I S fund: get the message from this cartoon!

When is a freeze not a freeze? When it applies to prices.

Agriculture Minister Joseph Godber tells us that he 'cannot interfere with the free market'. He can freeze the farm workers' pay rise, though.

Best prices are up by 40 per cent since the so-called freeze started in November—with other meat prices following close behind—and not one penny piece of these massive increases goes to the workers.

Who benefits? Farmers, especially the big farmers, dealers, speculators, the giant Vestey company and others who all have one thing in common: they are already either rich, very rich, or super-rich—like Lord Vestey, whose personal fortune stands at £150 million.

Who loses? Working people, housewives, pensioners and others who also have something in common: they are very much poorer to start with than the profiteers who are making a killing out of the meat price bonanza.

Mr Godber (the managing director of his family farming business and owner of another farming business as well) has an easy answer: Let people eat cheaper foods like cod (prices up by 50 per cent over the last three months) and 30 per cent since November).

And Bruth has an answer, too: a farcical 'commission of inquiry' into meat prices which has been hand-picked to discover that nothing can be done.

Meat prices are only the most spectacular of the price increases in store for us. Butter, sugar and cereals (including bread) are all scheduled for price rises to conform to the Common Agricultural Policy of the Common Market.

In the case of butter, the current wholesale price of £4.60 a ton is to be raised to £5.40 a ton in six stages.

It has already been announced that the price of bread will go up by a penny a standard loaf in February and further increases are in the pipeline. Wheat prices are up by 50 per cent.

And not only food prices are on the increase. Value Added Tax is coming in to boost a wide range of other prices.

Robbed

In short, the 'freeze' is a swindle. There is no doubt that a lot of people were taken in by it at first. It seemed to many a reasonable idea to accept a wages standstill in return for a prices standstill.

We have the wages standstill all right. Some of the lowest paid workers were caught by it and robbed of promised increases—farm workers, health service workers and others. They—and working people as a whole—are already materially worse off. And the freeze has been operating only for two months.

But can it be done? The idea that there can be a 'fair' prices and incomes policy under capitalism is a delusion.

There is one answer—and one answer only—to fixing prices under the system of private profiteering: It is to fight for compensating wage rises with automatic cost of living increases built into the agreements.

That means defying the wage freeze. The gas workers have shown the way. They were told there could be no more talk about pay even though the increases were not to be immediate. The threat of militant industrial action forced the Tory government to back down.

What about those who have no bargaining power?

The pensioners will soon be offered a miserable increase, but they will never achieve decent pensions until the organised working class movement takes up the fight in their behalf.

Stop Nixon’s slaughter!

The Americans are back at the conference table in Paris talking peace with the North Vietnamese but the terror bombing goes on. Giant planes continue to devastate and maim as mass murderer Nixon and his guileless Kissinger attempt to force concessions from Hanoi.

The labour movement in Britain must mobilise against this barbarism and the complicity of the Tory government which shirks about ‘terror in Ireland while condoning the greatest terror ever known in South East Asia.

Report: page 3
WORKERS HOLD ON TO CHILE'S FACTORIES

by Vic Richards

WORKERS in the town of Arica, in northern Chile, have been fighting bitterly to maintain the gains they made during the bosses' strike last October.

Workers in 13 electrical equipment factories took over their factories and managed them for two months after the walk-out by directors, managers and most technical employees, despite attempts to disrupt production.

Many factories in Chile are occupied, so the outcome of events in Arica could be crucial.

The bosses' strike was an attempt by the upper and middle classes to force Chile's Popular Unity government to abandon plans for further nationalisation.

But the majority of workers stood firm, and rallied to the call to keep production going. They discovered that they could run factories successfully, even without most of the technical personnel. Action committees, police and supply committees were set up in most areas, and kept production going, supplying moving and prices under control.

To get the situation back to normal, the Popular Unity government gave in to the bosses' main demands and launched a campaign for "social peace". Although "the people" were praised for rallying to the government's support, it gave no recognition to the committees that had actually saved it from collapse.

S(abotage)

The courts are interpreting "social peace" as a return to the situation before the bosses' strike. Having ignored the constitution in October, the ruling class is now using it to launch a new offensive.

The workers in Arica have refused to accept the starved out companies made in overcoming the chaos and sabotage of the bosses' strike. Having learned to live without their former employers, they are determined to keep on living.

The government, in the person of General Prat, commander-in-chief of the army and now also Minister for Home Affairs, launched "social peace" without any public debate. It is clear that the bosses and the other factories are worried that the government will not support them.

The leaders of the CUT (the Chilean FUC) also refused to take up a position on the social peace policy, and refused to issue a statement of support for the Arica workers. Alejandro Alarcon, a member of the Revolutionary Workers rank-and-file group and the only CUT executive member who went to Arica to express his support of the workers there, was denounced for preventing a peaceful solution to the conflict.

One Arica worker explained: "This is what we want to have as a form of solidarity. We have not stopped at the return of the factories, but has led to public statements that the middle class will be guaranteed and that the "success" of workers will be curtailed."

Revolutionaries challenge French elections

by Richard Kirkwood

In a recent public meeting Latte Ouvriere explained that "to vote for the revolutionaries is the only way for commodity workers to express their views to the government, and the only way to remove the government."

We will not put any obstacle in the way of the success of a Communist or Socialist candidate on the second round. We have already heard, from various quarters, that the French have been taken from universal enthusiasm about this Union of the Left... this alliance with bankers and ex-socialists... these fears, we respond, are unfounded. The revolutionaries will continue to demonstrate.

In May 1968 the revolutionary left had a mass demonstration, and the working-class movement. Many workers are now determined to struggle, and are becoming more sympathetic. The French Revolutionaries have decided to participate in the elections, both as a result of this enthusiasm for the left and the real impact that revolutionaries have gained in France. We do not think that this will change. If the Left Union wins, then even on Arica. The Popular Unity workers become disillusioned with the failures that are certain to produce.

Egypt closes universities after police break up big demo

THOUSANDS of police used tear gas, bamboo truncheons and truncheon to break up students' demonstrations in Cairo last week, after the next day the authorities that the universities to end a year of serious strikes and demonstrations. The trouble started when the government arrested 45 students, mostly left-wingers. Under the regime, students have found guilty of belonging to a political party or organisation ("subversive" or of "spreading rumour" can be imprisoned for five years. The police broke up the demonstrations because they were afraid that students might repeat their previous demonstrations. Egyptians are less than four years ago.

Landless

Beneath the surface is a massive property that extends to more than 90% of the land. Most of the land in Egypt is owned by a narrow class of bureaucrats and officials, who enjoy high living standards while most of the population have an income barely above subsistence level. The top salary for managers is £100 a month.

The regime boasts that it has carried out a vast programme of land reform. Since 1952, it has destroyed the power of the very large landowners and has provided land valued at about 1.5 million landless peasants with land. It has also given them land valued at about 300,000,000. A million landless peasants have received land.

Regime

In the cities there is massive unemployment and semi-unemployed millions living in abject poverty.

The regime clearly needs massive investments in industry and agriculture if it is to continue its drive to modernise Egypt. The regime has been able to do this largely because of the Arab-Israeli war in 1967. The regime has spared nothing to be done with the resources of the military forces and only a tenth on investment. This sums up since October 1967 in which the occupation of large areas of Egypt itself.

This is why the government has reacted so violently to the student demands for more social reforms, and for a policy that could drive the Israelis out of Egyptian

WITH less than two months to go to polling day, French politics is largely dominated by the coming general election. The main forces which confront each other are the "majority" - formerly the Gaullist UDR but now a coalition of three conservative and Gaullist parties, and the "Left" - Communists, Socialists and left Radicals.

In between there is a Centre groupings of Radicals and Centrist. At present the opinion polls show a lead for the Left Union with 47 per cent and the government trailing with only 45 per cent. But it is far from certain that they would get to form a government. Under the French constitution it is the President who chooses the government and Pompidou has not committed himself to appointing a Left government. Unless they had an overall majority the President has all sorts of ways in which he could try to stop them.

