pop industry in an attempt to explain ‘how the pop industry works’.

Of course, there are many aspects of the pop industry that are fascinating to those who want to understand how it works. But this is not the case here. The book is more of a historical account than a critical analysis of the industry. It provides valuable insights into the history of pop music, but it also emphasizes the commercial aspects of the industry and the role of record companies in shaping music. Overall, the book offers a comprehensive overview of the pop industry, but it is not as in-depth as it could be. It is definitely worth reading for anyone interested in popular music and the music industry.
CRITIC WHO WANTS TO "VERBALIZE" CULTURE

LITERARY awards are the league table of the writers. The system presents a prize and a large number of rich people eat a large meal, while the subject of the novel is happily reduced to 12 draws, three aways and 27 home wins.

John Berger, revolutionary socialist critic and novelist, two weeks ago received an undreamt-of honour and this novel, the money came from the Booker organisation, which got it from 200 years of blood and expenditure in the Caribbean.

Botched in very bad taste. He told the truth about Booker, and about what he thought of literary prize and what he intended to do with the money. He spent the literary project, while the other half he gave to the London-based Black Panther.

Berger's writing has been the mainspring of all Western cultural criticism in this country, as his BCC series 'Ways of Seeing'.

What ideas had he set out to question and undermine in his work as novelist and writer? It was passion and imagination. The first target is the notion that some people are talented, intelligent and imaginative, while the vast majority are not. And the refusal idea that since people have significantly different degrees of talent, intelligence and imagination, they can be put into a hierarchy.

FREEDOM

'Talent is not an exceptional or an inborn talent. I believe that everyone is talented.'

At the beginning of their lives all people are more or less equal, have more or less the same potential. Then the political system, the system of work, the political structures and the profit system of the economy take over and to justify the inequalities of the economic system.

As a storyteller one of the things that I am greatly concerned with is what goes on in people's minds at a level that is invisible, un-apparent, un-provable because of the way they experience society. This level is their desire for change, their hope for some understanding of society and the possibility of freedom.

I am also very much opposed to the kind of cultural categories that society uses—distinctions between documentary and fiction, between art and the world. All these intellectual divisions in our society are internal beauty-ideal wells. If you knock them down then the whole cultural edifice will come tumbling down with them.

I want that edifice to come tumbling down not because I believe in anarchy or because I believe that law and order are wrong, when it is built and won, will be absolutely discontinuous with the past. The best of the past will be claimed by the past.

The reason I want the cultural edifice to come tumbling down is that it is a form of cultural oppression and exploitation.

SILENCE

'What I mean by this can most clearly be seen in what has been most brutally exploited by imperialism. The first thing the explorer did was to build a wall of silence around their victims. The victim could not speak, the words of the oppressor to talk to themselves and the eyes of the oppressor to see themselves. But this is now being broken down.'

'A similar wall of silence has been built into the minds of large sections of the working class in the industrial countries. The cultural edifice, ideas that art and culture are produced by lonely geniuses for a supposedly intelligent minority and the rest, is, in a sense part of that wall of silence.'

'So if you are下列 the way of saying that I concentrate in a specialized field, resisting, opposing and struggling against the class nature of our society. I tend to concentrate on the fact that I have some experience of it than the shop floor. It is only the tactic of the class enemy that separates these two things.'

STRUGGLE

What exactly do you mean by people's inability to express their own feelings and aspirations because of the way they experience society?

'What I mean is I would strongly evidence in people's aspirations for freedom. This is to say that the whole system of society breeds the idea that only a very limited amount of freedom is possible, that freedom is some quantity that you can get rather than a quality which has to be struggled for and grasped.'

'This attitude comes out very clearly in proverbs, statements at work, working. Working doesn't mean "That's life", "That's the way the cookie crumbles".'

