Even truth is hit by the freeze...
by Paul Foot

The STENCH of corruption from the Poulbo programme is now so strong that the government, the press, the television authorities and above all the law are resorting to overt right censorship.

Last Friday the Independent Broadcasting Authority, which controls all commercial television and commercial radio, announced a ban on an hour-long programme on the Poulbo affair which has been prepared for more than six months by Greenpeace's World in Action programme.

So carefully was the programme prepared that a 1952 defamation suit-proof. Solicitors for Greenpeace could find no fault with any of the evidence which was then started with the producers and barristers from Greenpeace and Broadbridge.

The solicitors for the IBA were also present. They are, Mr. Allen and Overy, a richly civil firm, who also act for Mr Reginald Maudling, the former Home Secretary, who resigned from the government because of his association with Poulbo.

Yet Allen and Overy were quite happy to defend the IBA in their suit against the firm criticizing Maudling would be broadcast. Any defence about the conflict of interest, did not bother to change their minds when it came to the Poulbo.

In all of Allen and Overy, the programme was overruled by the barristers. But the IBA decided to ban the programme before the lawyers reached their decision. In other words, the ban had nothing to do with the ruling of the court, trial by television or any other normal process of law.

An IBA spokesman confirmed to Socialist Worker that every member of the IBA at the meeting which banned the programme, except one.

Close friend
He refused to name the absent member, but confirmed that Sir Fred Hayder was present. Sir Fred, who has recently retired, was national industrial officer of the General and Allied Workers Union from 1946. As such he was a close friend and a constituent of the firm criticizing Maudling would be broadcast. Any defence about the conflict of interest, did not bother to change their minds when it came to the Poulbo.

Cunningham's links with Poulbo were very deep. He and his wife owned both a time on the Poulbo payroll. Both took expensive holidays on the expense of Poulbo. Cunningham designed three union offices in the IBA.

Sir Fred Hayder was not in favour of the Poulbo programme being banned.

Neither was Bennoson Sharp, another member of the author, who was also at the meeting. Bennoson Sharp was Permanent Secretary (chief civil servant) at the Ministry of Housing from 1955 to 1987. He was a member of the National Officers of the Ministry of Housing in 1949 to 1987. When T Dene Smith came up before his old political colleagues from Winchester, Judge Gillis, at the Old Bailey on corruption charges in 1977, he asked and defence witness—Bennoson Sharp.

Barrowes Jones told judge that his past work with Den Smith when she was at the Ministry of Housing was one of the most significant attributes as a public servant. Her position as a government servant is not always in the face of his acquittal.

It did not take long for the advised Labour hawks, Tony Benn's campaign and parties within the IBA to reach the point that the programme was politically dangerous and must be banned.

Not one national newspaper published anything about the IBA's ban and only a handful reported the protests of the National Union of Journalists and the Association of Cinematograph and Television Workers.

Yet if the IBA changes its mind and renews the ban it will only be because of the threat of industrial action by the ACTT. The unions throughout the country are beginning to realize that radio and television are not unbiased media. They are direct instruments of a corporate class which does not want its dirty linen washed in public.

HEALTH SERVICE WORKERS, one of the worst paid and super-exploited groups, have declared their militant determination to fight the Tory wage freeze. It is a challenge that must be backed by the full might of the rest of the trade union movement.

In a ballot held by the National Union of Public Employees, the main union for all ancillary workers, a majority of the 80,000 workers involved voted for a national strike to win the full claim of £4 a week more. Other demands included selective strike action, withdrawal of patients' facilities and a go-slow.

Derry dead not forgotten

A TOTAL of £150 in donations received last week for the International Socialist's Winter Fund pushed the total received so far to £61,970.

£18 is in particular has responded well, and includes: Houdra £10,000, Nottingham £89, London £12, Leeds £105, Colindale £16, Croydon £12, Lambeth £120, Rochdale £6, Brighton £63, Chester £40, South Birmingham £40, Edinburgh £30, Newcastle £21, Manchester £20, Bristol £70, Torquay £12.

We have received many donations from groups of workers. CCF Training Shop No.12 workers in C A Parsons, Newcastle, went £8,200. Engineering workers at Cromart's Clarence Park factory have put £20 together. After 11 weeks' strike, Islington Socialists collected £1. Austin Longbridge £3.30 and Hounslow residents sent 14p to the fund.

To aid the regular and systematic collection of money all places of work have printed collection sheets. They can be obtained from local 16 branches or from 16 headquarters.

The support for the fund is growing but we must not relax for a minute if we are to reach our £30,000 target.

Rush donations to: Tony Cliff, Acting 15 National Treasurer, 6 Cartmel Gandra, London E2 8DN.

SEVERAL THOUSAND marchers, including 1,200 International Socialists, demonstrated in London last Sunday in memory of the 13 killed by the British Army in Derry last year against a continuing repressive in Northern Ireland. Organized by the Anti-Parliamentary League, the marchers made their way from St Paul's to a rally. The start of the march was delayed by police brutality, which two demonstrators were attacked on the ground and then arrested. Mike Cohn's pictures show part of the 13 contingent with (left) union member Paul Foot addressing the rally. Derry march picture: page 16.

The ballot decision undermines the secting anger felt by the silent army of hospital porters, canteen staff, ward assistants and clerks over their pay and conditions and the insulting offer of £1.84 offered by hospital management in line with government phase two policy.

Some NUM members are not prepared to wait for the union meeting to decide a course of action. In Bristol chefs and catering staff at Pershore Hospital walked out on Monday and shop stewards in the West Riding of Yorkshire are meeting this week on strikes. Strike action and organizing flying pickets to pull out staff from all hospitals in the region.

Their willingness to take the government on can be understood by a look at the average hospital workers' pay. Of an estimated 39,400 ancillary workers in England and Wales, 10,470 are on a basic wage of less than £20. One out of four are on a mate basic wage of £11.44 and a quarter of women workers get £11.28 before deductions.

The hospital service and our health and welfare is maintained on the cheap, peasant labour of an impoverished workforce.

FORCED
NASH, the hospital workers' rank and file group, has calculated that the workers need a £10.90 increase to match them to their position in the pay ladder of two years ago. Forced into action by the forces in the ranks, the nuns put in a basic wage over £24.80. One out of four are on a mate basic wage of £11.44 and a quarter of women workers get £11.28 before deductions.

The office of £1,84 would hardly buy a weekend, let alone cover rises in VAT and the second stage of council rents that will hit hospital workers especially hard.

The workers have declared that they will put up with drudgery and poverty no longer. In voting to strike they face the full might of the new state labour laws and special anti-union powers.

What we are now fixed by government decree and without appeal. If health workers do strike they face the threat of imprisonment and fines under the criminal law. In the new Tory democracy it is now a crime to organise and fight for a living wage.

SMASHED
Union leaders who oppose industrial action because it is a breach of the law should be forcibly reminded that the trade union movement has not challenged the workers and does not exist. A large industrial dispute today, both the National Industrial Relations Act and the phase two determination by a minority determined to hold down wages and break legislation in order to boost profits.