But in any case the French ruling class is too little to fear from the Union of the Left.

The limited reforms of the Communist party's programme have already been settled down to suit the petty lower-middle-class Socialist party and further divided to gain the support of the dissident members of the Radical party.

The parties of the Left Union have been going out of their way to show how respectable they are. One key demand of workers for years has been the return of the legal enforcement of a 40-hour week without loss of earnings. This was put into law in 1950 after the great strike of 1950 had been a dead letter since 1937.

All the programme offers is "a progressive move to the 40-hour week". Similarly the minimum wage offered is miserably low and there is no guarantee of his in any form of the industrial centres.

The Communists party has refused to create local action committees to support and discuss the programme for fear that this might strengthen in middle-class allies.

To offer workers a real alternative to this opportunistic coalition and to the corrupt government, two revolutionary organisations are running candidates in the first round of the election. French elections are held in two rounds a week apart. In the two candidates at the bottom of the poll can win and, if they wish, recommend their supporters to vote for the workers (or other candidates).

Latte Ouvriere (Workers' Struggle) and the Alliance

Latte Ouvriere (Workers' Struggle) and Alliance

the ligue Communiste are running 209 candidates between them. 176 for Latte Ouvriere and 133 for the Liste, in every part of the country including all the industrial centres.

They do not expect to win any seats but to use the election period to put the socialist message to millions of people both locally and through the television time in which they are entitled to produce.
Hidden threat of the nice smell

IF YOU WERE a businessman and you wanted to invest in a sure thing, what would you choose? Remember, you don’t have to have any particular interest in the product, just so long as it will bring you the fastest and biggest profit.

The story of Colman, a firm who already had the mustard market tied up, is a good example. They formed a joint venture with a Japanese concern and they came up with a fantastically profitable smell. But although it was highly profitable, it was highly volatile. It was also odoriferous, but they didn’t care. Of course, Reckitt and Colman are not the only people to do this. There are many other brands with a reputation in the public mind.

No doubt when the first deformed children were born as a result of these sprays the manufacturers would stampede just as fast to proclaim their innocence. You see, there is one song in this industry, for those who like to keep their exploitation above board. The fact is that these sprays contain some very dangerous chemicals.

They don’t say so on the container, and there is no legal requirement for them to do so. On the contrary, many of the sprays bear the words ‘medically approved’ and ‘safe’.

One such chemical ingredient goes by the name of hexachlorophene. It is used in cosmetics as a preservative. And it is used in deodorants such as Boots Family Deodorant Spray, and the Max Factor Deodorant.

These ‘family’ sprays also bear no warning of their lethal contents, though the fact they should never be used on babies or children.

Already it is known, from tests on rats, that even small amounts of hexachlorophene absorbed from a pregnant woman’s bloodstream can cause a brain defect of her unborn child. In larger quantities, the effects are likely to become ‘visible in deformities like those produced by thalidomide’.

Profits lure

Even facial cosmetics like Natural Wonder Night Treatment (Revlon) and Pure Magic, marketed by Lylex Make-Up, and the skin cleanser Panthex are dangerous for this reason. But when hexachlorophene is sprayed directly on to the vaginal area it is absorbed and will enter the bloodstream much more quickly.

However it is possible to make these things without using hexachlorophene, and a lot of manufacturers are now putting themselves on the back and declaring their products ‘Hexachlorophene free’. Some of them have taken the precaution of keeping their ‘new ingredient’ a secret. There is no reason to believe that any new ingredient has been found, other than the cheaper chemicals, that is indeed it is fundamentally different.

The fact is that the market and the lure of profits is far too strong to stop these people exploiting us. No government regulation covers these products, and there is no legal requirement for the ingredients to be listed. Even if there were such regulations, too much would still rest on the goodwill of people whose only interest is profit—people like the bosses of the Distribus Co, who gave us thalidomide.

Unfortunately the market is already primed. Women are made to feel ashamed of their bodies. Their nation almost demands they spend a special brand of hands and utensils. What they tell you is, that you won’t be a man until you buy them unless you try to cover the facts.

Men, no, we are also small, and the admen have a go at promoting genital deodorants. If you are not quite so prudish about demasking your own bodies, one can go to the market ground through.

Meanwhile an estimated 72 per cent of women between the ages of 16 and 24 have been treated and exploited. Women’s Liberation has to fight against women’s liberation to the fact, but the ad man has considerable information on his side.

Finding a man has been in this case is still the most women’s only way to live. After that the most of the young women have to say. They still have to say, ‘no, we are fighting for a new society. We are fighting for a society where we get rid of all the products that have been marketed against us for our own benefit and the benefit of society’.

THE OWNERS of the Aldergreen Mill in Rochdale, Lancashire, have devised a system for making girls from the Philippines work virtually under slave labour conditions.

Before the girls leave the Philippines, they have to raise £15 towards their air fare. The company then makes them sign an agreement to pay back the residue out of their wages and also to pay a further £1 a week out of their wages into a fund as a ‘bond’.

After two years of working for the firm this ‘bond’ is returned to them. But if they leave before the two years are up, they forfeit the money they have paid in and the company takes £200 out of the fund for itself. In addition the girls have to pay 9 per cent interest on the air fare.

In other words, the girls are forced to work for the firm when they get to Britain at whatever wages and conditions it chooses to offer them.

This dodge enables Aldergreen to compel the girls to work for a basic rate of £12 a week. In order to make ends meet, the girls often work extremely long hours. One girl worked a 90-hour week and earned £3.50, of which the firm deducted £6.

The girls have been provided with ‘accommodation’ by the firm, some of it overcrowded, some of it unhygienically maintained and some privately. In either case the girls find themselves packed into small, old houses in deteriorating conditions.

It is not uncommon to find three or four of them squeezed into a single room in a house, often with no proper heating, washing facilities and outside lavatories. As many as nine girls have to share a single small kitchen.

The girls pay another £1 a week each for this accommodation—providing the owners with at least £9 a week for the house, while similar houses next door will be let for about £4.

HAZARD

The Chief Fire Officer and the Public Health Officer for Rochdale have both said that they are appalled by the housing conditions and that they constitute a real fire and health hazard. The Health Officer also described the conditions as ‘nineteenth century’.

The company personnel officer has attempted to dismiss such charges out of hand. He told the press ‘If anyone thinks they can do better, I would like them to come and show me how’.

By contrast, managing director Sydny Rayburn has claimed that the accommodation the girls are in is only ‘temporary’. But this has never been explained to them.

The National Union of Tailor and Garment Workers has made no complaint about such conditions. Indeed, last week it issued a statement that it was quite happy with the way the girls were being treated.

The girls are said to speak English and say that union subscriptions are deducted from their wages even though they have never seen a union card.

In 1960 the council tenants in St Pancras, London, fought against a rent scheme which contained many of the elements which have now been incorporated into the Housing Finance Act. The story of that fight is told in this pamphlet by Dave Burn, with an introduction by Hugh Kerr of the Harlow Tenants Federation.

No peace in Vietnam

AMERICAN BOMBERS have continued this week to pour barbarous devastation on to the peaceful people of North Vietnam. After inflicting the heaviest aerial bombardment on Haiphong in the past three days, the US jets have shifted their attention to regions near the Viet Cong border. Peace talks have resumed in Paris. But that will be an illusionary hope to the peasant and labouring people of the South who will have to suffer the US and South Vietnamese establisment’s continued economic and political encirclement of their country.