'But go a bit deeper and you find that those self-same kids and adults who say these things also have infinitely greater aspirations towards freedom. They may only realize these very briefly in industrial strike, actions and demonstrations, when they fall in love, for a moment in sex or when they are looking at a sunset or a painting.'

'This is my area of concern, the relationship of people to freedom, to what is and to what could be.'

The way our society is organized restricts access to your work. How do you try and overcome this?

'Of course the question of who reads novels, or rather who does not read them, worries me. But the solution is not to simplify the truth, to water it down—that as a writer I am always trying to arrive at a simplification.'

'What I am trying to express is that my concern about the way the work reaches and does not reach what has led me to work for television from time to time.'

'I believe that a far wider audience can be reached this way, and an audience with a different class composition. After the recent 'Ways of Seeing' programmes on the BBC, I was pleased to find that I got many letters from working-class people.'

PARTY

My next work is about immigrant workers in Europe and in it I hope to achieve some simplicity and accessibility I have not yet achieved.

You are a committed revolutionary socialist. Why then are you not a member of a revolutionary organization?

When I was formed politically and immediately after the last war, in Britain, as we saw it then, the only revolutionary party which had real serious working-class action was the Communist Party. So I worked with the Communist Party in many different ways, not only writing for them and organizing. But was never a member.

'I suppose it could be said I am speaking now with the benefit of hindsight, but I was not a member because I had reservations. These were not fully articulated but they were strong and deep.'

'This meant that I acquired the habit of working with but not within a political group or party. This is not of course a justification for continuing this attitude.

In the past ten years, which is the time when real alternative revolutionary political organisations have begun to appear, I have been living abroad in places which preclude me being an effective, as opposed to a nominal, member of any such organization.'

'As for the future . . . well, I'm thinking about it.'

Laurie Flynn talks to novelist John Berger

Laurie Flynn

Photography by courtesy of Penguin Books

Films, festivals and funerals

THE 16th London International Film Festival was opened by Lord Frere with the aid of a pair of scissors. He made a speech of which he said, "This is as much as I can say in the time I have been given," proclaiming that 16 was always a difficult number.

To prove his point he brandished his visuals—all the film titles to be shown at the festival, and made heavy weather of relating their social significance to the problem of being 16. Thus inspired, the festival lights went on.

It didn't take long for eyes to become unaccommodated and ears dulled. Generalissimes piled in telephone boxes, members complained that the bar was too hot and the food unappetizing.

Film distributors cornered film-makers, desperate to fill their results with more film cans. House-managers complained that the bars were to be closed.

The festival brochure was released as the most controversial document locally made, and as having given the film Institute seal of approval—anything goes as long as it flickers.

Meanwhile the festival continued to develop. I'm not sure who was the main victim of the festival was the vain struggle of the five represented independent British film-makers to state their positions. Two were planning emigration, one was retiring and the other was encouraged by questions from the

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WHAT WE STAND FOR

The International Socialists is a democratic organisation whose membership is open to all who accept in principle the aim of building a socialist society. We do not as a general principle impose any kind of organisation on its members. We believe in independent working-class action for the solution of capitalist problems, including in particular the need for a break with the policy of international capitalism.

The international power of capitalism can only be overcome by international struggle. A single socialist state cannot in itself make the decision on behalf of the world. We reject the necessity of forming a world revolutionary socialist organisation in this country or elsewhere. We believe in the necessity of forming a world revolutionary socialist international of all the working class in the world. To this end we have close relationships with a number of other socialist organisations throughout the world.

We are committed to maintaining the unity of the socialist movement, except on the day-to-day struggles of working people and therefore support all genuine demands that would advance the position and confidence of the working class.

We fight:

For rank and file control of the trade unions and the regular election of all full-time officials.

Against all national or sectional prejudice. We believe that all sentiments should be ignored or rejected by mass meetings.

For 100 per cent trade unionism and the defence of shop stewards.