But industrial action is economic warfare and a more powerful weapon. It is the only way to break the power of the machine that wages and living standards are determined by the capitalists and to challenge the system as a whole.

This is why the workers behind the stand that is decisive and must have the full support of the entire trade union movement.

Hospital workers must keep up the pressure. They should tell the NUM the MUP!
Gun-toting cowboy
Thieu still firmly in the saddle

ON THURSDAY last week, the day after the text of the cease-fire agree-
ment was published, President Thieu made it clear in what spirit he
intended to pursue peace.

Speaking in Saigon, he declared: "We must apply cowboys' law... If
the communists act like buffalo, we must act like bigger buffalo... If
they lift their little finger, we will put our fist under their noses... If
they put their foot into our heads, we will kick them."

Such is the man who, for the moment at least, will continue to rule
part of South Vietnam.

Thieu was elected head of state in 1965, after a series of military coups.
He became president in 1967, but only in 1969 did he get a complete
grip on the apparatus of power. In autumn 1971 he ran for the
presidency as the hand-picked candidate of the dominant	
electorate was blindsided by the	
current and his own	
vote. The only man	
Thieu admires is said to be General Park Chung Hee, the South
Korean dictator, whom he has described as a 'superman.'

Election
In a speech last August Thieu set out what he meant by democracy, 'I	must
tell our government has allowed us to enjoy too much democracy
too soon. This is like-if you will excuse me for the comparison-a	
small baby that is given an oversize spoon, like a thick person who takes up	
exercise so fast that he overtakes the

The communists are now spending money buying newsmen, publishing
newspapers and taking advantage of the disorderly and broad
democracy and freedom in the South. When an election is held, the	
voters are likely to be swayed by the	
candidates to try to	
Clearly for Thieu anyone who	
travels abroad to get a	
experience of democracy. It did not take him too

One American president
'I have never talked or corresponded with a leader of this size.
Chinese affairs who did not agree that the United States was
in the wrong in the fighting (in 1964), purely 80 per cent of	
would have voted for Ho Chi Minh.'

Lyndon Johnson, Congressional Testimony, April 1969

Two American War Veterans
'I don't see what good it has done. Vietnam is just a politician's war.
Mass politics is a better place, but even over here they are	
in the same lily pond. You can	
't do anything about it.'

William West, 25-year-old I\t

and One Two-Faced
British Politician,

'The two American veterans

from this country to defend

is not that one should	
not join or in any way encourage an
to the United States,

in the leadership of the Americans or anybody

His Holiness, April 1970)

'I think any other war would have been	
worth my foot. But this one, One

years old, US Marine, quoted in

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Race: Tories toe the Powell line

UNDER PRESSURE from Enoch Powell and his right wing, the government have moved one step further towards a completely racist policy.

Once again, it is marching in place with the Labour Party.

Last week Home Secretary Robert Carr announced new rules for Commonwealth immigration.

"Commonwealth citizens", he said, "who have grandchildren born here will not have to obtain a work permit or be subject to the level of form of supervision which will be granted entry clearance which will enable them to come to work and to settle here for as long as they like.

The government have also provided a powerful in- spiration to revolutionary movements which threaten the destiny of Vietnam will depend on whether that inspiration can bear fruit.

The long fight for freedom


1930: Nationalist and peasant revolts crushed by the French.

September 1940: Japanese occupy Vietnam with French cooperation.

June 1941: Founding of Vietminh (Revolutionary League for the Independence of Vietnam).

August 1945: Japan surrenders; raising by Saigon workers.


British troops transported by train to South of 16th parallel.


November 1946: French bombard Hanoi, killing 6,000 people.

December 1946: First Indochina War begins.

May 1947: Second Indochina War begins.

May 1950: US begins military aid to French.


October 1955: Dien proclaim independence in South Vietnam.

November 1955: Peasant rising in North Vietnam against land reform tribusals, crushed by Ho Chi Minh government.

1957: Mass emergence of guerrilla conflict in South Vietnam following Dien’s attempt to reverse Vietminh land reform; no support from North Vietnam.

December 1958: Murder of detainees in Phu Loc concentration camp, resulting in internment of all South Vietnamese.


November 1961: Kennedy steps up military aid to Dien.

November 1963: Dien assassinated; replaced by military regime.


March 1968: US President Johnson cuts bombing and proposes negotiations.


October 1971: North Vietnamese propose settlement terms to US.

November 1972: Nixon re-elected.


January 1973: Cease-fire agreement.

THE BALANCE SHEET

THE HORROR of the American war in Vietnam cannot be expressed in figures alone. But a few figures make it clear.

The war has cost the US about $43,000 million.

1971-73: US expenditure increased by $40,000 million.

1974-83: US expenditure increased by another $40,000 million.

1984-89: US expenditure increased by another $40,000 million.

1990-95: US expenditure increased by another $40,000 million.

1996-2000: US expenditure increased by another $40,000 million.

1971-73: More than 1 million people were killed.

1974-83: More than 2 million people were killed.

1984-89: More than 3 million people were killed.

1990-95: More than 4 million people were killed.

1996-2000: More than 5 million people were killed.

The war has cost the US about $43,000 million.

EXPLOSIVES

Since the war began, at least 14 and 15 million tons of explosives have been used in South Vietnam. The number is increasing rapidly.

In NATURAL RESOURCES

Between 1962 and 1972, 1,000,000 square miles of the total area of South Vietnam was affected by the war.

The number of people who have been affected by the war is increasing rapidly.

In HUMAN LIVES

US casualties: 40,000 killed in battle, 1,500,000 wounded.

The war has cost the US about $43,000 million.

WAGE REVOLT IN HOSPITALS

What we will do is to stand together and to fight for what we want.

The message of hospital workers to the Ford and the Ford workers is clear: Victory for YOU means victory for US.

Telephone 01 739 0493
GONE TO SEED

IT IS always a joy to listen to a speech from Arthur Affleck, chairman of the joint shop stewards' committee at the Lackenby steel works and a member of Tenesse. Arthur was in particularly good form at the Ebbw Vale last week, speaking immediately after a long drive along the whole way from the North East. He spoke mainly about the bankruptcy of the leadership of his own union (BASISTA) and the need for rank and file organisation in the steel industry.

Answering a series of questions about spathy in the working class, Arthur referred to the dreadful state of the Labour movement. He told the following story about his own area which might well have come out in the banned World in Action programme on the Poulson affair.

Arthur's predecessor as checker weightman at the Lackenby works was a Labour councillor, A Seaf Jef, who was chairman of Eisen Urban Council planning committee before the council was swallowed by the Tenessee Borough in 1968. Sitting with Mr Seaf on the planning committee were Councillors J R Briggs, who ran a local Co-op butchers' shop, and H Felinghaw, a building labourer.

During the summer of 1968, the Eisen Planning Committee had been dealing with applications to build luxury bungalows on an open site in the area known as the Cricket Lane site. The application came from one of the North East's best known architects and estate developers, the property speculators, Charlie Amer. Both applications were turned down several times, but was eventually granted. Soon after the bungalows were built, the three councillors changed hands. Councillor Felinghaw moved into a bungalow at 23 Cricket Lane, Councillor Briggs moved into a bungalow at 31 Cricket Lane and Councillor Amer moved into another bungalow at Willow Drive, off Cricket Lane.