The American-La Salle nuns at the Nation’s University in Washington, DC, are deeply disturbed by this week’s latest attack on Haiphong. They have been among the most outspoken opponents of US foreign policy in South East Asia. They have called for a complete withdrawal of US forces and for a negotiated peace. They write:

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Rent Strike: St Pancras 1970

In St Pancras, London, fought against a rent scheme which contained many of the elements which have now been incorporated into the Housing Finance Act. The story of that fight is told in this pamphlet by Dave Burn, with an introduction by Hugh Kerr of the Harlow Tenants Federation.
New Year's fleecings

THE TIMES published a stinging letter about civil servants' remuneration, complaining that civil servants had a 'special

Government-appointed bodies who are meant to keep a watch on the safety of marketed drugs keep their "inter-

15 guineas). It is interesting that almost as much is spent by a local authority on the police as is spent by the govern-

Bernie Perks

M. R. BERNARD PERKINS, TORY leader of the Greater London Council Housing Committee, has just put in his expenses for work done as chairman of Harlow Development Corporation for July to September 1972. The expense sheets mention only 16 visits to Harlow, three to attend the deputy chairman’s functions. Mr Perkins is paid £350 a year for his chairmanship and this works out at £7.09 per visit. He is believed to have been responsible for the recent sacking of Harlow Council’s Labour leader, Martin Lown, from the corporation. Martin was clearly unsuitable for the job on two grounds. He is not a member of the Tory Party, and he took his job seriously.

Camden councillors who want to construct the fight against the Tory Rent Act have come up with an ingenious housing agreement, estimated at £8 million. The suggestion is that Camden shall not pay the subsidies for the buyout – housing authority – estimated at £8 million.

THAT'S FUNNY - THEY TOLD US THAT YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIGHER FOOD PRICES!
**Prints**

**Distillers' payments into court**

IN THE recent contempt of court case in which the Attorney General, Sir George Mabell, successfully applied to the High Court for a ban on an article in the Sunday Times which would once and for all have exposed Distillers in their marketing of thalidomide, the three Appeal Court judges laid great stress on their impartiality. They were, they said, only there to protect the parties in a negligible action. In the few paragraphs of grandiose tripe, they proclaimed a ban on the article.

The impracticality of the bench's action has always been a cardinal principle in British law, which is why judges are not normally directors of companies. There is, however, nothing to stop judges being shareholders in the firms with which they are dealing, and there is no obligation or even tradition obliging them to 'declare an interest'.

Take the case of Mr Justice Brabin, one of the three judges in the action in that decision. The shareholders in the firm which has been brought by Mark Dougall and other International Socialists members, who vigorously disprove the fact that a Lady Mary Brabin bought 150 shares in the company in 1969. The shares are currently worth £1.70.

**Bankers**

Lady Mary Brabin's address was given as 66 Rathbone Brothers, Castle Street, Liverpool 2. Now Mr Justice Brabin and the other two judges do not take a casual observer might think that this was another Mary Brabin.

Not even the figures confirmed to me that they act as merchant bankers and not as high sealing ones. The list on their list is a Sir Daniel James Brabin, 30,16, and Kippinford Avenue, London NW3.

Mr Justice Brabin is not alone among the directors of these firms, who have an interest in Distillers. Indeed, the list of their company reads like a client list is a Sir Daniel James Brabin, 30,16, and Kippinford Avenue, London NW3.

In the House of Lords, the highest court in the land and therefore presumably the most impartial of all, is Viscount Dilborne, one of Sir Peter's personal directors. However, Lady Justice Stagg has 2028 shares. Lord Morris has a mere 118. Lord Wilberforce, who frequently takes the screen and look away from the power workers according to what he told by the government, has 2790 Distillers shares.

**Politicians**

In the Supreme Court of the Judicature, the Court of Appeal, Lord Justice of Appeal and Lord Justice Stagg has 1953.

In the family division, Mr Justice Payne has 414, and Dame Elizabeth Kathleen Kene has 1106. In the Chancery Division, Mr Justice Plowman has 1108, and Mr Justice Mograby has 1110. Mr Justice Pennycook 1272.

In the Queen's Bench Division, the arch-enrushing of Mr Justice Thegner 470 Distillers shares, the liberal Sir Justice Bridge 1109, Mr Justice Need 1299, Mr Justice CLYDE 1289, and MRS Bristow 3020.

There are a large number of circuit judges on the list, including Judge Bell 1750, Judge Davenport 3002, Judge Wilkie 1127, Judge Averbuch 5400, and Judge Appleby 3020.

Distillers include: R T Boocock (Wells) 2300, Bernard Brione (South East Foods) 150, A P Costain (Folkstone) 100, G M J Longden, (SW Herts) 154, Charles Simonds (Luton) 172, Mr Van Straubendorp, Junior Minister for Education, 1176, Jorry Wignall (Weston Super Mare) 2352, Hugh Rous (Hornsea) 900, John Stokes (Glyndebourne) 414, Sir Robert Turton, the father of the House, 4267, Angus Maune (Alders), Winston Churchill (Stratford) and Sir John Foster (Northwich) all have shares. Sir G Liber Banker (Lexington) has 1490, and Sir Harry Legge Burke, the much-respected ex-chairman of the 1922 backbench committee, has 3472. Sir George Natalhas has 1000. Nigel Fisher (St Hugh) has 1680, Bryan Hayhoe (Heston) 1000, John Tilley (Liverpool, Wavertree) has 1550, and Miss Mervyn Pake (Melton) has 1000.

**The Daily Express, like other newspapers, is very important in the thalidomide controversy, despite the fact that Sir Miss Allen, the paper's proprietor, has 1000 shares in Distillers.

The medical establishment, which is outraged by the thalidomide de-fences, is not aware of taking Distillers' dividends. The Medical Research Council has 5500. The Medical Defence Union 10,000, the Medical Protection Society 9000, the Medical and Ethical Defence Union 3500 and the Royal College of Physicians 1,500.

All religious denominations have been very 'concerned' about the thalidomide children. The Roman Catholic Bishop of Dunkeld has 20,000 shares. The Church of England Children's Society has 18,245.

This makes the Distillers 1972 Christmas card all the more tawdry. It featured a Madonna and Child.

**Bag and baggage**

From the Daily Express, 4 January:

**Back to duty**

**Lieutenant Mark Phillips, who spent five months in hospital after a car accident in which Princess Anne and the Queen were injured at Sandringham, was discharged from the Queen's Dragoon Guards last night. Lieutenant Phillips, 24, is a baggage officer.**

The PRESS has been deafeningly silent about the proposed closure of the Wright's Biscuit factory in South Shields, where 800 jobs are at stake.

The attempted closure, now the subject of a Department of Trade and Industry inquiry, is a blatant attempt to shut a profitable factory so that the owners, United Biscuits, can streamline production to hold on the British biscuit market. Not even the ingenuity of the capitalist press could easily disguise this.

The story begins around the end of 1971, when the company that owns the Biscuit Factory was sold to Cavenham Foods. At the time Cavenham Group had a very invoquent position, which do not now exist in Wright's, for advancement for employees at all levels. Some reports have indicated that the number of employees is anticipated but in the end the company was the one in the industry over the past two years.

No one reading that could have guessed that the company’s closure of the South Shields factory. Opportunity for advancement in the Cavanham Group has not been restricted, as in April 1972 the Wright's factory was sold to yet another company, United Biscuits.

United Biscuits (chairman, Baron Craigholton, one-time Tory MP) is the largest biscuit manufacturer in the country, accounting for more than two-fifths of the biscuits sold—using the names of Crawford's, Mr Kitly, Wards, and Dress among others. Five years ago the company used to be a collection of family firms, but the managing director, Hector Laing, has changed all that.

**Closure**

He started a programme of rationalisation and automation, drastically reducing the number of lines manufactured and using his dominance on the market to push up his prices. Recently, as he has said, he has had to back down as he could outstrip his British biscuit employers has he has started moving into new fields and into the Common Market—but that's another story.