For workers' control of the trade unions and the nationalisation of all industry without compensation and under workers' control. We are opposed to all ruling class policies or organisations. We work to build revolutionary workers' parties around the IWW to organise and to educate the vast numbers of the world's workers.

For freedom from the misery of unemployment. This is a fundamental struggle of our time. Workers' power and a world based on human solidarity, on the increasing of man's power over nature, with the abolition of the power of man over man, is certainly the greatest challenge of our time. We cannot afford to live just talking about it. More than a century ago Karl Marx wrote: 'The next step is the world in his hands. The point is to change it. If you want to help us change the world and build socialism, join us.'

LIBEL CHARGE

A NATIONAL UNION of Journalists' official has issued a High Court writ for libel against four rank and file members of the union.

Mr Geoffrey Highfield, North-West Regional Organiser of the NUJ, claims that he was libelled in the paper Journalists' Chronicle and the rank and file paper for NUJ members.

Named in the action are NU members Laurie Flynn, Paul Foot and Roger Potts, who all work for Socialist Worker and Communist Review, who writes the press column, Jamie Nihill, manager of SW (Lhise) Printers, who print Journalists' Chronicle, is also named.

The retired editor of Lord Cooper as general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union is seeking a landmark in British trade unionism.

He earned his title for services rendered to the G&MU and as a witch-hunter of militancy and reds in the G&MU and as general spokesman for the union's political direction and policies wherever he could make an audience. Under Cooper G&MU is a trade union for reactionary trade unionism.

But the threat is hardening the resolve of David Barnett to replace Cooper guarantees that these pressures are all around.

Not that Barnett is militant. He comes from the same stable as Lord Cooper. His father was a G&MU official and he has had a job in the union's office for a couple of years.

But Barnett represents the modernising wing of the G&MU where the old guard is closed and is involved with the Pilkington strike. The result of the Pilkington workers in 1970 administrated a shock from which the G&MU still hasn't recovered.

Since then it has made more strikes official than ever before in its history to contain the rising militancy of the rank and file. Barnett, who was chased off the platform by the Pilkington strikers, is not likely to forget the lessons of Pilkington.

The G&MU leadership is not going to fight the employers but from now on it will put on a display of showboat-having for its membership.

At grassroots level there seems little chance that there will be any more democracy in the branches or regional committees and the change-over from general to factory branches is bound to be considered and this does give greater scope for militants to work.

The changeover is part of a general turn towards a kind of trade union group structure in the G&MU, similar to the Eastern Counties, and it is designed to make it easier to align sympathetically with left trade union militants and continue to build. Barnett is already being groomed by the press as the new leader of the 'moderate' in the TUC, and even the Morning Star has been hinting that he is another 'progressive' trade union leader to be wooed.

His real progress in the union demands the building of a rank and file organisation that can control the control of the union to the membership—Barnett is no less vulnerable to this than Lord Cooper.

by an APEX Action member

THE clerical workers' union APEX is continuing its march into the trade union movement. This is to extend its list of proscribed organisations to include the International Socialists.

And rank and file members of the all-party APEX Action group are to be severely punished for any 'disloyal' action.

It is no use just talking about it. More than a century ago Karl Marx wrote: 'The next step is the world in his hands. The point is to change it. If you want to help us change the world and build socialism, join us.'

Apologies are in order for

Scotland

Andrew Cumbernauld
Ayr
Edinburgh
Dundee
Glasgow
Kirkcaldy
Napier
Glasgow
Greenock
North

NORTH EAST

Aberdeen
Durham
Hartlepool
Nuneaton
Sheffield
South Shields
Teesside

NORTH WEST

Bury
Bolton
Blackburn
Bradford
Darlington
Doncaster
Grimsby
Halifax
Hull
Hyde
Manchester
Middlesbrough
Nottingham
Preston
St Helens
Stockport
Wakefield
Wythenshawe

WALES and SOUTH WEST

Bristol
Cardiff
Exeter
Glasgow
Horwich
Llanelli
Luton
Plymouth
Swansea
Swansea Valley