This was the occasion, said Arthur, that the three had insurance policies which matured at the same time.

Councillor Briggs, incidentally, has since been in a little trouble. He has been fined for stealing cigarettes. A specially-convened magnates meeting had to deal with 'Briggsy's' case, as Briggsy was himself a magnate.

Labour Party members in Eisen also recall a powerful speech from Councillor Seaf at a meeting of the general management committee of the local constituency Labour Party on the subject of the proposed new Eisen Labour Club.

Plans for the club had been drawn up by a Sunderland architect, who had been paid £8,500. Councillor Seaf intervened at the meeting to say that planning permission might not be granted for the club unless the party changed its architecture. He explained that so many new buildings in Eisen—the swimming baths, the James Finnegan Hall, the Eisen Town Hall, and a large council estate—had been based according to the designs of one architect that any plans by another architect might not fit in with their surroundings. He urged the Labour Party to switch to the architect who designed the other buildings. The meeting agreed.

That architect was Mr John Poulson.

Promises

WHAT is an election pledge? Psychologists everywhere are debating the question. Everyone agrees that the best example of a perfect, unfiltered, ingrained promise is the one in the Tory Party's manifesto, A Better Tomorrow, which won them the last election.

PROMISES ON WAGE CONTROL WERE LIED TO AND WE WILL NOT REPEAT IT.

The Tories meant it. As Mr Heath wrote in his introduction to the manifesto: "I determined that we shall re-establish our sound and honest British traditions in this field..."

I GATHER that Sadnias is a lovely place for workers' holidays, and commend the following advertisement in The Times to anyone who wants to try it out.

VILLA, SARDINIA

Cost: £25 per week for immediate occupancy. Description: furnished rooms on the sea, bath in each room, meals included in price, inclusive of all taxes, prices inclusive of all taxes. Location: Castelsardo, 8 miles from Alghero, 20 minutes by car to Alghero airport. Write to: Mr. Smith, 46, Park Lane, London, W1. Tel. 01-403 6699.
EQUAL PAY STRUCK BY FROSTBITE

MEN OF STEEL

THE Steel Corporation, which is currently experiencing a series of redundancies throughout the industry, has experienced a few redundancies in its own ranks.

On the day after the General Election, the corporation was completely controlled by the old steelsmen—men like Mr M. R. Barlow, chairman of the Steel Corporation of Wales, Niall Macdiarmid, of Stewart and Lloyds, and William Molyneux, the personal nominee of the late Sir Thomas Busk Brothers, who did such a marvellous job supporting the industry's very compensation for the steelsmen.

For one reason or another most of the old steelmen have left (Macdiarmid had to go, for instance, after some 19 years, and he was reported to be at an expensive dinner at Barrow-in-Furness).

Only Lord Layton of the Steel Company of Wales can be found on the board representing the amply-emptied steelsmen. The old monsters have been replaced almost completely by gentlemen from the government, the main interest in the Steel Corporation is either to buy from them or to sell to them.

FINANCE

Lord Melchett, who has been chairman since the day came, came back from Australia and is obviously keen to return the merchant bankers' bills, get spade, shovel, spade, from the government to join the board of the Union Bank, last Saturday, and this week reported, whose chief purpose is to finance the local authority's, municipal, industry. Mr Melchett is chairman of the Union Bank.

The Times (19 January): These will be the only remaining big private leasing facilities in all parts of the world.

The leasing craze was started in this country by the National Coal Board, which set up several subsidiary companies to lease equipment that the industry would not need.

ORDER

One of the strongest advocates of the Corporation's proposals for reorganization was the chairman, one of the corporation's vice-chairmen, and a celebrated scientific 'whizkid'. Monty is also a director of a company called the International Research and Development Corporation, who manufacture the world's most impertinent but which is fast a subsidiary of the North East's heavy industry combination. The Reyrolle Newsletter of 4 August 1968, with pride a £500,000 order to the British Steel Corporation for switchgear equipment for the BSC Anchor site at Scunthorpe. A still subsidiary, Farelle, was reported to be in a later.

Picked men

SPECIAL ‘Picket Combat’ training is being organised for the police, as the police statement is now being restated, trouble is again anticipated in the pits. Three bulldozers of police were moved out last week to the Barnsley area to Catterick Camp where they were trained in this special style training.

Mr Melchett, who is chairman of the steelsmen, was among the leaders present.

In June 1971, the government made three other important appointments to the Steel Corporation. They included Sir David Barratt, chairman of Shell, one of the most powerful industrialists in the country, and Sir Matthew Steen, who was Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Power in 1965 and 1966.

A Government-appointed Board is in charge of the company. The Steel Corporation's management is in the hands of Mr Michael Jennett, director of Rio Tinto-Zinc, the biggest suppliers of raw material to the Steel Corporation.

HOSTILITY

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ARNOLD MILLER has been elected president of the United Mine Workers of America. That event will undoubtedly go down in history as a turning point in the life of the UMW, and quite possibly as a turning point in the life of the entire American working class.

Predictions were that the election would be close. Miller supporters, despite their predictions of certain victory, hardly believed themselves that they could actually defeat Tony Boyle and the machine he had built up around himself in his 10 years as UMW president.

Miller took a narrow lead from the first. When early returns showed him carrying 45 per cent of the vote in hard, pro-Boyle District 12, Boyle's bureaucratic machine took over. UMW headquarters in Washington, DC, began to look grim. The final vote count showed a clear victory for Miller.

The vision of the UMW, determined miners tramping into polling booths in hundreds of small mining towns, seems remote from the lives of most American workers. It's not. The history of the United Mine Workers is, in many ways, a history of the entire American working class. Past struggles and aspirations of miners have been laced with the lives of all workers who never have and never will set foot in a mine.

The struggle of these miners to reclaim their union as a fighting tool for the ranks, to free their union from the stranglehold of a corrupt bureaucracy. This struggle, like others before it, has the potential to unleash a profound effect on the American workers' movement.

The United Mine Workers was a union with a social vision in the 1930s and 1940s. Miners saw themselves as the key to the struggle to better the lives of workers everywhere.

They were proud of their union and the power that it held, and were unafraid to fight for power against anyone—giant corporations or even the government of the United States. It was the UMW that took the lead when the American Federation of Labor, then the representative of all organized labor in the United States, proved incapable of organizing the millions of new workers in auto, steel, rubber and in the 1930s.

War crisis

Under the leadership of their legendary president, John L. Lewis, the Mine Workers and several other unions left the AFL and formed the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

The UMW poured millions of dollars into the struggle to win contracts in the new industries. In 1943 the UMW struck for higher wages and a better medical and pension plan. They were striking against overwhelming odds—a pledge that all American unions had ignored earlier during World War II.

Miller said the UMW's crisis so severe for the "war effort" that the US government was forced to negotiate over mining wages and benefits. The miners won strikes and came out of them stronger than ever. The American union had not seen.

The story of the UMW in the 1930s is a story of decay, the story of a union covering for the mine companies.