All this has done wonders for United Biscuits shareholders, who have seen their shares soar from £3.87 million in 1966 to £7.7 million in 1971. The workers may or may not see any great benefit from them, while have seen the number of depot workers down from 25, the number of factories reduced from nine to five, the range of biscuits cut from 250 to 165, and the workforce cut by 2000 in 1971 alone. The claim: "Can't be helped." As Blackpool has saved £3000,000 of overheads, said the Chief Executive.

As you might imagine, there is not very much more that our Hector can now do to increase his market share and profits from the biscuit operation. The remaining possi- bility was to take over a company, so that he could close down the manufacturing operation but keep the trade names and contacts. As he himself said, the acquisition of Wright's (along with Carrs and Jensen) represented a further rationalisation of the biscuit industry.

According to the Investors Guardian, that well-known workers' paper, Wright's South Shields factory has made profits of in the 12 years of its existence, while the United Biscuits' losses in recent years were over the retailing operation, which accounts for more than 80 per cent of sales.

It is possible that the action of the workers can break the conspiracy of silence by the press. The industry will find it impossible to unfold the closure.

But workers like the McVities and Cadbury cake factories should be aware. In 1971 United Biscuits and Cadbury's formed a joint venture to run these cake factories. Laing said: 'It will be more profitable than the two companies operating separately.'

That can only mean a repeat of what has happened in the biscuit industry. Glyn expectations are that the cake division will make £10,000,000 in profit in 1973, against £200,000 in 1972. Someone has to pay.

T H R GOMTTON

I AM writing a book that will be called something like 'The Workers' Handbook to Company Accounts'. I am anxious that the book should be indispensable and useful and would like to hear of any problems people have had in finding particular pieces of information about companies. A particular question they would like answering on the subject.

Tom Mann

What a compulsory Eight day work means to the worker (1914) introduction by Richard Price

William Gallacher and J R Campbell

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When the sparks began to fly

ONE of Hans Andersen's delightful fairy tales describes how a great Emperor was duped by two swindlers who promised to weave for him the most beautiful clothes he had ever worn. The only condition was that the clothing should be made of the finest materials and should be so fine that even an inch child could not see it. "But he has nothing on!"

The ridiculous story is well known. But the great example of the Emperor was not alone confined to the Emperor, it spread farther and farther. The fraud became a grand success, and the public was misled. For months the story was told and retold, and the idea of the story took hold of the minds of all the people. In the end, the whole world was convinced that the Emperor had nothing on.

The next time a public official was caught in a lie, the public was once again misled. But this time the lie was even more dangerous. The public was told that the official was a honest man, but the truth was that he was a crook. But the public was again misled, and the lie became a grand success. For months the story was told and retold, and the idea of the story took hold of the minds of all the people. In the end, the whole world was convinced that the official was a honest man.

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ACT AGAINST MURDERS

AS THE industrial struggle gets sharper, strikers are tending to become longer. At the same time, in face of the threat of unemployment, new forms of struggle such as sit-ins are spreading.

One important weapon for strikers is the ability to get social security benefits. These have now replaced strike pay as the main form of income during disputes. Payments have increased from a few thousand pounds in 1966 to £12 million in 1971.

Under pressure from the government the Department of Health and Social Security has tried to keep down the amount paid out. The purpose of this series of articles is to help those in disputes organise themselves to make sure they are not starved back to work.

Despite all that is heard of 'spongers' and 'fliders' the provisions are in no sense generous. Our society does not recognise the right of workers to have a decent standard of living when they are sick or retired.

The worst treatment is reserved for those who are unable to offer an unemployment the chance to make a profit out of their labour.

Indeed, the welfare state as we know it only exists at all for two reasons. First, because of concessions made after years of working-class struggle. Second, because British employers had to raise workers' standards to develop production in face of foreign competition. During the Boer War it was found that half the potential recruits to the army were unfit to serve—a discovery that led to improvements in the public health services.

A study of the laws on social security payments and the way they are put into practice shows that the basic principle is to keep the payments to a minimum. The level of benefits provides a standard of living that is really not living at all, but merely existing.

A man off work sick, with a wife and four-year-old daughter, paying £3 a week rent, will get £13 a week sick benefit. If he claims supplementary benefit this will be made up to a maximum of £15.55 a week. If he is unfortunate enough to have debts and needs a special diet, the Social Security will give him an extra 92p a week for a diet most hospitals reckon costs at least £6 a week.

Starving

For the unemployed the situation is worse, for the aim is to force you back to work as soon as possible, if necessary into one of the lowest-paid jobs.

A skilled man unemployed for more than a year can be reckoned with as unskilled and sent after any job. Simple men between the ages of 18 and 45 are sometimes given benefit for only four weeks. And if you are sacked for industrial misconduct (which may well mean industrial militancy) your unemployment benefit is not paid for the first six weeks.

Faced with a system that treats workers in this way, strikers have to organise to make sure they get whatever they can.

The object of the system is to try and force the striker back to work by starving him and turning his family against him. A man with a wife and family to support is not entitled to any benefit for himself, but only for his dependants. This forces him below the state's own poverty line which is drawn at the level of bare necessity.

The amount of money you are entitled to while involved in a dispute is usually strictly laid down by law. But thanks to the almighty Section 13 of the 1966 Social Security Act, which allows money to be paid out in almost any case of need, it is possible to get fringe benefits.

Unemployment Benefits: Anyone in a dispute is excluded from receiving unemployment benefit under Section 22 of the 1965 National Insurance Act. It is not really worth challenging this one as their definition of a dispute covers anything from a strike to a lockout. However, it is still possible to claim sickness benefit (worth remembering if you have a friendly doctor).

Dispute

Supplementary Benefit: This is probably what you will have to rely on during the dispute. It is a man-tested benefit—in other words any income you have is offset against what they reckon your needs are, and your remaining income can be made up to this subsistence level.

Under Section 10 of the Social Security Act the Social Security cannot, while on strike, claim for yourself or your dependants as your own income. (But single people can still get benefit, as will be shown in a later article in this series.) A married man is allowed to claim for his wife (or a woman he is living with in his wife's name) and any children.

If you have been laid off because of a dispute that your firm is not directly involved in (for example, due to lack of components) you can get benefit at the full rate. If you are a married woman (living with a man) the Social Security may maintain that your husband will be expected to support you. This is worth fighting for if your husband is on a low wage.

The basic weekly rates are:

| Striker       | nil |
| Partner       | £5.20 |
| Dependents under 16 | £2.25 |
| 16-17         | £2.75 |
| 18-24         | £3.40 |
| 25-29         | £4.05 |
| 30-39         | £5.20 |

So check that you're getting what you are due, at the very least.

NEXT WEEK: What you can get to cover the rent, and how to claim if you're single.

I.VIC TOR SERGE

Memoirs of a Revolutionary 1901–1941

TRANSLATED BY PETER SEGDWICK

The memoirs of Victor Serge, revolutionary, novelist and poet, are a testimonio to the experience of three successive revolutionary generations—the anarchism of pre-1914 France, the syndicalism of Barcelona 1917, finally Russia as Stalin took over. Out of the annihilation Serge himself survived as virtually a lone witness.

The complete 3-part set is available now from:

IS BOOKS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

SOLDIERS ON PATROL IN BELFAST. THE MILITARY'S OWN ASSASSINATION CAMPAIGN GOES ON.
"A MINUTE later they took me back to the same room. But then a friend of mine was also there. He had just been treated by the ‘fataka’ and had lost consciousness. The feet were exorciated (stripped of skin) and he had blood everywhere.

'I was placed beside him, a few feet away. I stood upright and he lay unconscious on the floor. "Look at him," they said. "If you don't talk, you'll be worse off.""

'Apart from the ‘fataka’, they also use electricity. They take you to a dark room, where there are 15 to 20 men. Then you get electric shocks in the brain, the fingers, the hands and all over the body. They go on like that for a long time, and it has happened that the victim has lost some senses..."