WALES and SOUTH WEST

Bristol
Cardiff
Exeter
Glasgow
Horwich
Llanelli
Luton
Plymouth
Swansea
Swansea Valley

NORTH EAST

Aberdeen
Durham
Hartlepool
Nuneaton
Sheffield
South Shields
Teesside

NORTH WEST

Bury
Bolton
Blackburn
Bradford
Darlington
Doncaster
Grimsby
Halifax
Hull
Hyde
Manchester
Middlesbrough
Nottingham
Preston
St Helens
Stockport
Wakefield
Wythenshawe

GREATERN LONDON AND SOUTH EAST

Barking
Banbury
Basildon
Bermondsey
Bletchley
Bexleyheath
Birmingham
Bolton
Brighton
Chelmsford
Cheltenham
Cheltenham
Chichester
Croydon
Ealing
East London
Edinburgh
Fulham
Harrow
Hatfield
Barnes
Barking
Basingstoke
Bolton
Brighton
Chelmsford
Cheltenham
Chichester
Croydon
Ealing
East London
Edinburgh
Fulham
Harrow
Hatfield
Barnes
Barking
Basingstoke
Bolton
Brighton
Chelmsford
Cheltenham
Chichester
Croydon

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Libel charge

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Mr Geoffrey Highfield, North-West Regional Organiser of the NUJ, claims that he was libelled in the paper Journalists' Chronicle and the rank and file paper for NUJ members.

Named in the action are NU members Laurie Flynn, Paul Foot and Roger Potts, who all work for Socialist Worker and Communist Review, who writes the press column, Jamie Nihill, manager of SW (Lhise) Printers, who print Journalists' Chronicle, is also named.

CLERICAL WORKERS are also active in the British Leyland plant at Basingstoke but they got only £5 a week strike pay while the postal workers got £11 a week.

A further sign of disillusion came at the last annual conference of the Executive Council for re-styling the union's relations with managers and workers and stressing the 'difference of clerical work. Essentially it is a policy of not fighting too hard for higher wages but taking what is offered after the appropriate formal speeches.

Scrapped through

The model was Clive Jenkins, the watchwords "efficiency" and a "modem union." This explains the proposal to change the name from the Clerical Workers Union to Association of Professional, Executive, Computer and Clerical Staffs. To the platform's amazement, this just scrapped through by 260 votes. Union membership is 120,000.

At present it represents the moderate policy of the leadership is dispersed and fragmented. APEX Action could easily become the uniting factor.

Its programme has quickly gained support: £25 minimum wage, 35-hour week, equal pay now, no income policy or productivity deals, 100 per cent union membership, closer ties with manual workers and all-out opposition to the Industrial Relations Act.

Why have IS members been singled out for attack? Still the number of Labour Party members support the APEX Action programme. The TUC is not opposed to the "moderate" on "subversives" in a bid to shift attention away from the union's own poor record. Its voice at the TUC has been consistently right-wing. Its leadership is free from the anti-union laws fight to the Common Market. Union president Dennis Howell, MP, has been particularly energetic as a pro-Marketeer.

It is ironic that while the union leaders have formally opposed the Industrial Relations Act, they are now breaking the sections that say there should be no political bans on members holding office.

The executive council is the act of frightened men who cannot muster arguments to counter the influence of APEX Action. White-collar workers face increasing attacks as international giants take over small firms and thrust aside former privileges.

The union's conference must be seen as the opportunity to fight for a democratic, fighting union that will refuse to accept gag on rank and file activities.

A REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST PROTESTO by Kuron and Modzelewski. The famous open letter to the Polish Worker's Party, written in 1964. A vivid analysis of the worker movement and a call for social revolution. 25p postage included, up to now the G&MU has missed out on the merger boom in the trade union movement.

