ALL-OUT ACTION against the Tory wage freeze by the trade union movement - that must be raised in every factory and workplace in Britain in response to the fraudulent ‘phase two’ of government policy.

Behind the smokescreen of ‘fairness’ and a desire to help the low paid, Heath and his ministers have set out to drive down the wages and living conditions of working people. And the only possible answer to that challenge must be massive industrial and political action against the government and its big business backers.

Look at the reality behind this week’s ‘soft-slap’ act by Heath and Barber.

Wages have been frozen completely for the first stage of government policy. But shop prices have gone up by 6 per cent during the freeze, plus the bonuses imposed on council tenants by the ‘Fair Rent’ Act.

If this is to go on, it’s more than the standard of living for millions, plus the producers have had a field day as the prices of foodstuffs have soared. And the wages just under phase one will never be recovered.

Now under phase two the Tories are offering an across-the-board £1 plus a 4 per cent bonus in future negotiations presented as an average 8 per cent increase in the national wages bill. But even if all workers were to get an 8 per cent increase it would be whittled down to 6.5 per cent after tax and other stoppages. In other words, it would not even cover the price increases of recent weeks.

PIPELINE

The fact that the Tories are now offering a few pence to workers instead of a big round nothing should not obscure what phase two will mean for trade unionists with claims in the pipeline if they really accept the government scheme. This is how phase two would affect just three groups who have made claims:

Claim Phased Two

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Claimed</th>
<th>Phased Two</th>
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<tr>
<td>47,000 Paperworkers</td>
<td>£8.45</td>
<td>£10.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>279,000 Miners</td>
<td>£11.78</td>
<td>£14.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30,000 Ford Workers</td>
<td>£8.95</td>
<td>£10.60</td>
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Stopped: ‘One thing is clear: we’re not going back to the inflation of last autumn.’

He didn’t give a straight answer — but a nod is as good as a word. And Michael Coughlan of the Confederation of British Industry has declared that a return to free collective bargaining seems unlikely in the ‘inurable future’.

The Tory wage freeze is an extension of the Industrial Relations Act’s onslaught on the rights and liberties of the labour movement. That onslaught will be defeated only by mobilising the strength of the working class to resist the clearly formulated plans of the TUC leaders in recent months.

Vis Feather and company say the workers don’t like phase two and will not help operate it. But that does not mean they will actively fight it.

The fight depends on the rank and file. In every industry workers must prepare now to use their industrial power to smash the freeze.

They must say to the leaders of the trade unions: ‘Are you prepared to sit back and see workers’ families driven further into poverty, to see the pay rise fall further and further behind, to see the terrible plight of old people made worse by this vicious employers’ government?’

And the call must be given now for that will spell not only defeat for phase two but for the entire, anti-wage-cut project of the Tories.

Recall the TUC to demand all-out action to smash the freeze.

No more talks with the Tories.

Industrial action in solidarity with all groups that fight the freeze.

Organise the entire labour movement to fight for:

- £25 a week minimum wage
- £16 a week pension
- Equal pay for women.

SIGN OF THE TIMES: Nottingham butcher Paul Hogg offers beef on HP.

Soaring prices slash wages

by Chris Harman

THE clearest evidence that the Tory wage-price restraint is a fraud aimed at workers’ living standards is the staggering upsurge in prices in recent weeks.

The increases have dealt a stunning blow to working-class families. Growing numbers of housewives are wondering how they are to find the money needed to buy meat.

Food prices have shot up despite the government’s 'freeze' by 6 per cent in two months. More increases are on the way. An 8.7 per cent increase in raw material prices in December will be passed on as increases in the shops in the months ahead.

Even the Tory government has pretended to show concern over this state of affairs. But its inquiry into beef prices was a complete whitewash operation.

It accepted that price increases had been inevitable and that the price of beef would not fall in future. The committee’s advice to buy cheap or buy frozen ignored the simple fact that lamb prices have risen by 50 per cent in the last two months and pork by 50 per cent in the last year.

But then the committee was not really concerned with the plight of working-class families at all. It expressed pleasure at the fact that the price of cheaper meat has risen more relative to the price of the more expensive cuts because this ‘reduces the pressure on the more expensive cuts’.

The committee’s main conclusion was that increased prices were a result of an increased demand for meat internationally. What it did not say is that powerful groups in Britain have been making considerable profits from this state of affairs.

Record profits

Over the last year almost all the major food groups have reported record profits:

- Unilever (owner of Batchelors, Birds Eye, McVitie’s and many others) by 14 per cent;
- Imperial Tobacco Food Division (owner of Cadbury, Dairy Sauce, HP sauce, and the giant Ross group, which produces a quarter of all poultry) by 20 per cent;
- Associated Dairies 20 per cent, 20 per cent of its farms by 8 per cent;
- Associated British Foods (owners of Fry’s and ‘Tea’), by about 15 per cent;
- Associated Biscuits by 50 per cent; and
- Associated Fisheries, who have netted record first half-year profits.

One reason why prices have soared over the last two months is that firms are determined to maintain such massive profits. As the government inquiry admits, ‘to maintain the opportunity to increase their retail prices and restore their cash margins’.

Other major beneficiaries of the upsurge in prices are the farmers. One fact the government committees did not bother to mention is the gain farmers whatever on cattle have seen up from £22 an animal to £58 per month.

The Ministry of Agriculture figures reveal that in 1972 prices were being paid for livestock farms worked for a mere 12 per cent of the farmers. This 12 per cent produced most of the meat and had an income of more than £70 a week five years ago — a figure which today would probably be well over £200.

What the increase in most prices means to the small farmers is revealed by a report on Tuesday from the firm of J.S. Escolme, joint biggest producer of broilers (it sells 33 million a year), that it has raised prices of farm land. Its profits from farming shot up from £240,000 to £1.3 million in the first six months of last year.

The government is in basic terms trying to pass on its profits by a further £600,000. And the firm of Robert W. Grosvenor, which has the biggest market in the UK. This firm, which accounts for over half of all beef distribution in the UK, has raised prices of beef to housewives within months from beef to chickens.

Yet the Ministry of Agriculture, Joseph Gubbins, has claimed that no control over

Bombing of South goes on - stop Nixon’s slaughter

All out this Saturday, 20 January.

Important for all 1S branches: IS contingent forms under Waterloo Bridge, Charing Cross embankment. 7pm March from Charing Cross via Trafalgar Square to US Embassy, Grosvenor Square.

Bring banners and placards.

BEST FOOT FORWARD

PAUL FOOTT, Socialist Worker staff writer, was awarded the 'Joint Press' of the Press Association on Tuesday by Granada Television's What the Papers Say.
ITALY: BOSSES STELL UP THE PRESSURE

by Mike Balfour

UNLIKE the hot autumn of 1969, there have been no street demonstrations in Italy so far this year. The struggle over national agreements covering millions of workers which are still being negotiated has not had the same insurrectionary character as 1969-70: it is no less bitter and determined.

The political situation is critical. While the economy continues to stagnate, the cost of living is soaring. Chaotic social conditions, unemployment, underdevelopment in the south are stirring up popular revolt.

The Italian ruling class, unable to solve the crisis, are relying increasingly on repression.

The employers need to recoup the losses they suffered in 1969 and 1970. They are determined to re-establish control over the factories to plan and reshape industry to meet the international competition. In the last two years they have been cutting back on factory space, redundancies, speed-up and victimization of militants.