"Another method is extraction of nails. Many comrades are without nails. Nazan Alp, the wife of Saffet Alp, who fought and was killed in Kirkdere, was raped by a police club. Another girl was about to be raped, and tried to commit suicide. She was taken to hospital, but we don’t know what happened later..."

"The woman was talking on Norwegian television last night, describing the state of affairs for dissenters not in South Africa, Spain, Czechoslovakia or Greece but in Turkey - a parliamentary democracy, an associate member of the European Economic Community and a full member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, which defends the free world."

"Surprise"

At long last, some of the facts about the Turkish regime are filtering through to the British public. On 16 December, the political prisoners’ pressure group Amnesty International held a press conference and announced ‘irrefutable evidence’ of widespread torture by the Turkish police and army.

These revelations came as something of a surprise to a British public whose press and television has been ingeniously deafening about the Turkish authorities.

The news which comes out of Turkey is strictly controlled by the Turkish military law command. The chief of the cabinet correspondent for the Guardian, the Economist, the Jewish Chronicle, the Daily Mail and the Daily Mirror (not to mention Time and Newsweek, in the US) is Sam Cohen.

Sam Cohen (Sam Kohn) is his own man and the foreign editor of the Turkish government paper Milliyet and a loyal propagandist for the Turkish army and its puppet government. A special advertising supplement on Turkey on 31 October and the BBC is Melvin Mann, who works for the English language paper, the Daily News, which is owned by a clutch of right-wing businessmen. The support of these gentlemen for the government, if not its right wing ginger groups, is legendary.

In this way, the mass of the British newspaper-reading public have had preserved in their minds the image of Turkey as a ‘reasonable’ parliamentary democracy struggling against extremist terrorist organisations.

Here are a few facts about Turkey which have not been published in the British press recently.

- Turkey is the poorest country in NATO.
- Two million of its nine million workers are unemployed.
- More than half its 35 million people are illiterate.
- A million families live in single rooms, without running water, bathing or any of the usual facilities.
- In 12 rural provinces there are no doctors at all.

At the same time, Turkey maintains the largest standing army in Europe, and the largest in the Western world except the United States. More than 500,000 men are under arms, and their generals are in complete control of the ‘national security council’ which wrote Turkey’s fascist penal code.

The generals’ coup, which took place on 12 March 1971, came at the end of a period of increased confrontation between the forces of the state and the working class.

Before 1960, despite laws apparently friendly to the contrary, trade unionism was effectively banned in Turkey. The Confederation of Turkish Workers’ Unions was set up with money from the American AID - whose funds are placed at the advice of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Its object was to ensure that the growing numbers of industrial workers were kept in check. The Turkish (as it is known) co-operated to the detriment of its members with the corrupt regime of Prime Minister Memedres during the 1950s.

In 1960, the Menderes regime was overthrown by a ‘democratic’ army takeover that removed the ban on the working class organisations and socialist writing, both of which flourished.

In February 1961, 12 trade unions, including the Metal Workers Union of Turkey, formed the Turkish Labour Party. For two years, the workers corresponded to the new atmosphere with a series of massive strikes.

Terrified, the ‘democratic’ government introduced the Collective Bargaining Act which was instantly welcomed by the unions. The militant unions, including the Metal Workers, formed a ‘united front’ to fight independently against the Act and clase conflict grew.

In 1965, the Zonguldak miners went on strike and the government called in troops to put down their demonstrations. Two miners were killed.

Soon afterwards, the Justice Party won another election with the help of massive votes in the countryside. At the mounting workers’ demonstrations, the police were openly joined by fascist gangs.

Trade union and political meetings, including annual conferences of the Turkish Labour Party, were systematically broken up by these and other anti-union acts against the Turkish police. But they couldn’t stop the growing confidence of the workers.

"Battle"

In February 1967, the union which had formed the ‘Solidarity Front’ split from the Turkish and formed the Confederation of Progressive Workers’ Unions (DISH). More than 100,000 of Turkey’s million organised workers were rapidly affiliated to the new organisation which called for a break in trade union policy from its traditional allegiance to the American State Department.

In the same time, resistance to the government-employers’ offensive gained new strength from the students’ movement.

During 1968, when the student movement in Europe was in ferment, the Turkish student organisations turned towards the workers and assisted in a number of factory occupations - especially in those factories where the government was trying to do a deal with the Turkish state.

On 16 February 1969, an attempt to demonstrate against the arrival of the American Sixth Fleet in Turkey (to front a territorial waters took place in Istanbul. A pitched battle was deliberately provoked by the Fascists, urged on by the police. All Turgut Aytac and Duran Erdogan, two..."
Armed police taking aim at students during a protest in 1970...

their aim was good. The body of a student shot down by the police

...their problem was wages. The industrial workers' wage

Locked

The response has been an outbreak of still more strikes, met by severe and fiercer repression. There are now at least 4000 political prisoners in Turkey (more than in Greece) and some 2000 of them have been tortured.

In November 1972 all the leaders of the Turkish Labour Party were arrested and sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from six to 15 years. Behice Boran, the 62-year-old Labour leader, must spend 15 years in a Turkish jail for 'spreading communist propaganda'. Hosts of lawyers and professors have been sent to prison, some for the vaguest conceivable connection with 'hostile propaganda'.

At the same time, even the Turkish government admits an 11 per cent increase in unemployment. This is likely to rise still further as half a million Turkish workers in Europe find it more and more difficult to hold on to their jobs under the wave of 'rationalisation' redundancies and return home.

Turkey is locked in a relentless class war, in which the employers, the government and the military will spare no horror to hang on to their property.

They can rely on the 100 per cent support of the European governments, including the British government, whose well-versed spokesman, Lord Laminck, parliamen
tary Under-Secretary for Trade and Industry, visited Turkey on a 'good will' mission in November.

A press notice distributed at the time by the Department of Trade and Industry points out that UK exports to Turkey increased from £29.2m in 1967 to £38.6m in 1971, and have expanded by a further 40 per cent in 1972. The share of the Turkish market, says the circular, has dropped to 10 per cent, but entry into the EEC should 'improve our competitive position in the market'.

Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Britain's Foreign Secretary, added to the importance of this visit when he was asked by the Turkish government paper Milliyet on 20 November about the revolts of Turkish torture in the Sunday Times.

Sir Alec replied that the Turkish authorities deserved 'support and understanding in their determination to retain democratic institutions in the face of a ruthless terrorist movement'.

He expressed 'sorrow' at the protests about torture which had taken place in Europe. 'Such action,' he said, 'can only encourage disruptive forces and consequently hamper rather than promote progress.'

The harassed bosses of Europe are quick to spot a market where the labour force is properly disciplined. They expect, and get, the maximum support from their placemen in parliament.

Last summer, Lord Carrington, Minister of Defence and Chairman of the Conservative Party, took time off from a holiday in Corfu to pay official respects to the Colonels' dictatorship in Greece.

Sir Alec Douglas Home was recently in Spain, looking up to Franco. The Spanish generals and the Greek colonels are now being challenged for leadership of the Terrorism League by the Turkish Brigades, while the parliamentarians of the new Europe struggle for a 'competitive position' in all three markets.

We have our methods... victim of a police 'investigation'.

country that jails union leaders
Stalin takes a bloodbath

Stalin was determined, come what may, that everything should be sacrificed to forced industrialisation. In his own words: "The pace must not be slackened. On the contrary, we must quicken it as much as is within our powers and possibilities. To slacken the pace would mean to lag behind, and those who lag behind are beaten."  

By 1950 or 100 years behind the advanced countries. We must make good this lag in 10 years. Either we do it or they crush us." To maintain let alone quicken the pace, was possible only on the basis of pure terror.

Failures

The show trials were the tip of the iceberg of the great terror, but they were also symbolic. Men like Zinoviev, president of the Communist International in Lenin’s time, and Bukharin, described by Lenin as "the favourite of the whole party", were driven to confess that they had, on the orders of the arch-fiend Trotsky "conspired" with Hitler and the Japanese emperor to "restore capitalism on Russian soil."