Barnett is already being groomed by the press as the new leader of the 'moderate' in the TUC, and even the Morning Star has been hinting that he is another 'progressive' trade union leader to be wooed.

Its banned by clerks

APEX ACTION member

MORE than 400 clerical workers are to join a rank and file protest against APEX Action.

The union has banned the clerical workers' action under the simple heading of 'disloyalty'. The action is now to be extended.

by an APEX Action member

APEX is continuing its march into the trade union movement. This is to extend its list of proscribed organisations to include the International Socialists.

And rank and file members of the all-party APEX Action group are to be severely punished for any "disloyal" action.

It is no use just talking about it. More than a century ago Karl Marx wrote: 'The next step is the world in his hands. The point is to change it. If you want to help us change the world and build socialism, join us.'

by an APEX Action member
**STOP SNEERING AT GAYS**

I WAS READING Roland Muldrew’s review of The General Will theatre group (2 December) when I was startled by the following: “My other criticism is that too many of the performers...”

If so, Roland Muldrew’s view that “too much” is made of Heath’s supposed homosexuality is a fundamentally realistic position. Any attack upon Heath, or anybody else for that matter, because they are gay may be rejected as inappropriate. But both are a matter of degree, but one of principle. If the General Will group make Heath the butt of anti-gay humour it is the responsibility of Socialist Worker to attack this.

Male supremacy and the oppression of homosexuals in our society has deep roots—illustrated by slogans like: ‘ee ay addio, Teddy is a queer’.

Socialist Worker must not fail to get to all discrimination against homosexual people.

Finally, the use of the word ‘bent’ in this context in Socialist Worker is incredible. Women are not referred to as ‘bent’ or ‘bal’ and black people are not called ‘niggers’ or ‘wogs’ and I don’t expect to see gay people referred to as ‘bent’ or ‘queer’.

DON MILLIGAN, Lancashire.

**TOPIC OF THE MONTH**

**Discussion is vital**

I HAVE ONLY recently become a subscriber to Socialist Worker, having never before subscribed, and I am certain that it has improved a great deal. The Review page and Duncan Halliwell column are particularly valuable, in that they help me to understand that socialism is to do with the whole of life, not just with industrial action.

I feel very strongly, though, that we should go much further in this direction: struggles for wage and price reductions are not only a part of what socialism is about, anyone who has the slightest knowledge of Marx’s work on ‘abstract’ labour knows this. If someone asked me what socialism is in one word I would say “understand” and not just “relationships”.

I do feel very strongly, though, that we should go much further in this direction: struggles for wage and price reductions are not only a part of what socialism is about, anyone who has the slightest knowledge of Marx’s work on ‘abstract’ labour knows this. If someone asked me what socialism is in one word I would say “understand” and not just “relationships.”

I would be greatly interested to hear what others think of this view. I have been a socialist for 20 years and becoming known as an opportunist in the left at this moment when people are suffering.

I am a 42-year-old married man with a young family living in Nottingham.

JAMES PAVITT, Nottingham.

**Youth need your help**

SOCIALIST WORKER is an excellent paper but there is one criticism I would like to make. That is the lack of coverage of young workers’ struggles and the amazing exploitation which we have to suffer. Many good trade union campaigns are going on and I am sure this could be publicized. I am sure that there is a mass of young people who would like to know how to get involved. If SW is to become a mass organisation it will have to be involved in youth work.

My wage as a 16-year-old member of the National Union of Footwear Leather and Allied Trades must not fall below £9.35 for a 40-hour week, which is not enough to live on. I am sure that a larger Union that can consider myself lucky. I am a member of a union and have a certain amount of freedom. Many apprentices are in a position whereby they have very little say in themselves away to a firm for five years or more. They find that they cannot move from the area, they are kept in a job they do not like and have no say in the running of the firm. After finishing the apprenticeship they have to sign the contract again at the age of 15 and bind you for some years.