The struggle over the engineering agreement, the employers have not only refused to accept any of the unions’ demands but have insisted on making their own, including plans to curtail absenteeism and a demand for guarantees of industrial peace for the length of the agreements.

The unions’ platform reflects the experience of the last three years. They are determined to drive among workers for greater unity for breaking down the divisions between skilled and unskilled, white-collar and manual workers. The most important demand of the Engineering agreement is for a single grading system of five grades to cover all workers—production, maintenance, clerks and technicians.

If they also demand a 25% across-the-board rise and four to five weeks’ holiday. But many demands from the more militant factories—for greater purity, guaranteed wages and automatic upgrading, have been ignored or watered down by the union leaders.

Since the first national strike in June, mass picket lines are taking place in different parts of Italy backed by mass demonstrations.

DROPPED

Round one in the struggle went to the employers. An agreement between the chemical industry employers in northern Italy and the Ministry of Labour was reached last October after the intervention of the Minister of Labour.

It was a sell-out. Some of the most important demands were dropped. Others were conceded only partially while the unions’ general strike calls were left on the backburner, extending the period of the agreement and agreeing to wage hold up.

The agreement was rejected in mass meetings and was dropped. Notably in Milan and Porto Marghera.

In the negotiations over the engineering agreements the employers’ demands can only lead to an intensified campaign of strikes and demonstrations. But the willingness of the workers to fight and the link with other sections of workers has not been as much as a result of the unions’ handling of the struggle.

FLIRTING

The unions, including the Communist-dominated CGIL, have made little effort to unite the workers. The engineering workers in the public sector have been taken in by the employers’ bluff. These in the private sector and those in small factories.

The unions continue flirting with the concept of small capitalist mite in the militant factories, are balking up in several cities.

In Milan and the surrounding region there is a successful labour committee including all the main engineering factories. In the suburbs, committees have been formed by the committees with local tenants’ associations and students, connecting social and economic struggles.

ALTERNATIVE

Unemployment, inadequate housing, transport and welfare, bitter wages and conditions—these cannot be fought separately. Despite their rhetoric, the union leadership and the Italian Communist Party are not committed to forming links between these mass struggles. More than ever there is a need for a revolutionary alternative to the Communist Party. The reformist policies are weakening the great potential of the Italian working-class movement.

by Stephen Castells

THE USE OF racism to counter the strike by Indian workers at the Manfield Hussly mill in Longhborough points to a strategy used by bosses throughout Europe.

There are about 11 million immigrants in Western Europe. As in Britain, they get the worst jobs and housing and the lowest pay.

Measures such as the Common Market or the “shuttle workers” or “work force agreements” are in application to Britain, are officially described

as an increase in freedom, indeed, they increase the workers’ liberty to be exploited by foreign bosses, and the bosses freedom to put pressure on wages and the labour movement.

By increasing the labour supply, wages can be kept low and profits up. Capital can be used to this through unemployment, but this is a very effective method. The argument is that on the other hand, can be

naked and sent home without any suffering.

In the West German recession of 1966-7, the foreign labour force was cut by 400,000 workers at six months, but only 29,000 stayed up in the country to draw the dirty immigrant workers from the modern exploitation of which Marx called the industrial reserve army.

The use of the heavy manual work is done by immigrants, so that jobs tend to be passed on to other local people and those done by new owners. For example, one of the worst work at Ford in Cologne is done by Turks, while the German-Bowase supervisory and skilled jobs.

Means that the different nationalities have little chance to communicate and the bosses can drive a wedge between them during a dispute, of the workers in the United States come from Southern Europe or North Africa. The language barrier makes matters worse. They also come from backward and oppressed areas and have little experience of industrial work practices.

Throughout Western Europe special economic measures are introduced to keep under the bosses’ thumbs; they are forbidden to change jobs and keep under state control.

At the same time the racist outrages of this year which have marked the relations between British and immigrant workers, the bosses’ immigration strategy get to know the immigrants and do out their problems, help them fight for their rights.

This confusion between class exploitation and the use of immigrants as an anti-class weapon is very dangerous. It means fighting for equal pay, equal job opportunities, better housing, better social conditions for all workers.

Toward Europe, where local workers have shown solidarity, the racism must be fought on active and militant part in industrial and political action.

Control

British employers are learning from their Continental friends. Ten years ago they would never have worried about the new Immigration Act of 1971 could provide for a quota on the West German pattern; workers could be kept for up to 3 to 5 years. There’s no longer the hidden trouble and state intervention.

As this year has seen the outburst of racism, an attempt to strengthen the racist policy against black workers. The hidden trouble and the undermining of the British working class and the British immigrant workers. There is a need for a revolutionary alternative to the Communist Party. The reformist policies are weakening the great potential of the Italian working-class movement.

BOOM OR BUST?

The crisis in the aircraft industry

The huge sums of money being spent on Concorde will only serve to save a few hours for businessmen or a few minutes for passengers who are gloves of privileged people. We have to start fighting to spend even a small amount of money providing a reliable and efficient bus service for ordinary people while at the same time waste millions on Concordes.

19p for 1st class, 3p postage.
Six copies or more post free.
9a Oakland Road, Bristol.
BRANCHES AND FACTORY GROUPS BOOST OUR FUND

JIM NICHOL, the IS National Treasurer, has scarcely recovered consciousness from his serious motorbike accident. He is recovering slowly but well and is expected to be transferred from the East London Group Hospital Management Committee demanding immediate improvement of the shops' trade union shop steward's wages by £1.25 as his emergency treatment fee.

Jim, who is recovering fast after a very bad week, sends this message to Socialist Worker readers: "I will pay the £1.25... to the Printshop Fund, on condition, of course, that at least £100 is in the fund by now every month by every member of this trade union who wants to help him.

A total of £2095 in donations pushed the total received to far £12,484.

Our own IS branches in articular have responded well and include: Bath £110, Worthing £214, London £144, Oldham £124, Westhampnett £50, Gosport South £77, Teesdale £60, Sheffield £50, Coventry £110, Edinburgh £50, York £529, Kittlum £10, Manchester District Committee £57,00, Hackney £83, Birmingham North £190, Torquay £297, Crewe £290, Edinburgh £272, Bradford £22, Cambridge £101.

The branch groups and local branches in this country are in need of our support, so let us all contribute to the £20,000 target.

The support for the fund is growing but we must continue the drive to get around £20,000 in order that we can match the government's contribution of £10,000.

Behind the dirty freeze: the economic crisis grows

by John Palmer

IN SPITE of the sacrifices imposed on the unemployed, the low paid, the pensioners and all the other victims of Tory policy, the price of food today is as high as it was 20 years ago.

As the world economy shudders on the brink of another depression, the real international pressure will grow on the Tories to abandon their promise to bring down inflation and cut the level of unemployment.

Already the Tories have started a trade union 'economic reprisal' against the 50 companies that do 70 per cent of the Government's credit card business. This is just the start of mass action in the public and private sector. There must be a massive public pressure on the employers to cut the prices of essential items.

The Tories have few options. Either they must meet this crisis by allowing the £100-a-month rise in minimum wages in October, or the 12,000 workers in the credit card industry will move in to defend their interests.

The French government (and others in the Common Market) want the £6 fixed by the Brussels struggle to be increased, or the discounting of the three NLHEs on interest rates will cease.

The TUC is working closely with the unions to ensure that the economic interests of workers are protected and that the public have a chance to control the market economy.