Practically all the surviving leaders of the Bolshevik Party in 1917–Stalin and co-opted of course—were 'counter-revolutionaries' and indeed to have been so from the beginning. All the failures of the Stalin era, the setbacks, the human misery, was due to these old Bolsheviks. They blow up mines, they burn down workshops, they wreck trains, they mutiny and kill hundreds of our best people, sons of our country. I am not the only ascetic. I am joined in my accusation by the whole people. We accuse these heinous criminals who destroy one man’s life, one man’s wealth—by shooting (shots and shots)."

The speaker was public prosecutor Vyshinsky, former right-wing Menshevik, opponent of the October Revolution and tool of Stalin. The old Bolshevik Vyshinsky was shot in his bed, loaded with honours, for his "services" to the state.

Phrases like "civil read state' organisation for revolution: lotta continua, east end back press, "old snaky's in the office, norman - again...
ADVENTURES IN THE GURU TRADE

Why do so many follow a man who preaches poverty to swell his own Swiss bank account?

Balyogeshwar Param Hans Satsangdev Shresthji Maharaj (God to his friends) makes a comfortable living out of the growing guru market. While the followers of his Divine Light Mission renounce their material goods in order to achieve enlightenment, the 'knowledge', the 14-year-old Maharaj Ji owns a £50,000 house in Highgate, London.

For the moment he drives a simple Rover car, but this is remedied soon when his disciples will provide him with a gold-plated version (after all, the Maharaj Ji must have earned it). The ruling class itself might learn a few things from the Maharaj Ji. For example, his ability to change mystical hocus pocus into hard cash.

His very rhetoric smacks of certain Indian politicians of the 19th century in his glories 'And It is Divine' (£50 pages for £5) is too deep for the average Indian to understand. Only a few are possible for you to get that money.

MIRACLE

More recently wealth seems to have just materialized about the Maharaj Ji in the most surprising fashion. When stopped at the US Customs and asked what he was bringing in the customs officer replied 'dirty laundry'. The godly officer blushed and opened his bags and found £30,000 in gold and silver jewellery. When questioned about the treasure, the Maharaj Ji was overheard to reply: 'It's a miracle!' Some should be so lucky.

Another religious charlatan, yes, but the Maharaj Ji is a modern version as a simple 'moral operation' does not explain the hold he has on a claimant. (Go to God in this country alone)

It is that such a sizeable section of disenfranchised youth latch on to the numerous mystical cults which have sprung up over the past five years, the Maharaj Ji's Yoga, Hare Krishna, Jesus Freaks, Flying Saucer cults, and Zen Buddhism? Why are people so dead in a price per pound that they will hire their lives around any axis however, apparent its beliefs.

First of all, let's examine what exactly they get up to.

Preparing for Power

In this book first published in 1934, Murphy considers the role and influence of the revolutionary left 50 years ago and its later isolation. The author was a key figure in this first stage of workers' movement. In Britain the book has been an essential tool for trade unionists. Murphy's work has been influential in the United States and Europe.

Special offer to Socialist Worker readers: FREE hardback copy of Victor Serge's novel BIRTH OF OUR POWER with every copy of Murphy's book £1 plus 21p postage.

PLUTO PRESS, Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1 5LH.

THE MAHARAJ JI: £50,000 house and a private plane.

The secret of the message's appeal lies in the class background of its members. Middle-class youths in particular have grown up since the war in a sheltered world where affluence is taken for granted. They can all too easily reject materialism, having never experienced poverty, so they readily despise those who struggle to maintain a reasonable standard of living.

"Divine Light, and other groups of this kind, are a product of the despair and futility of this class. Desperation because middle-class values cannot provide any meaning to their lives and understanding of the world around them. Futility because their isolation from the working class and their own native individualism renders them powerless to change the world they find meaningless." The underground, the counter-culture which such youth evolved as a 'solution' to the moral bankruptcy of their parents, opened more problems than it solved. The liberated's' sexual, the path to meaning through heavy drug use failed abysmally.

The result is a series of kids whose heads have been so messed up that groups like Divine Light seem a safe haven.

Their sense of futility and of powerlessness to change a world which they scarcely understand, was transformed into a demand for a change within the individual self. Change yourself and the world will follow, the bourgeois society itself will become a living contradiction. All this is a new twist to an old story: 'communist' Christian, Moral Reaignment, the Festival of Light all Finding God, the Maharaj, the little man in the holy suit, is just an exciting variation, put within the Eastern promise package, but in the end a manufacturer of illusions, a gospel messenger driving a gold-plated Rolls-Royce.

Neil Hamilton

Socialist Worker 13 January 1973 11

ABUSED

Glasgow has written a Tyne-side song cycle, showing the pre-ordained of people—the middle-class riding with the hounds while the skinhead is cheering on the local soccer team, the retired miner, abused by capitalism and men no longer needed, killing time walking the grandstands who in 70 years time will be doing the same thing.

He's a socialist because of his father. His first job at 12 was working in a lamp cabin on the pithead. He graduated to the coalface before capitalism found him a useful role as a soldier in the First World War. But he was wounded after a day and brought home to Australia.

Capitalism then trained him as an upholsterer, but it couldn't find him work. So off he went to Australia and New Zealand, making butter—not bad for a former pithead man. He's a socialist because of his father.

UNHAPPY

He came home and stepped into a lost world of jobs and skills—making shoes in the Second World War. He's a socialist because his father.

for the first time the words—they're living men off. That was when I first started making conscious political capital.

It seemed such a waste of a man's talents. Here he was, curious, interested, willing to work hard—all the solid working-class values, and he was ground into the ground.

How does Alex Glasgow keep in touch? Talking to people on trains and kids. He has three and they always want contact. People are also always popping in.

Influences

Surprisingly few, though the Victorian music hall, the Ragged Trousered Philanthropist and his own observations help shape his work. He calls a folk singer and he'll give you an old-fashioned look. He finds it's a get-out for intense intellectuals to bore people—and puts an end to the blame on the Community Party.

'They've built up this myth of workers' songs which somehow have to be treated with special reverence. So many commercial songs do the job a lot better. When historians come to discuss the 1950's they'll do it a lot worse than look up the words of the old rock classic, Blue Suede Shoes, for how a young black lived.

The International Socialists can thank Alex Glasgow for recruiting Emma. I saw the Labour Party weren't up to it when Powell started gaining influence. I realised it's up to people like us to confront the Fowlers. Because if it isn't Powell it'll be somebody else.

The secret of the message's appeal lies in the class background of its members. Middle-class youths in particular have grown up since the war in a sheltered world where affluence is taken for granted. They can all too easily reject materialism, having never experienced poverty, so they readily despise those who struggle to maintain a reasonable standard of living.

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Nick Van Zanten and Jock Young

Neil Hamilton

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NEIL BELONGS TO GLASGOW

ALEX GLASGOW, the Tyne-side singer, song-writer and observer of human nature, believes that something is amiss in the machinery of human waste. That's why he's a socialist because his father.

He doesn't set himself up as a left-wing evangelist bearing in to pass on The Truth. Sure, his songs in the Claremont House Door, the searing polemic on Durham pit life, and pieces on Braden's Week are admirable comment, but he doesn't see himself as an 'expert.'

'I don't think there's any point in singing political songs,' he admits. 'But it's better than just writing ordinary songs. You might crystallise an unexpressed thought in somebody's head and then you'll have a little service.'

'I would have liked to have written We Shall Overcome. It's all things to all men—you can even imagine the National Front singing it. No. I'm not important—but if a song makes a point it's that much harder to lapse back into woody thinking.'

His recurring themes are continuity, class and treated lives: the soullessness of suburbia, fish-finger two-cars-a-year, the self-help set. In this upper class, the high-rise flat neurasthenics where the parents are still alive, and losing intellectuals whose public school children end up as right-wing intellectuals on TV.