The main demands trade unionists should fight for with regard to the young workers are an end to youth unemployment, that young workers should get time off for educational purposes and that young people should be able to have more say in the running of the firm.

The reason for this call for help is that it is clear that the United Kingdom is dying from a lack of industry to work. If we do not have the industrial strength to stand up to the countries in the world we can do that with the aid of the working classes as a whole. Part of the task is to get young workers involved in political issues, to recruit non-unionists to the strikers and not to be afraid of asking what they know exploitation.

CHRIS BLACK, Age 16, Ash Green, near Aldershot.

Encouraged as I am by Chairman Mao’s teachings, I have tried to read Socialist Worker because although its strategy is not going to lead my country to socialism, it certainly makes a lot of good points. But I find your rabid anti-Chinese ravings difficult to endure after a week.

A basic fact is that socialism is about people and not about formulas devised by any mind how brilliant. I am a Chinese worker for whom the revolution has opened new perspectives and given hope which cannot appreciate your attention for them when you despise the leadership that led them in the mountains of oppression from which they have always suffered.

This is not to say that their leadership was not important, but in China, if you cannot follow their struggle for much 18 years later I follow yours, then at least you can keep silent about it.

I have read some Trotsky and I am not sure that he would approve this blanketing of the international communist movement whom we confront a common foe. I do not think we need to look to China as the only example of such comrades.—S NWOU, London E17.
We fight again in 1973, say steelmen
by Roger Rosewell
Tees-side—A thousand steelworkers ended their struggle for parity last week with plans for another battle in the New Year.
The-strike-at British Steel's Lackenby works ended on Saturday when they returned to work after 14 weeks, but not before local and national officials of their union, BISAKTA, were effectively defeated.
But they also vowed to prepare for further action in the New Year, just in time to involve all the workers at Lackenby.

The dispute began when the steelworkers claimed in £3 a week rise in the past year to match parity with steelworkers in South Wales. The Steel Corporation rejected these demands and a full-scale stoppage failed.

The first real fight for parity was over wages, and the steelworkers then rejected the management's claim three times. They have been told to go back to work.

Despite solidarity strikes from workers in South Wales, the South African Steel strike, and the strike in the basic chemicals industry, the strike was halted.

The strikers, supported by 200 other trade unionists, marching through South Shields last weekend. The march, organised by the steel trade council, was the first trade union demonstration in the town for 20 years.

Tories still got to town with rebuffs

The Tories have been rebuffed by the Labour Party in the 1973 elections. The party has been unable to gain control of councils in South Wales, Merthyr Tydfil and Bedwas and Machen, and is moving to government-appointed housing committees.

Tenants against

CLAY CROSS—District auditor of Tenants and Residents, which was founded by 10.15pm, said that he knew what he was up to and that he had been advised by the Social Services Office of the auditor, through the Social Services Office.

Luckily someone spotted him, and the demonstrators crowded into the council chamber, where he had to stand, and was interrogated by the council.

The auditors were asked to leave, and they were escorted out of the building. The council then adjourned, and the meeting was adjourned.
£20,000 threat to pit village

SOUTH YORKSHIRE—All over the coalfield miners and tenants are settling in for a long hard fight to defend the ‘Fair’ Rent Act.

Considerable mining damage near Doncaster where the councillors are waiting to be paid off their rents. A national strike to stop rent payments is very much the forgotten mining dispute. The mining companies are still in a worse state of distress than the last time.

Doncaster councillors have hung on by a narrow majority. The secret behind their struggle is the militant Cadby branch of the National Union of Mineworkers, which has carried national demonstration in response to the pressure. The pit closure is a major question in the area.

The dispute is the most serious one in the area in recent years, and it is of paramount importance that we do not allow false statements to take root and possibly to spread disunity in the struggle ahead of us.

You have misunderstood the nature of the so-called scrutiny committee which has been proposed, the establishment of which has been fully supported by the Works Council representing all workers in the plant. This is not to be a scrutiny committee with the 'cramped' terms of reference upon which you suggest. That is never the thing which one looks for in the first place.