The TUC working document is in fact due to be published in the next few weeks. It is unlikely that this document will be a complete solution to the problems of inflation and unemployment, but it is an important step in the right direction.

The TUC must continue to work closely with the unions to ensure that the economic interests of workers are protected and that the public have a chance to control the market economy.

CLOSED SHOP

Example for instance in the Finance and General Purposes Committee draft, there is one single mention of the closed shop, a problem the Labour government would like to tackle more directly. The Industrial Relations Act will not contain a definition of employment. In fact it seems that the TUC are preparing to use the closed shop clause, which is the same as being a trade union which does not exist. The situation is similar in the closed shop.

In the main, the Act is a collection of collective agreements being legally binding. Even when the parties voluntarily chose to be the same, the Act would then be the same as being a trade union. The closed shop would be the same as being a trade union. The closed shop would be the same as being a trade union.

The document also shows the TUC's deep desire to control the TUC's economic interests. This is why it is that they are preparing to put their trade union activity on a formal basis. The closed shop is a new way of putting the power of the trade union to work. It is designed to protect the power of the trade union and not to increase the number of members.

The TUC leaders want to be appointed to deal with the situation. This is precisely what they proposed in their previous strike in the textile industry in December. This is precisely what they propose in their previous strike in the textile industry in December. This is precisely what they propose in their previous strike in the textile industry in December. This is precisely what they propose in their previous strike in the textile industry in December.

RULES

The working document gives very strong support to the TUC's and its friends on the Labour government's economic policies. The TUC is committed to the policies of Brown's government, which is drawn right into the state machine of the TUC.

And its rules would be devoted to the protection of the workers' rights and bound by common law. Wholesale changes would be placed on the trade union and the TUC. This can be seen in the situation in which the TUC leaders have achieved with Vic Feather's signature to the significant increase of 10 million trade unionists. As far as the TUC is concerned, the trade union is a trade union by definition. And this is the situation in which the TUC leaders have achieved with Vic Feather's signature to the significant increase of 10 million trade unionists. As far as the TUC is concerned, the trade union is a trade union by definition.

The rules would not only be the basis for the TUC's political role, but also all sections of society are always drawn into the action. The International Socialists believe that students can and must be drawn into political alliances with the workers, and this pamphlet analyses the role of students and of the 'student movement' in an attempt to show the way forward.

From lane ducks to income policy: why the TUC switch? Don't miss an important analysis by Nigel Harris next week.

PRICE SCHEDULES

From page one

farmers' profits is possible in a free market system. He said that the free market was the only way to ensure that the farmers of the Common Market countries would have a chance to compete with each other.

In the meantime, the British government has announced that it will increase its price support for farmers to £100 per cent. This is in addition to the price support already provided by the European Community.

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Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

As the Tories unveil their plans for phase two of the wage freeze, we publish this week on the centre pages at the request of two major trade union leaders who are deeply concerned of every militant and socialist in the labour movement.

It is all of the guff about 'fairness' and 'helping the lower paid', phase two means that the attack on working people and their organisations continues and intensifies. We publish this week an attack continuing to attack the TUC and most of the leaders of its affiliated unions.

If all the fine plat talk of the last two and a half years has been translated into action only would there be no wage freeze or Industrial Relations Act, there would be no Tory government either. Remember how Vic Feather and his colleagues raged against the Industrial Relations Act, demanding a mass attack on this century? Despite the rage, it is now being used to undermine the strength of workers determined to protect and extend their hard-earned rights.

Remember the decision of last year's Trades Union Congress to discuss with any discussion with the government about the 'wage-price link' income policy. Within weeks of the congress, the TUC leaders were back at Downing Street and Chequers, debating how to restrain wages in the 'public interest'.

Although the talks broke down, the mere fact that the TUC were present strengthened the Tory-employer position. The TUC had talked about wage increases being the major factor behind inflation and helped the government introduce the freeze.

The actions of the right wing in the trade union movement will come as no surprise to most of our readers. The role of Feather and company is to act as honest brokers between workers and government. They are in the pay of big business and militancy and action and to hold on to action or organise on the basis of their reasonableness and responsibility.

What is more disturbing, as our centre pages show, is the retreat and vacillation of the official left in the unions.

Jettisoned

Last year's magnificent victory by the miners should be used as the springboard for a showdown this year. But instead of mobilising the miners, the left is what was the right on the NUM executive have jettisoned their own conference commitments and are prepared to sign away thousands of jobs through further productivity concessions that are going to be shifted on the miners. The NUM have refused to call for national, official action in defence of their funds and are now paying the price through the continuous resurgence of the right wing around Conway and Boyd.

The reason for this dangerous disarray is rooted in the politics of the 'broad left' in the unions—particularly the Communist Party. The struggle in the unions is a struggle for office and dominance within the unions. The right wing of the CP has been jettisoned by the left, which includes the Communist Party. The struggle in the unions for them is a struggle for office and dominance within the unions. The right wing of the CP has been jettisoned by the left, which includes the Communist Party. The struggle in the unions for them is a struggle for office and dominance within the unions. The right wing of the CP has been jettisoned by the left, which includes the Communist Party. The struggle in the unions for them is a struggle for office and dominance within the unions. The right wing of the CP has been jettisoned by the left, which includes the Communist Party.

The Communists have refused to support the miners' struggle, and instead of mobilising the miners, they are now working with the employers to implement the wage freeze.

The result of this is that the miners are now facing a无情 struggle against the freeze and the anti-union laws. The only defence is to mobilise the trade union movement for industrial action to smash the freeze and to organise a national general strike. This is the only way to put an end to the freeze and to win for the miners.

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Apollo moonshine

AROUND the Prime Minister there is a tiny group of journalists and public relations men known as 'the gooners'. Wherever Heath wants a particularly doing piece of gossip in the newspapers, he contacts the 'gooners', whose influence extends throughout Fleet Street. Somehow, they persuade their editors to publish the piece Heath suggested.

In return, the 'gooners' get special advance notice of the contents of Heath's most important speeches. They get their Downing Street copy, for instance, of Heath's speech to be given on 2 January at the European Movement dinner at Hampton Court to celebrate Britain's entry into Europe.

The speech issued to the gooners started with a tribute to Dr Nicolson, the then chairman of the European Economic Community, who was proposing the toasting of the British government, to which Heath would be replying.

'Mr Chairman,' Heath was to say, 'I am delighted to be able to respond to a toast moved with such eloquence by a European who has brought to this cause such a personal conviction, determination and compassion... and so on and so on for nine lines... These followed the following unforgettable passage:

'For it is too long ago that has been the permanent conductor of the Nine Muses, known to us in British song as the nine Muses, and, to Heath's amazement, the gooners had written: 'Mr Apollo comes leading His choir, the Nine. The leader is Nast,\n\n\nFaced with this, Heath changed his speech. The final edition, Heath: changed speech

issued by Roundel, Greer and Aasehns on behalf of the European Movement, thanked a reference to Mansfield into the middle of the speech, which contained a 'tribute to his work over agriculture and a silly joke about his ability as a sailor. 'I agreed of course,' said Heath, 'with so much of what he had to say tonight'

The Apollo of modern Europe has completely disappeared. The gooners, faithfully said nothing about the disappearance.