In 1942 Tony Boyle was elected president of the UMW. By that time the union was forgotten by most workers except miners themselves. It was if miners had retired into the hills, never to be heard again.

The official structure of the Mine Workers, under the iron-clad grip of Tony Boyle, refused to change. So the miners took matters into their own hands. The Black Lung Association, headed by Arnold Walker and centered mostly in West Virginia, went on strike for pay cuts. Miners disabled by black lung disease, the known killers of more than 700,000 miners.

And they won. West Virginia miners were the first to receive payments for the disease, but other states hesitated to sanction legislation to weed out problems. In 1970 miners struck for larger wage increases—up to $2 per day for skilled workers. The mine companies eventually gave in to their demands, figuring that the were safe anyway since the government would never fight back. But the companies underestimated one thing: Miners had not forgotten the lesson they learned about government interference in their union in the 1943 strike. They decided to stay out, despite Boyle's pleadings to return to work, until the Pay Board obeyed their new contract—which it hastened to do.

Did you miss the January International Socialism?

Demand for the new-style monthly journal International Socialism—now housed in London—was sold out one week after publication. All the more reason for ordering the February issue now or before still taking out an annual subscription.

Articles include:
Margaret Renn: Equal Pay
Reg Groves: Revolutionaries in the 1930s.
Roger Rosewell: The Seamen plus reviews on Rosa Luxembourg, poverty, from tutting, French Communism.
International Socialism journal, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

American miners on the march again

by Lynn Jones
Reprinted from Workers Power, paper of the International Socialists, USA

Joseph (Jack) Yablonski, himself a mine official, created a stir when he said, "A movement is developing among miners and attempted to place himself at his head. In 1968 he ran against Boyle for the UMW presidency on a civil reform platform, and lost.

Yablonski supporters claimed he would have won in a fair election, that he was certainly a more effective leader than the US Department of Labor threw out the results of the 1968 election because of "gross irregularities in the way the Boyle bureaucracy conducted it.

Found murdered

Yablonski was physically attacked at least twice during the campaign. He and his wife and daughter were found murdered in their home a few days following the election.

Miners for Democracy is the organised leadership of the mass miners' movement in the coal fields. It consists of Yablonski's forces, the Black Lung Association and other militant factions of the UMW, including many of the young Vietnam veterans who have gone into the pits.

In May 1972, MFD met In Wheeling, West Virginia. There were 200 delegates, mostly local union leaders, chose Arnold Miller, Tom Turckbrough, and Harry Patrick as their candidates for president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer of the UMW. The delegates also chose the platform on which their candidates would run.

Health and safety. For every working day that Tony Boyle was in office, two miners died in the coal pits. A mining disaster in Farmington, West Virginia, finally forced the government to consider passage of a stronger Mine Safety Bill in 1970.

Miller, as his leadership of the Black Lung Association shows, has been a forceful supporter of health and safety. Even in the most conservative period of the union in the 1950s, miners struck locally over health and safety.

Miller promises to give official UMW sanction to any health and safety strike, including those called during the life of a contract. If Miller's union is the first to promote the ranks of the UMW could, for the first time in history, force the mine companies to live up to the letter of the law.

Pensions. The UMW Pension Fund, and especially the anthracite miners' fund, has been a bad joke for years. Boyle did nothing to put that fund in order.

As the current rate, unless some way is found to bring more money into the fund, pension payments will end on, and for all in 1973. Miller promises to put the fund on a sound footing and to equalise pension payments to all miners.

Miller also promises to increase coal company payments and organise the many small, unorganised pits that abound in the Appalachian coal field. Still, all these measures put together won't solve the problem and he has come up with nothing else so far.

Unions democracy. All union officials are appointed under the UMW's constitution, including the international executive board and all district officials. Shortly after taking office, Miller fired the executive board and appointed several new members. He promises that the majority of the board, which he is not, yet appointed, will be elected.

He also promises that district officials will be elected and MFD already, prior to the election, started local democracy in several coal and steel bureaucracies for refusing such elections.

Boyle's counter-campaign was characterized largely of name-calling. He red-clad Miners for Democracy and Boyle referred often to their "hostile" to Moscow and "outside support." He claimed that Miller's proposals put into action, would destroy the UMW.

MFD did initiate mass government intervention in support. Miners fear and distrust all government intervention in union affairs, and they refer MFD for opening the UMW to government scrutiny.

While most miners were likely to laugh off Boyle's hostile to Moscow routine, they knew that MFD did not have outside support. Again, miners have traditionally kept their unions out of the hands of either the Democrats or Republican Party.

The UMW Mine to great extent now depends on support from the Democratic Party and with a disinterested leadership of the American working class will have to decide what will be done to this.

An MFD conference was held in March with a first-rate leadership and a great deal of success to the UMW.

Fighting force

What is significant is that miners are addressing all the dangers involved in electing Miller, still choose to do so. Thousands of rank and file miners across the country, after listening to Miller and MFD, chose to try to re-build their union into the fighting force that it once was.

Miller's election was greeted with waves of walkouts throughout the coal fields over health and safety.

The ranks did not elect Miller for what Miller will do. They elect Miller because they see in him a chance for the rank and file of the UMW to have its own way with union.

The Miners for Democracy victory has opened the door for democracy in the UMW, but not necessarily the kind of democracy that its leaders want and their government Labor Department allies envisaged. Instead it will be, if the ranks have their way, that the Union will be a powerful fighting force, choosing a new and a fully functioning leadership to run it.

The last time the UMW moved with any determination at all was the UMW to have its own way in this time...
How to claim your benefit

When claiming social security benefits, knowing how to claim, how to find your way through the maze of procedure, puts you over the first hurdle.

When you are involved in a dispute, you are not unemployed, so you don't sign off at the unemployment exchange. Go straight to your local Department of Health and Social Security Office (phone first to make sure it's open when you don't know).

Sometimes the Social Security Office has special centres if a lot of people are involved. This happened last year in the miners' dispute, and the Manchester sitting room.

This has the advantage of keeping everybody together, which gives you the chance of seeing how the SS operate normally. It may mean you have to suffer even worse conditions (such as a draughty church hall) than you would if you didn't know.

Normally you have to go along in person to claim, though there is provision for wives or husbands to go instead. During the 1972 miners' strike the Social Security refused to let miners' wives represent their husbands, which meant that they had to waste time in the offices when they could have been picketing.

Owen Trayanor died alone, for weeks he had been too ill to clean his own filth from around him. Doctors hospital, police knew of his condition. Later they duly made excuses to the coroner.

Owen Trayanor was 77 when he died in a Salford slum. He was so ill from the infection that he could not move from the chair in which he died.

He had lived regularly before his death but neither the Health Service, the Meals on Wheels scheme, or the police, all of whom knew of his condition, did anything to help him. He died from a combination of pain, illness and loneliness.

Mr Trayanor lived in Broughton Street, Salford, heart of the 'Love of the Docks' community, and lived all his life as a building labourer, and had lived alone since his retirement. In July last year he was treated for severe stomach pains for two weeks at Crumplin Hospital, Salford.