ABUSED

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by Mike McGrath, CPSA

The national CPSA strike was an unprecedented event: Civil servants are threatening to strike over their frozen pay negotiation.

The Civil and Public Services Association is the biggest union of public sector workers, with 900,000 members. The clerks' union, the CSPG, is the best of a bad bunch among the civil servants who include CPSA, Civil Service Union, First Division Association and Institute of Professional Civil Servants.

The principal achievements in the civil service are unique and are designed to prevent open strike action. The Times, in an editorial on 2 January, said that the "law of inertia" would keep the civil service going. The Times said: "The strike is a waste of time and money and the only cost is the cost of the strike."

The civil servants' strike is not a victory for the government. It is a victory for the unions and for the workers who have been fighting for the right to a living wage.

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SUNDAY 28 January will be the anniversary of Derry's Bloody Sunday.

On 30 January last year, British para-commandos murdered 13 peaceful civilians from the Bogside, in an act of mass civil rights procession in Derry.

The murder of this 13 and of all those victims of the British Crown Forces is the act of war, and is part of a calculated policy of the British government to destroy the civil rights movement and to bring about the subjugation of the people of the North of Ireland. Specifically, it was a last desperate attempt to shoot up the corrupt Tory-Unionist regime at Stormont.

In Stormont, Stormont has been suspended. But British aggression in Ireland continues. Since the abolition of Stormont, British propaganda service has attempted to give the impression to the world that Britain is playing the role of arbiter between two warring Irish tribes. While the British forces are depicted as a gentle and impartial referee.

The reality is very different. The essential conflict in Ireland is between the British imperialists and the people of Ireland, supported by the workers of the world, who are opposed to this imperialist aggression on a world-wide scale.

What this means is the continuation of concentration camps, the imprisonment of all those people who dare to stand up against the imperialist policies of Stalini... the imposition of a new, non-bureaucratic system. Its base is the family, the church, the community, the church, the family. The family is the basis of the system. And the family is the basis of the system.

3. Eminent technical experts (called "bourgeois specialists") by Bakhin and Frohazenkevich) who set a bad example.

4. The civil war—the most advanced war in the world.

These obstacles tended to promote the reindustrialisation of bureaucracy into the Soviet system. To avoid this danger, several measures were essential. First, every member of the police must have a police officer who is a communist. Second, there must be continuous rotation of functions. Every communist must, after a definite time, change his position of work and the precise reason for this rotation is to break the old social barriers. Third, there must be a definite time limit to the position of work and the precise reason for this rotation is to break the old social barriers. Fourth, there must be a definite time limit to the position of work and the precise reason for this rotation is to break the old social barriers.

The whole working population must administer, in some occupations, for a period of two years. Four obstacles were created.

1. The general backwardness of the rural and urban population.

2. The lack of experience in administration, even in the best communes.

3. Eminent technical experts (called "bourgeois specialists") by Bakhin and Frohazenkevich) who set a bad example.

4. The civil war—the most advanced war in the world.

Bureaucracy

In "Out of Your Mind" (23 December), Duncan Hallus excellently portrays the weakness of the working class in Russia following the civil war and how this led to the rise of Stalin. But he fails to describe the other factors at work and the precise mechanism by which the ascendency of Stalin and the bureaucracy was achieved.

The Bakuheviks themselves were well aware of the dangers of bureaucracy both before the revolution and in the years immediately following its defeat. Indeed it has always been one of the major themes of marxist thought.

In the State and Revolution, written a couple of months before the October 1917 revolution in Russia, Lenin writes that when the workers have smashed the old bourgeois apparatus they must replace it by a new, non-bureaucratic system. He then goes on to suggest the measures necessary to prevent the remodelling of the servants of society into its masters, into bureaucrats.

Finally all administrative posts must be filled by election and the individuals subject to recall at any time. Secondly the pay of all officials should be no less than that of a worker. These two measures are taken from Engels' observations on the Paris Commune of 1871, but significantly Lenin contributes a third measure: to be afraid of the people's recall at any time, so that nobody will become a bureaucrat.

Quite clearly Lenin is arguing for some kind of rotation of functions for the opportunity for all to administer for a time. No one will become a bureaucrat because no one will be permitted to occupy an administrative position for long enough.

With the experience of the revolution behind them the Bolsheviks were face to face with the problem. "What is now the general task of our party?" asked Bakhin and Frohazenkevich in The ABC of Communism, an educational handbook written two years after the revolution. The task is, therefore, to replace the old officialdom by the masses themselves.

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THE DISTILLERS Company have lately become an increasingly obvious festering wound on the body of British capitalism and threats of mass action have squeezed some of the poison out of it. Now the press is anxious to state its positions in the battle between these two. But big business somehow seems respectable.

The relief in Fleet Street when the company's £20,000 million offer of share money was made to the thalidomide victims was obvious. Led by the heavy-circulation papers, the Sun, Mail, Mirror and Express—the national papers sought eagerly to create the impression that the affair was virtually over and the unpleasantness forgotten.

RELIEF AS AGONISING BATTLE ENDS, was the Mail's Page One comment headline. 'The long fight ... seemed to be over last night,' began the Express story. 'A triumph for the brave parents,' said the Sun, with a tone of finality. HOPES RISE FOR A DEAL, was one of the Mail's sub-headlines.

Fleet Street wants the story wrapped up and Distillers off the hook. Distillers are not the kind of fish that our national dailies like to fry.

They represent the essence of the society that Fleet Street serves and who-ever serves and who-ever serves its interests is expected to mind its interests. When Distillers were accused of negligence, the press was full of howls of outrage. But when workers defend themselves against the Goons of the world they are vilified as "vicious bullies" and "shop-floor rowdies".

On the day before the "final offer" the Mirror published a editorial, posturing as an outspoken comment. It managed to demand in the same breath that Distillers should pay up, generously and pragmatically, AND that the public should also foot the bill. Because the company peddled their disgusting drug through the National Health Service, the Mirror argued, the public should pay—either through tax concessions or 'from public funds'.

But the truth is, of course, that the Morris operators are richer than the rest of us. Fleet Street, though the Mirror obviously does not want its readers to appreciate too well that tax relief for Distillers is the equivalent of a massive handout, fished from the pockets of workers and other 'freaks' victims.

The Mirror also appears to believe that it is the responsibility of the best-equipped enterprises to pocket the profits from their dealings, but that public funds should be used to underwrite their disasters.

Dangers of the strike. The Company's escape, the Mirror. Public funds should pay for the mistakes of the high IQs, the errors of their company, but not for their own.

The problem of normally very quiet people being on the verge of making a startling discovery—that mass action can work against a big company to help them. That is a dangerous drug in the hands of the public and could produce serious effects on industry as thalidomide is to unborn children.

Small wonder that the national press is so keen to view the 'final offer' as a defeat for the workers and divert public attention from recognizing this simple truth.
CUBITTS DEMAND AN EXTENSION OF THE CRUNCH HOURS

CHELSEA, London:—One crucial fact underlies the uninterrupted industrial struggle being fought out on the huge World’s End housing estate. The main contractor, Holland, Hannen and Cubitts is not going to make any profit, jully or otherwise, and so has no objection to being left behind schedule.

Indeed stoppages are a popular advantage to the firm’s battle to extract a massive $1 million “ex gratia” payment from Kennington and Chelsea Council to finish the job.

For the past six months only one sixth of the required number of bricklayers have been employed. It cannot be said that this is solely the responsibility of the subcontractors who won the contract to build Cubitts’ World’s End in October 1949 at an agreed price of $5.6 million. At that time conditions for work in the house-building industry were fantastic, and we have no objection to the price being made up to the workmen.

The philosophy of the building industry is to get on a job and then do everything to keep the price up.

by SW Reporter

British Oxygen men fight for their jobs

NORTHERN LONDON—British Oxygen workers in Edmonston are fighting against government policy to keep up their fight to save their jobs.