Knight star

IT IS difficult to imagine anything more revolting than Sir Frederick Bennett, the Tory MP for Torquay. Sir Fred was it who opened the House of Commons debate calling for government action to deal with wreckers in industry. Sir Fred put out a lot of blight about Communist Party infestation in industry, and then included the following quote from ex-Communist Frank Chapple, President of the electrical union:

'Working for the Communist Party is like being part of a ruthless industrial and political Kray Brothers organisation. It is like a religion run by gangsters,' Chapple had said.

The following night, Sir Frederick gave a dinner party in his handsome London residence (he also has a house in Devon and one in Wales). The guest of honour was the new Ambassador to London in Communist China, Mr Sung Chih-Kuang, who was dining in an English private house for the first time since his appointment.

The refugee will be remembered, was the country's most enthusiastic supporter of General Yahya Khan's coup in Bangladesh to which led to the slaughter of several million people. He was awarded the Sitara [Star] of Pakistan for his services to that country's rulers in 1964.)

Sir Frederick was greatly impressed by the support for Khan and Pakistan which came during the war from the People's Republic of China. There is nothing, in short, which the noble knight does not know about gaugers.

Feast of clay

ORGANISERS at Transport House are 'most upset' by the decision of Labour Party members in North East Derbyshire to refuse nominations for the new district council to councilors who have agreed to implement the Housing Finance Act. This decision is largely due to the work and propaganda of the Labour councilors in Clay Cross who are now defying the Act after almost all other councils in England have collapsed. Eleven councilors from neighbouring councils which have implemented have been unceremoniously axed from the panel of possible future councilors.

The Labour Party organisation sub-committee has promptly ordered a full-scale inquiry—which one Clay Cross resident summed up in advance as 'the hatchet for David Skinner'. (And is Labour leader of Clay Cross council.)

THE Coal Board will shortly announce their replacement for Mr. R. A. C. M. Brown, who resigned recently as head of the Board's Doncaster district after a front-page expose in The People of his connections with a mining machinery firm. Mr. Stowe was also the owner of 400 shares during the boom in Bonser Engineering, a mining machinery firm whose best-known directors were Alfred Robens, Lord Robets, then Coal Board chief, and several other Coal Board officials, in the area. Mr. Stowe's Holton shares at a handsome profit after the Coal Board's decision to scrap substantial Coal Board orders for pit props. Mr. Stowe will be replaced by Mr. L. A. Mills, who is senior director of the Youngs Investment Company, and who is also a shareholder in Bonser Engineering. At one time he had even more shares than Mr. Stowe. He had 5000.
A SLIGHT LAPSE

MEMBERS of the International Socialists' Club have been extremely busy recently. On 9 January, which was extensively covered in the press, they took to the streets in protest of the cuts to the National Health Service. However, the point of view of enlightened British capitalism of Tony Blair's review of 1973 also caused some concern. On 12 January.

On quoting liberty from Cllr, the article's author, Mr Joe Rogaly, who has received permission to post the post of assistant editor, argues that two more can even come out of a sum of a newspaper and come to terms with unions. The Socialist Worker may have to be forced to withdraw those services for up to 10 months from today.

Mr Rogaly's interest in the union trade union movement extends beyond mere journalistic interest.

He is a member of a 'reform group' recently set up in the Central London branch of the National Union of Journalists, which covers all the leading English newspapers and the broadcast media. The 'reform group' started to demand the trade union branch on the basis of the hands of scribes 'disrupters' and syndicalists.

Before last autumns emergency conference of the union, which was held on 27 and 28 November, there were disagreements within the union's council on the decision to support the reform group's plans to pop up the branch for the branch directly.

Further down the agenda, how ever, was the list of members who were not paid their union subscriptions. The list Mr Joe Rogaly. In some embarrassment, his name was removed from the nominations.

President Sunary of Turkey (left) at the union dinner. See 'Gold Turkey'

Gold Turkey

OUR PICTURE shows the glamorous President Sunary of Turkey presenting a gold plaque to Mr Sahap Dede, Turkey's longest serving ambassador to the British embassy in London, who is to be appointed Turkey's ambassador to Britain. The plaque is a token of gratitude to Mr Dede for his efforts in promoting Turkey's interests in the British market.

Among the association's main activities, the most important one is the Gold Turkey Awards, which are given annually to the most distinguished foreigners in Turkey. The awards are presented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and are designed to promote good relations between Turkey and other countries.

Left bank?

The Boycott Bank Movement, started by Anti-Apartheid in protest against Barclays' involvement in the building of the Caledonian and other projects in Southern Africa, seems to be losing support among its most enthusiastic supporters.

The ACTT, the cinema and television workers' union, gave a pledge to Anti-Apartheid several months ago that they would withdraw their account from Barclays. An Anti-Apartheid ACTT member protested recently when he was told to pay his subs into Barclays, and received the reply: "Oh yes, the finance officer in charge said we must go on banking at Barclays."

The new left will be held next door to the office - 50 minutes later.

This courageous approach is rewarded only by the New Left Review, whose current issue asks for subs to be paid into Barclays. The New Left Review has been one of the country's leading advocates if shareholder involvement to counter racism, but Barclays is very close to its

Hot money

WAGE INCREASES, remember, may be a hollow promise if the freeze cannot be paid until after the freeze is over. Besides, we know all about it. All money is now in the hands of the government. The government has agreed, that's true, but it does not mean that we know about it. If dividend freeze is to continue, the freeze to be paid during the freeze.

The Hannan Trust, a vast manufacturer, announced last Friday that they would be paying a 25 per cent dividend (compared to only 10.4 per cent last year) in December. On 5 December, in the middle of the freeze, they paid a 1.5p dividend.

The cost of this unfoolish increase meant that Triumph paid out £542,000 in dividends this year compared with £46,800 last year.

Loaded...

An International Socialistist who wrote a letter to the editor of Social Work Times recently opened an envelope addressed to his employer. It was an invitation to join the Landlords Association. Mr B. King, The offices of estate agent A. grill, at 100 London W11, is the chairman of this new and flourishing body, and in the document he outlines its advantages.

Mr King would like to place any flats or rooms which they may have for tenancy to tenants for association for letting... in this way

Police rigged the evidence against black militant

Kierew refused to make any statements incriminating himself or others. He knew he was being framed. Three months before he should fight the case, Paul Brown, Philip Haynes and Paul Kierew did not make such statements, inculcating both themselves and Raymond Kierew.

On the trial, the prosecution solicitor really went to the trouble of showing some members of 'The Organisation' which by that time was only a gang of three to three other people and then drug trafficking in the city.

On 13 December, the fourth day of the trial, Raymond Kierew was cleared of all charges: conspiracy to blackmail, three counts of blackmail and two of assault. The acquitted followed directions from the judge that there was insufficient evidence against him.

On the second day of the trial an important prosecution witness, Yusuf Dur, had repudiated his statement supporting Kierew's allegations against the police. "The police was not in line" said Yusuf Dur. ["There was an instance of the police rigging the evidence against black militant."]

Assaut

Then two of the defendants, Brown and Haynes, told the court that they were innocent and that they had been cleared of all charges by the police on promises of immediate release and a reduction in their light penalties. All this confirmed exactly what Raymond Kierew had said from the beginning.

The prosecution, however, were found guilty after the jury, failing to reach a unanimous verdict, went out for a second time. The judge gave the defendants an ultimatum: they had to state that the best of their guilt is true, for if those confessions both men had disavowed under oath were true, they could be cleared.

The third defendant, Paul Whittingham, who cooperated with the police from the start, got bail and eventually pleaded guilty to charges of blackmail and assault, was jailed for 12 months.