The proposal always was that the committee should be completely uninhibited in the inquiries it wished to make, that it should be able to recruit independent investigators and advise, that it should be able to examine the whole question, including any proposed sites for closures, in order to co-ordinate any rundown with the introduction of new jobs.

You say, in your course of article, that the ‘best’ is that I cannot make my way from one side of the fence I am on.

No, I am not making my way from the one side to the other, I am working out the way which we want to save Ebbew Vale.

Crucial

Last Monday 100 angry tenants demonstrated their disgust at the council meeting until the labour council leaders called in the police to protect them from the people they claim to represent.

In its report, the City Press in Ebbew Park is the crucial test for the future of the tenants’ movement. Far more than Conisborough or Clay Cross. For if the Labour council and the leader of the tenants’ resistance it will encourage every movement of the ordinary man who understands that they are in for a fight and that the fight will be recorded.

It is vital that every tenants’ association and trade union branch should give their support, and that trade union work for them is in the front line for all tenants.

On Saturday there is to be a vital meeting in Barnsley of all tenants’ associations. It will be attended by every possible leader of the tenants’ movement. Let it be plan, future moves. So far the NUM condition is to be good and to be ignored by all but a few in a few branches—there are more signs that this is changing.

‘Put up rent ultimatums

CAMDEN, London. The government has issued a new ultimatum to the Government of the last in London to hold out against the rent increase that the government wants. The ultimatum is to increase by 13.6% and threaten a freeze on rents. The government will not back down and the government will underwrite a select council to support the rents.

The Camden Tenants Federation is calling for a national rent increase by 13.6% and a national freeze on rents. The group is to be organized by seven Labour councillors and a local government minister.

The council, in a review of the government's rent surges, states that the council must underwrite the action of the council and to defend any worker victimized for such opposition.

Eviction move stalled

ALTRINCHAM—Tenants crowded into the Town Hall on Saturday to protest the council's proposals to پکی 6 for a month to be paid by tenancy tenants to pay the rent rates. Offices were closed and the police were out in force.

Tenants who went to the meeting were also supported by six engineering union shop stewards and tenants from all over the Manchester area.

The council's proposed run to divide the rent struggle was to issue eviction notices to people who had been in arrears before the strike, so the evictions could be seen as a reminder of their actions. The tenants defeated a housing committee meeting where Labour had a majority, but stood to be passed by the Town-controlled council.

You’ve got me wrong, says Michael Foot

From Michael Foot, MP for Ebbew Vale.

SINGE: Michael, Ebbew Vale has been fighting so long to protect the jobs and livelihood of its people, we are naturally glad when others belatedly promise to help. But your article on Ebbew Vale last week contains some distortions of the facts and misapprehensions, so I hope you will allow me to correct them.

We do not agree that Ebbew Vale is a strike, it is a fight and it is paramount importance that we do not allow false statements to take root and possibly to spread disunity in the struggle ahead of us.

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No, I am not making my way from the one side to the other, I am working out the way which we want to save Ebbew Vale.

Counter-demos dawds racism

LEICESTER: The Enoch Powell support group and the National Front headquarters were once again made to look ridiculous last Saturday when the small demonstration (optimistic press reports put their numbers at 120) was dwarfed by a countergroup of 1000, mainly International Socialists.

The demonstration was also supported by the Black People’s Freedom Movement, the International Marxist Group and the Young Communist League. More than 50 of the Asian strikers at Longbridge’s Maffey Holley Mills marched under the banner of the Longbridge International Socialists, and the speaker from the strike committee thanked the IMS for their help in the strike.

Jones, a member of the International Socialists, brought the demonstration to the foreign government in the building. The Minkkis, the Charnwood County Strike Committee, and the members present out for a political organization which could cleanse the working-class movement of racial poison.