According to evidence given at an inquest in Salford earlier this month, he had 'deteriorated ever since'. For most of the time he was incapable of movement. Before long his two-room flat became a jungle of old clothes, mouldy food, excreta and vomit.

His only regular contact with human beings was the weekly visit paid him by his brother and sister-in-law. Mr and Mrs Trayanor arrived as usual on Monday morning, 6 November, to find Owen slumped in his chair covered in filth.

'He appeared to be in very great pain and had been vomiting. He kept saying that he had to die and he was cold and shivering.'

They made him a hot drink and lit the fire and then Mrs Trayanor went out to find someone who could help her brother-in-law. He went first to a surgery where three doctors had a practice. They assured her they would attend as soon as possible.

When she returned to her brother-in-law's house, he said a doctor had called and that he would be taken to hospital that day. By seven that evening, no one had appeared. Mrs Trayanor telephoned Crumplin Hospital, and was again assured that the matter was in hand.

Refusal

On Tuesday morning, Mrs Trayanor went back to her brother-in-law's house. He was very ill indeed, in agony. She again rushed to the doctor's surgery, and was again told that the hospital had the problem under control. A hospital doctor would call at 4pm.

No doctor arrived. The following day, Wednesday 8 November, Owen Trayanor was even worse, and Mr and Mrs Trayanor then turned in desperation to the police. They went by taxi to Broughton police station, Salford, where they were greeted by the desk clerk, Constable David Barlow.

Oh, no, Constable Barlow explained, this was not a police matter. There was nothing, nothing at all which the police could do in this situation. Mrs Trayanor implored the officer at least to ring a doctor or a hospital, but Constable Barlow refused.

Nearer-hysterical, Mrs Trayanor returned to her brother-in-law's flat.

'The place,' she later told the coroner, 'wasn't fit for a rat to be in, never mind a man. I was very distressed and haven't been right since. I am ill, and nobody would lift a finger to help. It was so disgusting.'

'I was so upset that I wasn't able to go the following day. I was sick and my inside was turning over, I have never seen anything like it in my life, and I never want to see anything like that flat again.'

Mrs Trayanor could not have done much if she had returned that Thursday morning. Owen Trayanor was found dead by the health visitor, Mrs Margaret Kyte, who had visited him on each of the last three days of his life but, like Mrs Trayanor, had been unable to find anyone who could help him.

Mrs Trayanor, the 81-year-old doctor, Dr Kazi from the doctors' practice said that he had assumed the hospital would look after Mr Trayanor. Dr Khan from Crumplin Hospital said he had called at Mr Trayanor's flat but had 'found no sign of life' and had gone away.

And Police Constable David Barlow agreed that he had turned Mr and Mrs Trayanor away without doing anything to help them. He said proudly: 'I am satisfied with the way I handled the situation because it was not a police matter.'

Dr R M Winston, a consultant at Hope Hospital, said that if Mr Trayanor had been admitted to hospital on the Monday, it was possible that he might not have died.

The BOSSES PREPARE TO HIDE CONCORDE'S DEATH TOLL

IT COSTS more than a thousand million pounds. It pollutes the atmosphere. It's called 001 because only 001 of the population are likely ever to fly in it.

The outcry against Concorde would be even greater if the public realised that, besides taking its money and causing environmental damage, Concorde will also cause death. Dr John Adams, of London University, points out that there is a very high probability that within a given period a sonic boom from Concorde will trigger fatal heart attacks in certain medical cases living beneath its flight path.

OBLIGATIONS

If, on every occasion, Concorde took the same flight path, then the deaths would all tend to occur in the same area. In such circumstances, people living in the danger zone are likely to become alarmed. The public will probably start campaigning for the aircraft to be banned.

Equally serious, from the manufacturer's standpoint, it might find itself involved in expensive legal actions for compensation.

To summarise these obstacles, a 'flight path randomiser' has been developed. This means that the Concorde flight path is varied many times. As a result, the sonic booms still kill the same number of people but they are spread over a wider area.

IGNORANCE

This brings the death toll down in any particular town or village to which is less likely to arouse public concern.

Also we should not ignore the possibility that the victims of Concorde will have their deaths attributed to natural causes. Costly legal actions will be fewer, perhaps even none at all.

A new term—the economies of ignorance—is now becoming fashionable in business circles. Acutely aware of the predicaments of Thalidomide manufacturers, Distillers, insurance companies, and the rigour of the payment of large sums of compensation, so it is important for them not to be seen as responsible for death or injury even when in fact they are.

RAY CHALLINOR

The language of the official culture is clearly marked off from the language of the socialist movement of Russia. Where the socialist culture is introduced into world Garland such barbarisms as poor, garam, know, October has internationalised such barbarisms as Bolshevik, soviet...

TROTSKY'S HISTORY OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

VOLUME ONE

Three volumes, 50p each, post and packing 7p per volume. 15p the three

IS BOOKS, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN
ONE of the most heartening aspects of the current wave of revolt against the government’s police policies is the involvement of groups of workers not usually re-knowned for their militancy.

The first signs of the group least likely to go on strike would almost certainly have been won by the Civil Service a few months ago. Yet suddenly, surburban grits in bowler hats and impeccably-fuelled umbrellas have downed pens for worktime protest meetings and mass rallies up and down the country are demanding tough action, including strikes.

It must cause considerable concern in ruling circles when people traditionally dismissed as complacent, unquestioning supporters of the system begin to throw off their self-imposed shackles.

Of course, the bowler hat brigade are not the sole members of the Civil Service. It is an enormous, sprawling institution of government departments and ministries and it employs manual as well as clerical workers.

# Mainspring

Many employees are locked away in research establishments apparently remote from the real world and they see certain pleasing irony in discovering that Mike McGrath, one of the leading militants in the present upsurge, was the chairman of the Articifical Intelligence department of the British Museum in London.

Mike, 32-year old chairman of the Broadcasting and Civil Public Services Association branch and a member of the International Socialist, is the head of Redder Tape, name of a CPSA mark and file group and its paper (Red Tape) is the title of the union’s official journal. The group

is one of the mainsprings behind the present agitation and is badly organised meetings to raise and organise the rank and file ferment.

Mr McGrath said that the solid, middle-class, middle-aged image of the service has been upset upside down by the influx of many thousands of younger people who are not prepared to stomach low pay in return for the ‘dignity’ of their employment.

Pay in the Civil Service is a maze of ‘incremental scales’ negotiated by a body known as the Whitley Council. There are 16 points on the incremental scale and one of the demands of Redder Tape is a drastic reduction of the steps up the pay ladder and a higher minimum for those joining the service at 16.

Mike said that not only are salaries low for young clerical workers but that older workers who become locked into the incremental system can end up earning £28 a week at 55. Even executive officers in the clerical section get little over £2000 a year.

Clerks at 25 years, a time when mortgages are being considered and long-term plans being made, earn as little as £25 a week.

The CPSA with 200,000 members among clerks, typists and machine operators is far away the largest union in the service and has at the centre of the storm over pay. The union don’t talk hard cash in negotiations that would be slighted indeed—but every two years take part in a pay research scheme that is supposed to bring Civil Servants up to the comparable rates for similar workers in private industry. 1 January was the time when the latest two year award was given and it is thought that it will have been in the region of 20 per cent—but that has been lost in the Arctic gale now blowing down Downing Street.