Raymond Kierew, complaints officer of the Black Peoples Freedom Movement, only just escaped the net. In fact he had spent more than four years in prison for his arrest to his trial, probably enough to give him time to prepare his case and to continue the struggle and could well be picked up again.

TREVOR SHAW

VICTOR SERGE

Memoirs of a Revolutionary 1901–1941

TRANSLATED BY PETER SEDGWICK

The memoirs of Victor Serge, revolutionary, novelist, and one of the leaders of the anti-Stalinist revolutionary generations—the anarchist of pre-1914 Paris, the syndicalist of Workers' International who was Stalin's man and then his opponent in Russia after Stalin took over. Out of the disillusionment Serge himself was born, his book 'Serge' has been banned in Russia. It is only now, 70 years after his death, that this important work has been published.

IS BOOKS, 6 Cowsons Gardens, London E2 8DN
Bombing goes on -thousand tons in two days

RICHARD NIXON’S decision, on 30 December, to call off the bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong, was greeted with signs of relief by liberal newspaper editors, clergymen and Labour politicians. The brutal and indiscriminate bombing of densely populated cities had stung them into some kind of muttering protest. Now they could go back to concentration on the Common Market with a clear conscience.

The Guardian, for example, headlined its editorial on 9 January with the question ‘Is the Bombing to Return?’. It is a question which would bring a wry smile to the face of many Vietnamese, for whom the bombing never went away. On the weekend of 6-7 January, B-52s dropped more than a thousand tons of bombs on the large area of North Vietnam south of the 20th parallel. And the B-52s are flying more bombing raids over South Vietnam than they do over the North, helping to keep the communist Viet Minh Vietnamese army rear in control over parts of the countryside.

Despite all the talk about running down the war, the US has been stepping up its bombing of the South. In the first nine months of 1972, 800,000 tons of bombs were dropped—over 30,000 tons more than were dropped in the previous year.

Between February 1966 and August 1972, the total amount of air strikes—bombs, rockets, machine gun bullets—launched by US aircraft on Indochina adds up to seven and a half million. Yet throughout the years of the World War, in all parts of the world the allied forces used only the whole ton bomb.

TARGETS
US sources estimated, last October, that in the previous two years about 400,000 people had been killed throughout Indochina. Since the North Vietnamese do not release any casualty figures this may well be an underestimate. The form of war which the US has chosen to wage is devastating and still going on, despite the so-called ‘halftime’ ceasefire.

There are many different types of bombs used by the US, each aimed at specific military targets. But it is quite clear that much of the bombing is aimed at destroying civilian lives, property, kain, mines, terrorism and demoralising the people of North and South Vietnam.

A Dutch doctor, Harald Aarts, who visited Saigon in August, told the Far Eastern Economic Review what he had seen and heard: ‘Foreign journalists in Hanoi told me of a particular bombing technique which appears to be popular with American pilots. They cited the example of Hon Gai city on the northern coast of Vietnam.

CHILDREN
‘US aircraft came to bomb this city at 3am. They first dropped incendiary bombs, then fragmentation and perforating bombs, and finally blast bombs. The incendiary bombs flattened the homes, let the fires rage on the streets and go for the shelters. In the open, they used incendiary bombs to fragment bombs. The lucky ones who made it to the shelters became targets for blast bombs.

This bombing pattern leaves no escape. ’We saw improved anti-personnel bombs dropped from forklifts, with exploding pins. There are also carried in ‘mother bombs’. On an exploration they carry thousands of splinters which kill people over a limited radius. Improved version produces fragmentation or ‘plastic’ bombs. ‘I saw people in Saigon and Hanoi die very slowly. Most of the victims I saw were children.’

Wilson’s support for US terrorism

A MYTH is rapidly being established in and around the Labour Left that Hanoi is “a totalitarian state” run by a “Communist” who tramples on the rights of the people. We have not even bothered to look at the environment in the American government when they bombed North Vietnam when he was Prime Minister and that Wilson’s personal attitude to Vietnam has been influenced by much more hostile to the Americans that it appeared.

Many times in the past few weeks, Wilson has referred to the Labour government’s ‘commitment’ to the American bombing of North Vietnam. The facts are these. In February 1965, after an alleged ‘incident’ in the Gulf of Tonkin, apparently involving a North Vietnamese attack on an American ship or ships, the ‘hot line’ to President Johnson and asked him to receive a British delegation, headed by Wilson, to talk about Vietnam. John F Kennedy had in his memoirs, lost his temper.

If the Wilson government is going to run Malaysia and you don’t tell us how to run Vietnam,’ he said, ‘If you want to come in here and give us some advice on how to run Malaysia, we will tell you what to do that, go on with your Malaysian war.’

The wretched Wilson drooped the phone and left the House of Commons: ‘So far as Her Majesty’s Government is concerned, I repeat as I have said many times before, that we have made absolutely plain our support for the American stand against Communist infiltration in South Vietnam.

ARRESTS
In a recent article in Le Monde, Ngo Cong Duc, who until 1969 was a deputy in the South Vietnamese National Assembly, alleges that already three months ago there were 700,000 people imprisoned in South Vietnam—and waves of arrests are continuing.

Almost all these prisoners are subject to mistreatment and deliberate torture. Electric shock treatment, forced drinking of scapy water and the hammering of nails through the fing of long prisoner is common.

On 2 January two young French teachers who had spent two a half years in a Saigon prison told a meeting in Paris what they had experienced there.

‘Prisoners who have spent months or even years in tiger-cages 20 inches high can no longer stand up straight or walk. All this is done under the supervision of American advisers, who, we are certain, know all about what is going on in the Vietnamese prisons. Such is the freedom’ that Nixon and friends are talking about—‘from a safe distance. There can be no peace for the Vietnamese people unless the last US soldier has gone and that peace has been right of the President in this matter, I could not be more more concerned about anything.

In these shaky policies, Mr Wilson was supported by his entire Cabinet, and in particular by his new Home Secretary, who is a warm admirer of what he calls the ‘peaceful solution’ to the Vietnam conflict. The official line is that the bombing of North Vietnam is so distasteful,
Don't step back on the wages ladder

BY SABBY SAGALL

Dustmen picketing outside Buckingham Palace (left) during the 'dirty boys' strike of 1970, the most successful struggle by low-paid workers since 1948. Right: rubbish piled up in a London market during the strike.

The postmen's and also the Ford sell-out of 1971 had a depressing effect on the strikes. This can be seen if you compare the 1971 settlements reached by key groups of low-paid with those achieved in 1972 after the struggles of the miners and railwaymen.

The table above shows this.

Poverty

With the exception of laundry workers, every group of low-paid workers achieved higher settlements in 1972 than in 1971. All in all, the harder the struggle of the higher paid or, as with the miners and railwaymen, the struggle of these around the middle of the wages scale, the greater the benefits to the lower paid.

It is only following the example of militant workers that they can raise their deplorable living standards. Coys Tempest and Mary Egan and Tony minnows will leave this in peace.

It is only when the higher paid demand more, like Oliver Twist, that the others get the courage to shake the really greedy one, the fat Mr Bumble.

What you can claim if you're single

A STRIKER is always entitled to Social Security benefits for his family and most people know of these—but there are other welfare benefits which many do not get simply because they do not know they are entitled to them.