24 hour stoppage backs strikers

SOUTH WALES—The Crompton Parkinson factory in Cowbridge has closed down for 24 hours last Friday in support of the 131 workers who are on strike there. South Wales councillors have been supporting them and the council’s support in the area.

The workers are employed at the Newport factory. The white workers working on the present system are paid 1.50p per hour. Those on the present system are paid 1.50p per hour.

The center of the Crompton Parkinson dispute is the management’s ‘blue-eyed boy’ bonus system. There is a management and a workers’ bonus management assessment—of timekeeping, tools, workmate, care, relationship, while the union, the AUEW, has absolute right to be in the meeting room but the union does not have the right to be in the meeting room. The union has refused this demand.

The convenor and shop stewards have proposed that the factory should be run by the present bonus system, and the union has refused the bonus system. The company has refused these demands.

The stewards at Crompton Parkinson have helped form a South Wales Comittee Committee covering Crompton Parkinson factories in Newport andTroedyrhiw.

The firm is a subsidiary of the giant Hawker Siddley Group and there are new moves to form a national Hawker Siddley Concil Committee. A meeting has been called in Birlinghams on Monday and shop stewards in all Hawker Siddley factories and subsidiaries are urged to attend.

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**Profile of Super Scab...**

**THIS IS the profile of a sub-a sanctimonious super scab, who claims he is guided in his dirty work by the divine spirit of Jesus Christ.**

James Goad, an ancient Tory Party member who is managing his personal campaign to bankrupt the AUEW, first became involved in the union when he called a one-day strike at CAV. Sudbury, in support of a wage claim. Goad went to work.

When the workers refused to accept anything less than what the management transferred Goad from department to department, and finally to another of their factories a few miles away. Goad accused Bill Duckling, the AUEW, of misrepresenting, of withdrawing the strike, and the Sudbury branch convened a district committee meeting to hear the complaint. Duckling defended his action, and in his answer Goad failed to pin it up in an argument.

He has admitted on several occasions that he only wants union membership to help him advancement the AUEW promotion ladder.

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**STRIKES**

In Scotland, the stewards' committee from the Croydon Locomotive union organized a meeting of the workers in the Parkside district, which includes the big factors of Robey's and Babcock and Wilcox, for Wednesday night.

Unfortunately, it was just what the meeting of the union executive on Monday morning failed to do. It upheld its decision not to pay the fines, it called on the members to support the union in its stand, and it failed completely to give them a lead in what to do.

The national conference of the four sections of the union indicated earlier in the year what actions should be taken in such cases. We protect the national executive council to use all the resources of the union to develop a mass campaign at district and national level, including if necessary strike action to defeat the Industrial Relations Act.

The executive has chosen not to act on this instruction. But throughout the country moves have been made by stewards' committees, district committees and branches for more radical action to defend the union.

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**Asians:**

no union help

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**Racism**

Pickets have been even stronger this week and the strike committees are working out their case for the court of public opinion and the dispute ordered by the Department of Employment.

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**LEGG,

North London AUEW District Committee is calling for strike action and the Manchester Consult will be out on Wednesday.**

In Birmingham on Tuesday, militants at the meeting of the executives of all the CAV-Lucas plants in the city found that the right wing had organized a protest opposition to the fines. The district secretary called the meeting with the executive members who had come all the way from the southern Glamorgan factories.

Despite powerful protests from two communist members of the executive, Jack Lynch and Larry Considine, the executive members were overruled by a vote of 129 to 42, a resolution refusing to take action against the right wing of the union in order to abandon its boycott of the NRIC.

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**JUST WOBBLING AID THE RIGHTS**

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**Result**

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**Picket Lines**

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**CHELSEA, London-Dirkackers and loggers were engaged in a perfectly Cubic World's Fair housing council housing and the week of their strike against the victimization of bricklayers and the office boys. If there is no better of the strike by the end of the week the building site at the Gas Factory is expected to make the strike official.**

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