Redder Tape’s demands for fighting the freeze are:

- Expanded selected strikes in the most effective areas.
- A national one day stoppage throughout the service, preferably with other public sector unions.
- The full pay research award backdated to 1 January.

‘Washout’

The strength of these demands among the rank and file can be gauged from the fact that a resolution incorporating them was narrowly defeated by 15 votes to 31 on the CPSA executive. A successful counter-notion from general secretary Bill Kendall wanted the pay award backdated to 1 January, with the possibility of joint industrial action and a call to the TUC for a special congress which would demand full commitment to strike action.

‘Kendall’s demands are a washout,’ Mike McGrath said. ‘At the beginning of the freeze the leaders were very militant, with talk of working selected strikes.

But now they have seen the members in action they are back-tracking fast and are drooping any idea about strike action because they feel it is under the freeze. Their tactic at the mass rallies is to put a vague motion at the end without any amendment or debate that gives them a blanket cheque.

They’ve got away with this in London, Reading and Glasgow, although the platform speakers appeal for action because of anger over their tactics. Good luck to Redder Tape when they push it on 15,000 leaflets at all 12victim to its attempt to overturn the executive’s policy.’

The union leadership is largely right-wing Labour Party in its political make up. The present central executive has been in the Communist Party from control in the early 1930s and, says Mike, for the members the change was largely one of faces, not policies.

The Communist Party members kept their heads down when they were a power but now the party is virtually non-existent in the union’s controlling bodies.

He explained that the absence of a traditional left-wing machinery is a great advantage behind the present rank and file upsurge.

‘Alliance’

There is no machine to absorb this militancy and channel it into overt action, engineering and pressure-group politics. But this does not mean that the present militancy of the members could be easily dispelled, especially if the freeze is defeated. It is for Redder Tape to build an effective organisation.

One of the group’s key demands is a left-wing political alliance that would bring together teachers, workers in the Post Office, Trades Union Congress, government, social security and local government to form a collective strength.

This is not the same sort of alliance that Tom Jackson is talking of, Mike said. ‘Such an alliance could be built by a group of workers at the top that would not involve the leaders of the trades union.’

What’s more, if the freeze is defeated, a new strike wave could be launched.

‘We’re after a fighting rank and file alliance. We want to see, for example, clerks and Post Office workers marching together on a one day stoppage against the freeze. I think the possibilities are immense because Redder Tape is the only group of the teachers union are also raising funds with one section of the government and the Post Office are putting the power to stop institutions and the Labour government and its interference outside influences.

‘We’re learning now what other sections have learnt before us—that our strength is the strength of our own movement. What we have to do is organise and build from the bottom up and we can win.’

ONE of the proud boasts of British capitalism is that it has pioneered and sustained a ‘democratic way of life’. Yet a look at the financial conversations of the system reveals a nightmare world of double-dealing, financial chicanery and a total disregard for the interests of ordinary people.

In an attempt to improve its image, the financiers and their press propagandists have used the quaint phrase ‘people’s capitalism’ back in the 1950s, suggesting that small shareholders gained from the profits and profits paid out to large companies in which they invested.

The Stock Exchange itself proclaimed in 1966 that 22 million people actually invested. This fantastic figure brought silly grins to the faces of city slickers, for it included people holding insurance policies.

In fact only two millions, including holders of unit trusts, actually invested personally in 1960. In Financial Times for the same year claimed the sad ‘decline of grass-roots capitalism’. The number of direct investors has since dropped even more.

The financial world of capitalism exists not for the masses, but to make money, according to top financier Jim Slater. It is there to make money out of other people’s money. It is a war of speculative ventures, of back-stabbing and of quick fire victories, geared with a winner of ceremonies and banquets.

The stock exchange may never have seen a factory in its lives but they are quick to bestow their ‘confidence’ on the ‘third brake’ in large sections industry by the power to withdraw shares or finance. This link between the factory and society is its only respect. Large concentrations of shareholdings remain in companies, the GEC or British Leyland, etc.

These financiers think it is perfectly alright for them. The largest and most powerful of the financiers are the Bank of England, the City, Lloyd’s, X, City, and they decide companies to

AND LIONEL SIMS REVIEWS THE Top 
mugger in the 

Game

In 1968 the stockbroker’s book was made by 

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The Wall Street bank had been closed after GEC

could say the book is built around productivity, long-term investment, a

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INTERVIEW BY ROGER PROTZ
GRAB VASES!

asker Vasheev looks at the back-stabbing, wheeler-dealer world of high finance

Weinstein's GEC against AFI. Facilitated the merger and its consequences, high profits and massive redundancies. Inclusion created 40 per cent of the shareholders to cheer on the merger.

It was also Pradniak's intervention that prompted Lord Robens of the National Coal Board to the part-time chairmanship of Vickers, in order to get the merchant of deals.

The people who control the most financial power are made up of a network of, like-liking directors, with close connections with the banks. Like the banks, the insurance companies have “outside directors”, who meet once a month for a “long lunch”.

The board consists of assorted peers, baronets, and generally, fortified by merchant bankers, three blue-bloods who cram out every month to decide the destiny of that vast financial pool and disappear back into their country estates. General Accident has seven peers and baronets. H. Allouis is a Rothschild, a firming merchant bank, Lord Brassey of Samuel Properties and Aldingbro of the National and Grindlays Bank and GEC.

In the money lending field, the Big Four banks and traditional institutions. National Westminster, Lloyds, Barings and Midlands had deposits worth over £12,500 million in 1970.

This enormous wealth is controlled by 220 directors, a “selective group” of whom are members of the 200 most influential men in British business. Another feature is the habit of banks to co-opt their oldest customers on to their boards, who are then well-placed to help enrich themselves and each other—Economist, June 1966.

This is not only the habit in joint stock banks, but in almost all other financial institutions.

The 17 merchant banks, all family controlled, with assets of £300 million (excluding Rothschild), have directors who sit on boards of insurance companies and industrial corporations. Lazard, the merchant bank of Lord Cowdray, the richest man in Britain, owns Shell-Mex and S. Pearson and Sons, who in turn own the Financial Times, The Economist, Longman’s and Penguin Books.

Lord Poole of Lazenby is also a director of GEC. David Montague is a director of London Weekend Television and his bank has a large shareholding in the Midland Bank and Pearl Assurance.

THE DISASTER they cause: Arthur Wellard, founder member of the South East London Action Committee, a rank-and-file bank worker, fighting unemployment, in the now closed and insolvent branches of the AFI works in poverty. The City has recruited a number of the AEI “rationálisation” programme that sacked thousands and ended in the merger with GEC.

LIFE AND HARSH TIMES OF CITY DARLING ARNOLD WEINSTEIN

Wilton government is hijacking the merger of Wilton and Weinstein’s English Electric to bail-out their own decay and the City. It is a classic example of how the government uses the banks as a buffer to support its own inefficient industries and companies. In this fool’s gold, a scanner up the folly, if the 235 million personal government comes to the rescue will it make the fores of employers and Arnold Weinstein in this fool’s gold, he can’t make his own employees and Arnold Weinstein will be in the same boat: the public, the people, the workers, the workers. The people, the workers will be in the same boat, the public, the people, the workers.