One of these is the housing allowance, which is paid by the Social Security either for rates and rent or interest on a mortgage (but not for capital repayments)—plus a small allowance for repairs and insurance.

You do not pay rent yourself but are living with your parents, an allowance of 70p will be paid instead of rent.

If you are the household, and there are other people living in the same household, you will get only a part of the rate. For example, you have a wife and two grown-up children in a house and you will get only half of the rent or mortgage and rates and it will be paid to you no matter what is made if you sublet or have boarders.

While claiming social security you are entitled to a free pint of milk a day for each child under five years old. This includes milk in the form of powdered milk, and you can also get tins of free vitamins. These tins are used to be given to everyone, whether claiming or not, but they were cut out by the Tories in 1971, along with school milk for the over fives.

It's worth getting your teeth and spectacles seen while you're not working, for the treatment may be done free (ask your dentist or optician). You are also exempt from prescription charges.

If you are involved in a long dispute, gas and electricity bills are bound to mount up. Section 7 of the 1966 Social Security Act allows the Social Security to give lump sum payments to cover these to avoid hardship, for example if supplies were cut off for non-payment.

Grants can also be made for clothing and other items. If they try to give you a loan interest on a grant instead. If you don't get satisfaction, appeal. During the long Fine Tubes strike in Plymouth all these extra benefits have been taken by the men.

Strikers are normally entitled to claim benefit only for their dependents. However, that is not the end of the story for single people, for Section 13 of the Act applies on grounds of hardship. The Social Security official may not agree, but don't give up. Insist that you have to eat and pay rent. If you are living with relatives tell the Social Security officials that it is not your family's duty to support you.

Make sure you don't disclose any savings or cash in hand, or they will try to make you use that before paying up.

They will probably try to limit any weekly payment to you to £4. In fact this is just a figure conjured up which has no meaning because, for example, there is nothing in law to fix the figure at £4 and it is well worth fighting for more. Make sure that the people you are living with will back you up.

In the secret instructions issued by the headquarters of the Department of Health and Social Security to its officials, it is stated that single claimants are expected to commit fraud (not surprising, considering how hard you have to fight to get anything at all). The instructions tell clerks to warn single people that their statements will be checked and to pick them out for visiting at home.

In fact the offices are usually too hard pressed to be able to do this, but watch out.

NEXT WEEK: What happens to your strike pay.
LAST WINTER was a good time for the miners. After years of humiliation they defied the experts, surprised their union leaders and badly bruised the government.

When the miners showed that they could deprive Heath of even the right to read by, they taught the rest of the working class a lesson. If it had not been for the spinelessness of the NUM leaders, the miners might have provided the trigger for a national movement that could have kicked the Tories out there and then.

The seven weeks’ strike that started on 9 January last year brought to an end the gloomy post-war years of retreat, years in which the union leaders had brazenly collaborated in holding back wages and the closure of hundreds of pits that brought redundancy for thousands—all done in the name of ‘higher productivity’.

The strike was in pursuit of a claim for £26 for surface workers (an increase of £8), £28 for underground workers (£6 more) and £35 for faceworkers (an extra £5). The battle of Baldock coal depot in Birmingham, backed by 10,000 striking miners, was followed by other battles in pits and collieries that were shut down. They called in the National Guard to try to head an inquiry which was switched through in a matter of days.

During the strike they left off the claim for the NUM president, Joe Gormley, and the right wing was given a chance to demonstrate that it was still alive. The NUM, with miners won increases of £6, £5 and £4.50, backed down on the claim. The NUM were forced to discuss a new productivity deal.

The NUM leaders have ultimately repudiated the previous policy of reducing wages of the right of the miners. The NUM was the first union to appear before an industrial relations tribunal.

But the greatest indiscriminate concern wages and employment prospects. The first wave of redundancies appeared in early 1973, with a number of closures. A number of complaints were made in November but the NUM were not asked to discuss a new productivity deal.

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The unions

No clear lead in fight against union laws

FOR MANY THOUSANDS of trade unionists who want to see a fight to smash the Industrial Relations Act, the behaviour of the leaders of the engineering section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers over James Goad, industrial court attendance and the payment of fines stands out like running water in the middle of a desert.

The TUC and the leaders of the overwhelming majority of its member unions have totally abandoned any pretensions they had of seriously opposing the Act. Faced with this, the engineering section executive has stood up and refused to face the firing squad of the National Industrial Court.

Quite alone it has taken the rhetoric of implacable opposition seriously and tried to turn it into action, boycotting the court, refusing to pay fines and launching an all-out and determined and making some serious efforts to the membership to act in defiance of the Act.

But the refusal of the broad left in the leadership of the engineering section to oppose the Act with all the theoretical and practical means at its disposal is a mistake and makes some serious inroads to the membership to act in defiance of the union.

Unemployment and the passage of the Goad case through the courts has been a deeply discouraging experience for the members of the engineering section. The defeat of the act in the court has been a deep blow to the morale of the members of the engineering section. The defeat of the Act in the court has been a deep blow to the morale of the members of the engineering section.

Reversal

This was deliberately engineered CAVU strategy, who are the leaders of the TUC, who marched through the courts to break the union law. And while some regions of the union were coming out for one day protest strikes against the fines again this week, other areas have seen no action at all. Those that have come out feel they have been left out of the game and that they were given no lead to act on. What should be done next.

The right wing wants to force the left wing on the engineering section executive into a position where it will have to bring the matter back to the membership committee. There the left wing does not have the necessary majority of the committee to reverse that decision.

And given that the union policy is quite definite on 'irreconcilable opposition' to the Act, the only way that the left wing can get what it wants is to force a vote on the membership committee to reverse that decision.

The left wing on the engineering section executive does of course have more reason for adopting their present, highly dangerous course of action. They have all along been desperate for 'irreconcilable' decisions, the price they have had to pay for this policy is action being left to the membership committee to decide.

For the right will have nothing to do with official national action. This is not the whole explanation. The left wing, too, are not unaware of all right. The left wing and the right wing have totally abandoned any pretensions to the leadership of the Act. They are not prepared to face decisive action. They want independence from the TUC and the state but they do not want a huge confrontation.

They want to use guerrilla industrial action to force defensible concessions from the government, these being modifications of the 'right' aspects of the industrial

by LAURIE FLYNN, Socialist Worker Industrial Reporter

Relations Act. And they feel isolated by the object-protesting of the TUC which is in its total support of the Act and its attempts to 'labour' the government into line.

The union on this is that the left has no serious analysis of the reasons for the lack of an active union on the trade unions. As far as the union is concerned the various aspects of the employer's offensive are largely unresolved. So, bit by bit, reasonable men and women, backed by the occasional bit of industrial muscle, can win a few concessions.

Union president Hugh Scannon himself is an eminently illustrous witness to the impasse of the broad left's view of the world. He is well placed to observe the decisions and decline to raise the question of the act's current struggle on this national basis.

He believes that the talks with Heath during a wage freeze should be brought to an end. But while he stood head and shoulders above the rest of the pack, he could not accept or engage in any alternative course of action among the rank and file, the real strength of the trade union movement. That would be an unconscionable and 'improper'.

The policy decision under which the engineering section of the executive is at present carrying out the Act is not a decision of the policy by the TUC but a decision of the appropriate local unions. It is the conference decision of the whole amalgamated union. The engineering section of the executive is at present carrying out the Act.