The company plans to close its local factories and move the work to Skelmorlie in Scotland, hoping to sell the Government this ton for around $10 million and get a house of government grants for opening a new factory in a development area.

Employment prospects for those made redundant will be bleak. Edmonston jobs are due to be cut back by 1980.

Workers at Edmonston have been opposing the closure attempt with a go-slow and picketing in front of the factory. Last week they went on strike for ten days as a protest against the moves to close the factory.

The company has offered the workers jobs in other parts of the country. But many of the workers are not keen on the move as they have families in the South East and do not want to uproot their families.

Students still on rent strike

STUDENTS at Ashleigh Hall College, 114/120, to refuse to pay rent until the college agrees to allow them to hold a rent strike.

The students began their protest in support of a rent strike being staged by students at the University of Oxford. The rent strike is protesting against the college’s policy of increasing rents by 10 per cent over the next five years.

The students at Ashleigh Hall College have been demonstrating outside the college gates and holding a series of meetings with college officials.

The college authorities have rejected the students’ demands and have said that they will not allow the rent strike to continue.

The students have also been protesting against the college’s policy of cutting back on student services and facilities.

The rent strike is part of a wider national campaign by students across the UK to protest against rising tuition fees and living costs.
THE giant Vestey organisation will launch proceedings before the National Industrial Relations Court on Thursday which could lead to the threat of a Court order preventing the launch of a national strike. The dispute is the second in two weeks to hit the frozen food industry and follows the recent shutdown of a trade union under the Industrial Relations Act.

The busiest Vestey subsidiary, Midland Cold Store, in East London, has charged the Transport and General Workers' Union and the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers in an action for compensation for loss of trade resulting from unfair industrial practices.

The Midland cold store has been picketed constantly for the past eight months by London dockers in an endeavour to bring the work back inside the dock labour scheme. Virtually all trade has been halted and the Vestey's are claiming trade worth £250,000 has been lost.

The TGWU is certain to make an appearance before the IRC to argue the case. The union's defence will involve a renewed disapproval of the picketing as unofficial and something that the TGWU leadership has done everything in its power to bring to an end. This might well be accepted by the court and the TGWU could get off the hook and would not be ordered to pay damages to the Vestey.

But the NASD is in an entirely different situation. To its credit, the union has never disowned the activities of the picketers at the Midland cold store. Both times that dockers have struck against the actual or threatened imposition of the pickets by their brothers the NASD has made the picketing illegal.

The chances of the Vestey winning an order for compensation are therefore fairly high.

In the engineering union, the NASD is opposed to the National Industrial Relations Court by a previous decision of its executive. Though the pressure to reverse this decision is most certainly on it is thought that the union will maintain its stance of non-co-operation. The union could also therefore face hefty fines for contempt of court.

One small problem lies between the state imposing the fines and actually collecting them. The NASD is a tiny union which operates from three back rooms in London's Poplar district. It has no merchant bank account that can be padded—or even an ordinary bank account of any substance. It is in fact almost broke.

Dickie Smith, one of the union's two full-time 'outside' officials, has been wearing a coat and trousers from £15. In April the union was very low by comparison with those paid by other unions.

Clearly any financial penalty against the union will mean that its very existence is called into question. The IRC may in any case order a fines for contempt of court. The IRC may in any case order a fine if it finds the union to be in contempt of court.

Thursday's session at the IRC is only the preliminary hearing in what is likely to be a difficult case, and all trade unionists should prepare to defend the NASD.

To its credit the NASD, unlike the TGWU, has not let the loss of a court case set it on a course of desperate action. The NASD has not set out to sabotage the strength of its members for the right to work. And the very notion of the supposedly neutral state machine granting the Vestey's compensation for unfair industrial action exposes the law for what it really is—the agent of those with wealth, power and titles to property.

The Vestey have continued to live in their own world of Midland Cold Store, and have managed to turn every dirty trick in the book as part of their trade mark to break the dock labour scheme.
THE gas workers are the latest group to revolt against the government's pay freeze.

Over the past few weeks debates of workers in both the Transport and General Workers and General and Municipal Workers Unions have voted for an overtime ban and selective strikes in protest at the freeze.

In Scotland, stewards representing 3500 workers have announced that they will strike for the day next Wednesday. Such action would hit gas supplies in Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen and Glasgow.

For years the gas workers' unions have been able to persuade them to co-operate with management. Productivity has increased by 200 per cent in the past five years, while 22,500 men have been made redundant. The union leadership boasts that there has been no strike in the 25 years since nationalisation. Yet wage rates are still low, with a miserable basic of £19.

Next week's industrial action is due to begin shortly after the gas workers' union's annual conference, which only instructs the executive to seek a 'substantial increase.' This second recognition is based on the membership of NUM president Joe Grimley, and the national conference of the Scottish NUM.

But perhaps the most dangerous aspect of the gas strike is that it is the first major protest against the government's pay freeze. If the United Kingdom is on the road to civil unrest, the gas strike will be a first step.

The pay claim 'a device for NUM leaders

AS far as leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers were concerned, Wednesday's formal tabling of the 1973 wage claim for £4.50 and £7 increases was only a device to cover up the fact that the government was handing them a pay freeze.

The full text of the claim was not available, but a source close to the union's annual conference, which only instructs the executive to seek a 'substantial increase.' This second recognition is based on the membership of NUM president Joe Grimley, and the national conference of the Scottish NUM.

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LABOUR betrayal after massive march

Members of the International Socialists on the protest march supporting Camden Council's opposition to the Tory rent act

LONDON: About 30 hours after a big solidity march through Camden in support of the council's decision not to implement the government's Housing Finance Act, the controlling Labour group decided by 32 votes to 17 on Monday to recommend that the council implement the Act after all.

The Sunday demonstrarion was much larger than had been predicted. Some 3000 people walked from Camden Town Hall to Hampstead Heath chanting anti-Tory and pro-council slogans. There were delegations from Ebbow Vale, Merthyr Tydfil and Croydon, whose council is still refusing to implement the Act.

At a meeting before the march, Counsellor Millie Miller, the Labour group leader, talked of the 'great struggle' which the council had put up against the Act. 'There will be more struggles in the future,' she promised.

The following evening Mrs Miller, flanked by Mr Peter Best, formerly deputy chairman, and R E Shaw, the council's Labour group chief, proposed a motion to the Labour group that the 'nasty and vicious' Act should be administered because of the government's decision to withold the borough's housing subsidies. After a stormy argument, the motion was carried when seven councillors, including the three leaders mentioned above, changed their votes, agreeing to implement.

Labour anger over power station death rate

There is growing anger among power workers at the soaring death rate from industrial accidents in power stations.

The death of Leonard Harris, 37, Truro, Cornwall, in an explosion at Rotherham Power Station last Saturday is seen as one more in a series of workers, especially at Thorpe Marsh, as the last straw.

No one yet knows how the four workers died. They were cleaning out an electronic precipitator, and the four bodies were found close to each other, and as though they had fallen from a height of up to 100ft.

The area where they were working is full of electric units, but the North East Central Electricity Board could not say whether the men were electrocuted as a result of an electrical fault or suffocated by the dust they fell.

Three deaths at the Rotherham Power Station killed 59 workers in the last 10 years, and no one knew what was causing them.

In Sweden, the workers' union wants to press for a trial to prevent this kind of accident in the future.

In the US, workers are moving to try to prevent this kind of accident in the future.

Some have even tried to prevent this kind of accident in the future.

There are three cases of this kind of accident in the future.

In Britain, the British Gas Board and other companies have been aware of the problem for some time, and some companies, especially in the North West, have taken steps to prevent accidents.

One workers' union has been in close contact with the government's Health and Safety Executive, and has warned them that accidents are likely to continue unless steps are taken to prevent them.

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