What is the point of this? What is the point of this? What is the point of this? The point is that government and industry are bankrupt. The point is that government and industry are bankrupt.

The point is that government and industry are bankrupt.

In the meantime, Wilmot, the head of the firm, who is well known in the City for his shady deals, is now setting up a new company to merge with the GEC. This will enable him to increase his profits and reduce his debts. The GEC will then become a subsidiary of his new company, creating a monopoly in the electrical industry. The GEC is already heavily in debt and will need a new injection of capital to survive.

The merger is expected to create a new company worth around £1 billion. This will be funded by a combination of debt and equity. Wilmot is expected to take a large stake in the new company, with the rest of the shares going to the existing shareholders of the GEC.

The merger has been opposed by many shareholders, who believe that it will lead to a loss of jobs and a decrease in the quality of products. However, Wilmot is confident that the merger will be successful and that it will create a stronger, more competitive company.

The merger is expected to be completed within the next few months. The new company will be headquartered in London and will have operations in countries around the world. The company will be listed on the London Stock Exchange and will have a market capitalisation of around £1 billion.

Wilmot is expected to take a large stake in the new company, with the rest of the shares going to the existing shareholders of the GEC.
The General Strike, by Christopher Farman, Hart-Davis £3.50
THE General Strike of 1926 was probably the most important single event in the history of the Labour movement in Britain in the past 100 years. Its defeat put the seal on 15 years of rising industrial militancy and opened the way for 40 years of right-wing domination of the trade unions.
Yet little published material is readily available for those who want to learn about the strike.
If for no other reason, the recent appearance of a detailed account by Christopher Farman (The General Strike, Hart-Davis, £3.50) is to be welcomed.
Farman would not claim to be a presidentialist. Yet his book contains all the information needed to understand the orthodox view of the General Strike—that it failed because the trade unionists tried to do the impossible in using industrial strength for political purposes. Instead what emerges as the single most important cause of defeat is the lack of a co-ordinated, effective and sustained attack on the official leaders of the strike, whether their politics were sincerely right-wing or merely Labour or left-wing Liberal.
In the mid-1920s British big business found itself in a situation in some ways similar to that today. Its ability to compete with its main foreign rivals was slipping, and if not on its deathbed, it certainly wasn’t as healthy as it had been. The only way to rejuvenate itself was to make a sharp and prolonged attack on the living standards of workers and the organised strength of the trade unions.
Stanley Baldwin, prime minister at the time, put the issue brutally to a miners’ delegation: ‘All the workers in this country have got to face a re-education in wages.’
‘What do you mean?’
‘I mean all the workers in this country have got to take a reduction in wages to help put industry on its feet.’
Victory
The first to feel the pressure for a wage cut were the miners, the largest single group of workers. It was clearly to everyone’s advantage to impose a cut in wages before any labour unrest by other sections of workers disrupted the smooth working of the mines.
Where the mine-owners and the government converged, they met to negotiate. ‘Negotiations’ is a polite word for what was done. The government assured that their miners would move no far from a 5½ per cent cut in wages. This would mean the closure of most mining industry in a matter of days, so the government did a quick about turn and announced that it would not allow the miners to go on strike for one month, so that the owners could pay the old wages before laying them off.
It seemed that a great victory had been won by the government, but the miners threatened to strike as the Daily Herald claimed. The union, it seemed, had proved its power as never before.
The government, however, had not rested a moment. It had established a powerful Cabinet Committee to prepare for any strike that might follow. It was a plot to keep the miners out of work.
Our Norman
What anything from the shops, Norman?
IT’S NOT SO LONG SINCE THEY USED TO SEND ME TO THE SHOPS...
YEY, TERRY SOME SMOKEY RACER CRIPS...
NORMAN—GET ON WITH YOUR WORK...
BUT WITH MATURITY COMES THE PROUD FEET OF THE INDEPENDENT MAN!
RIGHT CHIEF!

Our Norman

The great crash of the working class

The Home Secretary, Sir William Joynson-Hicks, announced: ‘The danger is not over, sooner or later this question has got to be fought out by the people of the land.’
A special committee was established to ensure that in the event of a further clash there would be an adequate distribution of supplies, under the control of regional commissioners with dictatorial powers. A body was constituted for the Organisation for the Manufacture and Distribution of Supplies for on strike workers and begun to train them for such duties.
The government’s preparations did not stop there. It gave an air of ‘impartiality’ to its wage-cutting measures, it set up a committee of inquiry into the mining industry, made up of a few distinguished people (chiefly lawyers and a head of the Transport Union) who were not without some discretion.
It was hardly surprising when seven months later, the committee recom- mended wage cuts combined with a ‘re-organisation of the industry’.

From TLC platforms speeches were made more militant than any before or since. At the TUC Congress the president, A. Clancy Swales, spoke of ‘other indications of a world movement rising in revolt and determined to shake off the shackles of wage slavery.’
These speeches were not translated into action. While the government prepared for confrontation, the TUC merely waited for the nine months to pass. They ran out the TUC no more prepared for action than at the start.
Massive
The nine owners announced that they would lock out their workers unless wage cuts were agreed to by 4 May. Still the TUC made no preparations. It called a meeting of trade union executives to write an all-out general strike action, but even while they were meeting, the TUC General Council devoted its energies to discussing how to make the strike effective, but to paying little attention to its opponents with the government.
But the trade union leaders wanted to give ground, the government would not.
What followed was a massive display of blackleg class solidarity. Despite the lack of preparation, there was an almost unanimous response to the call for strike action. Trade union leaders remarked that their problem was not calling men out, but keeping some at work. Leading T. C. Balfour said later: ‘The workers’ reaction to the strike call had been much more complete than we had expected.
On the ninth day of the strike was anything more solid than the first. Yet by that time the trade union leaders were ready to talk and told him that they were calling it off without the government having given any ground.
The unions did not even ensure that there were guarantees against intimidation for their own members. Tens of thousands of rank-and-file activities were blacklisted.
Jutifying the abandonment of the strike, the spokesman for the TUC General Council such as Jimmy Thomas of the mineworkers and John Bratton of the Ironmen, claimed there had been a mass return to work. But as Christopher Farman points out: ‘This theme… continually stressed by Thomas and Bratton had no basis in fact. More than 99 per cent of all railway staff remained loyal to the strike.’
Secret
How was the trade union leadership’s magnificent achievement to be explained? In fact it was a result of pure treachery. Some of the union leaders had become solid supporters of the employing class.
For instance, Ben Tillett, best remembered as one of the leaders of the great dock strike of 1899 and 1919, was a member of the TUC’s industrial committee. But he had been, in 1923, secretly advising his own members, the miners, to accept the cuts offered by Baldwin. J. C. Davidson described Tillett as ‘absolutely hounded to go on in the fight against the whole of the working class, and evidently wants financial backing.’
Apparently it was suggested that the chairman of the Tory Party might be prepared to make a special grant of £100,000 to the TUC.
Other members of the industrial committee were similarly prepared to pit themselves with the rating class. They were so accustomed to the complacency of the 1920s that it seemed to them that the miners’ struggle was a matter of no importance and that the facts he himself put forward—such as he described—must be made to cut down the newspaper workers.
He failed to understand the difference between the central story, particularly when dealing with the manoeuvres between different ruling-class politicians.
Of all the books that some Toorak-wise or more sympathetic to the workers, not others, not grasping that their deals were merely factually about how best to achieve a single goal, the cutting of workers’ wages and a restoration of British capitalism to its pre-1914 grandeur.