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Congratulations on your achievement! If you have any questions or need further assistance, feel free to ask. Happy reading!
IN THE FIFTH YEAR OF FEDERICO FELLINI

Nigel Fountain looks at the Italian director and his latest film

FEDERICO FELLINI is one of Italy's most famous directors. This doesn't mean too much in terms of British box-office. Certain Italian films have made it big at the box-office himself is responsible for adding a phrase to the English language, "La Dolce Vita" (the sweet life), which was his 1958 film dealing with Roman society, corruption and social climbing. With the aid of Anita Ekberg, he got a film release, and helped create in England the myth of Italy as a country where Ferraris and mistletoe coats are handed out with the holy communion.

The film was not well received by those who appreciated Fellini's earlier works. In the 1940s and early 1950s he had been one of the 'neo-realist' school of directors. Neo-realist had emerged from the collapse of Mussolini, the first film being made towards the end of the dictator's rule. They were a reaction against the overwhelming romantic soap operas which had typified the fascist period. Instead of glorification of the Italian race the neo-realist concentrated on the life of the people of Italy, on the poverty, and on the struggles of the workers and the outcasts. Films like Vittorio De Sica's 'Bicycle Thieves' achieved massive world-wide distribution and still turn up regularly at local film clubs.

In the 1950s, as the south of Italy decayed, the northern industrial areas went on a massive boom, accompanied by continued labour struggles but the neo-realist flaked out one by one. De Sica began to make films that concentrated on soggier romantic plots, or melodrama such as his vehicle for Sophia Loren, Two Women. Visconti, another neo-realist, has recently produced The Damned, with Dirk Bogarde, a much publicised but predictable film about Germany just before the Nazi takeover, and Death in Venice, a psychological study taken from the Thomas Mann novel.

Recently De Sica made a belated comeback to political comment with The Garden of the Finzi Continui, which concentrates on the downfall of a rich and beautiful Jewish family during the Jewish pogroms of the fascist period. But the beauty is the problem, for everyone is so bloody lovely, and there's so much violence on the lens, that one can't see the tragedy.

ABANDONED

Fellini himself changed direction from the time of Dolce Vita. His earlier films, such as La Strada, were set on the Gypsies. His escapist excursions into the world of his own head, reaching a climax with 8½, which was a film about a film director making a film about a film director making a film. The change of direction set off criticism from left-wingers that he's sold out and abandoned areas of social comment where he had been so active. Fellini has made a few comments in his latest film, which is reviewed below. 'How can I solve the world's problems when I can't even solve my own?'

DEVOTION TO DUTY

What you are doing is no good for the company or England. Buck your ideas up! The personal measure is to be labourers, not being sure whether the east or british or revolutionarily criminalist is the worst and purest. I just hummed the words of the Red Flag to the tune of Rule Britannia. I am conscious of my duty, we are all conscious of our duty to do in the world of social and political life. Fellini's youth, reaching the cinema's 8½, which was a film about a film director making a film about a film director making a film. The change of direction set off criticism from left-wingers that he's sold out and abandoned areas of social comment where he had been so active. Fellini has made a few comments in his latest film, which is reviewed below. 'How can I solve the world's problems when I can't even solve my own?'

A crazy race through Rome

FELLINI'S new film is titled Fellini's Roma. It isn't a documentary or a feature film, but a mixture of both, with a dose of Look at Life. All our Yesterdays, and Detergent commercials. Predictably, it is difficult to digest.

The film centres on its director, cutting from his memories of youth in Rome to his film crew in action in the contemporary city. One moment he is transfixed with interest, the next squirming with embarrassment. Fellini's love for his city combines acute social observation with baron fun and amusements, grotesque attempts by his film crew to act, and brilliant documentary film of modern industrial Rome.

The film begins with Fellini's youth, reaching the cinema's 8½, which was a film about a film director making a film about a film director making a film. The change of direction set off criticism from left-wingers that he's sold out and abandoned areas of social comment where he had been so active. Fellini has made a few comments in his latest film, which is reviewed below. 'How can I solve the world's problems when I can't even solve my own?'

Witty and gristy

THRILLER fans who get BBC2 should note, if they don't already know, that the amazing View From Daniel Pike is now back on Sunday nights, stories of the Glasgow private eye that so far has concerned a Rachmaninoff landlord and a corrupt copper. For something a bit closer to reality, plus a bit of gore, try Tuesday nights' Bight-side acting.
Frank Chapple, staunch wing boss of the Electricians and plumbers Unions, has a further distance towards earning that well-deserved knighthood with an agreement he signed relating to the pay of the employers in the electrical contracting industry covering 40,000 staff.

Looking for desperately are precedents.

Once one or two major unions sign legally binding agreements, the rest will follow. Now that the GMBU and the AUET are ready to sign the agreement, the other unions will be forced to follow suit.

The agreement, which is based on the EPTU’s recent experience with the EPTU (the EPTU staff association)-not a group of workers, but there are also groups who belong to the EPTU- is an example of what the EPTU should do for the workers.

The EPTU is the union that represents the electrical industry and it is a union that is fighting for the rights of its members. The EPTU is also a union that is fighting for the rights of the workers in the electrical industry. The EPTU is a union that is fighting for the rights of the workers in the electrical industry.

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FREEZE: MISSING DEMAND

IN THE front page article last week Duncan Hallas says there is one answer only to the price freeze and that is to fight inflation. There are both social and economic arguments for the freeze and it is clear that there is another 'solution' to the price freeze and that is to build a radical socialist organisation which will be able to smash the very notion of freezing

and such like by smashing the class and the state apparatus which uses them in its own interest. Hallas says that everyone knows this and that this is the case but that it is impossible to say the word. Of course the paper has to put forward tactical ideas and suggestions of the everyday struggle but its essential role is in widening and generalising the struggle and in this case Hallas has failed to do this. - JN GUTMAN, Salford, Lancs.

Unfair to Panthers?

I WAS surprised at the remarks by Peter Sedgwick on the American Black Panthers (13 December). It seems to have missed the aims of the Panther organisation. It seems to me that my own experience in the UK has been in contact with the US. When Harry Newton and Bobby Seale dinned in Oakland, California, it was formed as a morality police, in an attempt to direct and repress violence by local police and National Guards so they do not abuse the power given to them and are not just sitting around talking revolution and waiting for outside aggression. They are the Panthers who are involved in the needs of the community.

They started the ‘breakfasts for the black, health clinics, political studies, community factories and Black Studies’ with the Panthers in the running of the local black community and allowed the people to see that they had the good of the people at heart. So when the Panthers were not shooting people in the streets or murdering by the police, it was not just the Panthers who were under attack but the whole community.

I think that in time the Panthers will consider the conditions they were working under. Their mistakes have not been in policy personnel. The party expanded so quickly and this was the cause of the split up. There are people of people, while they appeared streetwise, were actually the surface, turned out to be troublesome.

If I were the example Eldridge Cleaver who is a writer but turned out to be an ego centric id. How else could they have caused internal disruption. It is hard to tell what will happen to the Panthers. It is possible that police action and the defection of Cleaver with his attendant troubles may all have culminated in the Panther’s death and yet succeed against the odds in starting a new chapter of the organisation.

So, I think, I think they are entitled to a certain amount of admiration. So long as they have not done. I can only hope that it will have as much courage and determination as the others. - LIEU, Fakenham, Norfolk.

Tough break

I AM WRITING to tell you how much I appreciate your informative and interesting column written last week in my battle to collect my coffee dealer’s bill. It was an exciting experience. My coffee dealer’s bill was in process of being paid and I in my anxiety to pay it as quickly as possible phoned the office and was told that the coffee dealer’s bill was in the process of being paid. I am so glad that I was able to pay it as quickly as possible. - M. GOLD, Grenfell Street, Oxford.

Don’t ignore wave of shipbuilding sackings

AS a regular reader I have noticed a general lack of information about an important and, I suspect, widespread problem. This is the situation in the Clydeside shipbuilding industry. The story is that many of the workers who have recently been sacked are facing the threat of redundancy. This situation is severe particularly in the shipbuilding yards in the area which are part of the shipbuilding industry. The yards have been operating at a loss and it is feared that this could lead to a reduction in the number of workers. It is important that the government takes action to prevent this situation from getting worse.

There is a strong possibility that the government will take action to prevent this situation from getting worse. The government has already announced that it will provide financial assistance to the yards to help them to avoid redundancy. The government has also announced that it will provide training and retraining for the workers who are facing redundancy. It is important that these measures are implemented as quickly as possible.

Thus the vicious circle is compounded.

This situation is familiar in all the shipyards in the UK. Workers depend on the old, stable, high-wage jobs in the shipyards. The workers have prepared for redundancy in the steel industry for some years, partly because of the closures and takeovers that have taken place in the industry.

Consequently those workers made redundant in the shipyards will have to find work elsewhere in the area.
**Teachers sacked without a hearing**

by Liz Clay (NUT)

TEESIDE—54 teachers have been sacked and 54 suspended by the Labour-controlled education authority in a row over a petition by the National Association of Schoolmasters (NAS) and the Union of Women Teachers (UWT) in pursuit of job security.

One of this Labour authority who matches the union’s aspirations is the chairman of the Education Committee, Peter Walton, has been suspended without pay and on ten days’ notice. Suspended teachers are being warned that if they continue appearing before committee they could be held insolvent and would have to seek legal advice.

Fourty-five teachers were sacked without a hearing being held. Before a panel of three at the hearing, the teachers were told that if they continued to speak to the media on the issues of school closure or any occasion the chairman of the board of governors had to be warned that they would be asked to appear before the authority.

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**Factors**

Both Redex and Midlothian Traders Union have condemned the attitude of the education authority. One Labour member has also been suspended by the Labour party for the purposes of a trade union without pay and on ten days’ notice. Suspended teachers are being warned that if they continue appearing before committee they could be held insolvent and would have to seek legal advice.

A petition supporting the teachers and calling for the suspension of the chairman of the education committee, Peter Walton, has been presented to the union by the NAS and on ten days’ notice. Suspended teachers are being warned that if they continue appearing before committee they could be held insolvent and would have to seek legal advice.

The conclusion of the main teaching union has been made at the Labour party’s annual conference which has also left a lot to be desired. Complete and public statements have not been avoided.

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by Bryan Rees

SWANSEA: Angry wives put blockade round pollution factory gates.

JACK JONES, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, speaks at a lunchcheon given for American workers at Strauss's Savoy Hotel last Thursday.

Against the wishes of some jazz ageing members, he said to the American workers: ‘By British standards, your organisation is small. But when put on a world scale, any organisation is small. But when put on a world scale, it is no less important than our own. We must always remember that we are part of a world-wide movement for social change.’

SUNDERLAND: The Coles Cranes factory—part of the Swiss-based Acro Engineering group—has now been under workers’ control for two weeks.

Picketers control the gates and guard the works 24 hours a day. Telephone and telex handle union and business business at the factory, and all production is at a standstill.

The pickets are led by J. W. Ray, who is a member of the Coles Cranes management.

A new strike has come to the attention of the union movement in this country, it is understood that 300-350 workers were to be made redundant to reduce costs, even though the company was finding it difficult to keep up with orders that were flooding in from the construction industry and had agreed to keep on at least 15 directors.

Dividends

A corporation that went to the High Court to stop the directors from reducing its dividends by 20 per cent was a reorganization in which the company had already paid out over £1 million to shareholders.

Roughly 100 companies have so far arranged with the directors to increase their dividends by up to 50 per cent, but this is the first time that the directors have been ordered to heed the wishes of the shareholders.

By the time a company is paid to increase its dividends it has already paid out over £1 million to shareholders.

Israel state attacks the left

The left in Israel is承担ing the biggest attack in its history by the current government. The left now has to fight for the sake of its survival. No one has been more vocal in this battle than the Israeli Afro- American Community, which has been active in supporting the left since the early 1960s.

The left has been traditionally the most militant and active in the struggle against the occupation, but with the rise of the right-wing government, it is now facing a new and formidable challenge. The left has to fight on two fronts: one against the government’s policies and the other against the internal divisions within the left itself.

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COUNCIL'S RENTS BATTLE ON A KNIFE EDGE

CONISBOROUGH.—The Labour councillors in this South Yorkshire mining village are among the few still fighting the "unfair rents" Act. Apart from Clay Cross they are the only council left in England still not implementing the Act.

But the battle is on a knife-edge—the council is split almost 50-50 on whether to implement or not.

The councillors that have carried the fight beyond the "no-lease" approach of Clay Cross have received a good deal of support from the NUM's miners, the pit which dominates the village. The local meeting last month was held in Conisborough and Denby and was sponsored by the NUM branch to build support around the countryside.

The miners' unions were to move in and a large "welcome" reception was planned by tenants and trade unionists. The miners make the slightest attempt to attack the eviction of the reflecting pit and other industrial action in the area until April 1.

Only the involvement of tenants and the full industrial action will ensure the fight is kept up.

LABOUR WATERS DOWN POLICY

LONDON.—Labour win the Greater London Council elections in April, as always before, will quickly determine what to do with the 270 rent deals due to expire in October.

Labour's policy for the GLC is meant to be made by the Greater London Regional Conference of the Labour Party. When this body met last month it voted to continue the finances of the Housing Finance Act, Labour councils were still pressing for the GLC's financial support at that time.

Last week the regional executive came to draw up the manifesto for the elections, the "no-lease" pledge has been dropped. It became clear that most of the leading Labour "shadow" of County Hall would refuse to stand on a manifesto which might conflict with the party's official policy.

Rather than lose the services of these individuals, the regional executive has substituted a vague statement: "Labour will campaign against the Housing Finance Act."

But the pledge to tenants means that the GLC will not press for the AER or the subsidy bills until after the election when the crucial issue of rents after April 1 will be decided.

Whatever they vote, in London, the fall in the normal 13 per cent will fall below the normal 10 per cent.

Union calls off gas strike, but action goes on

THE executive of the General and Municipal Workers Union (GMWU) yesterday called off the planned gas workers' strike, after negotiations with gas companies on the terms of a new Agreement broke down last night.

Union leaders said that the gas companies had failed to meet the union's demands for an increase in wages and conditions for all workers.

Victimisation bid

EDINBURGH.—The management of United Wire, Granton, have attempted to victimise one of the workers, Mr. A. L. Cleland, for selling during the dinner hour copies of the bulletin produced by the local Engineers' Voice group. The company has announced that the other major engineering employers in the area, including British Smelting and Forster, support in principle the miners' action.

The management's action also seems to be getting support from the right-wing press, which has reported the affair in the newspapers.

Mr. Cleland has now been forced to leave the factory and has been discharged.

The workers in United Wire are protesting to Mr. Cleland and the company of his discharge.

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