Chris Harman

The First Brigade of Guards marching through London after the strike. Jimmy Thomas, the right-wing leader of the TUC, had told the TUC General Council: ‘The street will be raining with blood.’ The TUC leaders knew in.

Lord and Lady Winborne. Winborne was a landowner and industrialist. Others in attendance included big owners Menzies, J. Balfour, Lord Lowesden and Raikes, and the former vicar of London, Lord Radcliffe.
Another leading member of the industrial committee, was able to make a secret visit to Baldwin during the last week of the strike, and the sort of mixture of the figures running out.
The farce of a few individuals is insufficient to explain the great self-sacrifice of the miners. Many of them, who seemed honest, pursued the same policies.
Bratton, for instance, who was left-wing, noted that he had been a brilliant opponent of the policies pursued by the Labour government before and, so far as is known, did not see any real connection between the strike and the government.

Loss
Instead they saw the essential task of trade unionism as to build its strength, focus more men and more resources on the struggle, and achieve the unionization and the smouldering of that society to build something better later.

Vicarious
Rather than face such risks, the left-wing union leaders preferred to throw over the interests of their members and the independence of the trade union movement, to accept their role as agents of the government’s political class. They had been captured and now they had been freed.

The General Strike, by Christopher Farman, Hart-Davis £3.50

Books

The First Brigade of Guards marching through London after the strike. Jimmy Thomas, the right-wing leader of the TUC, had told the TUC General Council: ‘The street will be raining with blood.’ The TUC leaders knew in.
ONE of the most successful of last year's television plays, To End the Game, was broadcast repeated by the BBC on Tuesday. It is taken from the book of the same name by Owen Rawlings about the trial of Christopher Craig and Derek Bentley for murder and the hanging of Bentley. Dr. David Hall wrote the play.

The play was successful, judging by the interest it received in television criticism, the general public and the BBC. The performance was distinguished and the audience clapped. Some saw it as a full-length play and others as a short story. So it is somewhat surprising to find that it took a struggle to get the play repeated and that it appeared not on BBC1 but again on BBC2. Even more surprising, or more shocking, is that the BBC has cut the play.

David Yallop's contention is that police officer Miles was killed by another police officer and not by Craig or Bentley. This is largely based on an interview by Dr. Hall with Yallop in an interview with police pathologist Dr. David Hall.

Dr. Hall stated that Miles was killed by a bullet (never found) of between 32 and a 38 caliber. Such a calibre bullet would have fitted the police gun that could not be fired from Craig's sawn-off. 455 Elly. Dr. Hall agreed that only one bullet had been shot by someone streaming from about 15 feet away. The police evidence stated that Craig shot 394 feet away; and everyone is agreed that no person or object of note was touched at the trial.

Denial

Presumably the BBC was sensitive to Dr. Hall's claim, and to Dr. Hall's claim, and although none of his later demands for the deletion of passages and for damages against the BBC have been met.

Although Yallop's statements concerning Dr. Hall's evidence are highly significant, the police seem to have no threat to use. Almost a year has passed since the film was screened, and the police have not yet been able to trace the serial killer.

Nevertheless, the BBC saw fit to cut the play in what they call "bad taste". As in the case of James Hanrahan, who was hanged after the A6 murder trial, who was hanged after the A6 murder trial, who was hanged after the A6 murder trial, the police accused the media trying to demand for an impartial review of the case of Craig and Bentley. Repeated questions in the House of Commons by Russell Kerr MP eventually received a written reply last May from the then Home Secretary Reginald Maugling. Maugling said he was concerned with only to consider whether any material evidence has come to light since the verdict, but on this basis we have approached the matter, he said. An instigator in police inquiry into the matter. Predictably, the Commissioner of Police found nothing to justify any action on the part of the Home Secretary or to warrant any more extensive inquiries.

The most likely reason for this is that the police had questioned only two people—their pathologist, Dr. Hall, and former Detective Constable Fairfax, both of whom denied having said what Yallop contended they did. Yallop himself was not questioned, nor did the police show any interest in the tapes and transcripts which he holds of his interviews.

For the defence, who pointed out the possibility that fresh evidence might make the case more complex. Mr. Justice Maugling, the Home Secretary, refused to comment, stating that the police had not found anything to warrant a further investigation.

Sweeping

The fatal bullet has never been produced.

That the summarising-up by the pre-dinging judge, Lord Goddard, was an extreme, Lord Goodman, speaking in the extreme.

"There can be little doubt that any experience judge, reading this summarising up, could have arrived at the conclusion that this was not one of the most creditable performances of a distinguished judge...."

That although Lord Goddard had managed to summarise Bentley's defense in two sentences of his summarising up, the three Appeal Court judges had come to the sweeping conclusion that there was nothing to criticise in this summarising up.

Lord Goodman himself a distinguished judge, said of the Appeal Court verdict: 'How any experienced judge, reading this summarising up, could have arrived at the conclusion that there was nothing to criticise in it, passes my understanding, and I venture to think—paves belief.'

Why did the police inquire into only one aspect of the case when so many other circumstances are so manifest?

And above all what was the inquiry secret? Was it because, as Lord Arden suggested in the House of Lords, the interested parties, namely the police, were themselves the inquirers?

On 14 June last year Lord Goodman initiated a debate in the Lords asking that the government might consider reviewing the cases of Bentley and Harratry.

Vicount Corrivel, in answering dismissed the possibility of there being any new evidence. He said there were no grounds for a 'public inquiry because there was simply evidence which had been suppressed at the time of the trial, but as it was known it could not be said to be new.

The latitude thus given to police and state hardly bears thinking about.

Cohill further argued that there were no grounds for an inquiry because there was no laid down parliamentary procedure for conducting it and as the only result that could possibly arise would point to such legal inconsistencies that it would be a "satisfactory precedent for any other inquiry."

It is not surprising that the courts, the government, even the BBC bow.
WHAT WE STAND FOR

The International Socialists is a democratic organisation whose membership is committed to accepting new members who are willing to pay and be active. It is committed to the building of a socialist society in which there is no class rule and no exploitation of man by man.

WE BELIEVE...

That the working class is the only force in society which can, of its own accord, bring about the destruction of the capitalist system and create a socialist society.

That a socialist state must be built on the foundation of the workers' councils, where the working class plays the leading role.

That the state must be abolished in a socialist society and its functions performed by various agencies of the working class.

That the working class must be the active agent in the building of a socialist society and that it must be united against all forms of exploitation and oppression.

That the working class must be educated in the principles of socialism and the need for organisation in order to bring about a socialist society.

That the working class must be prepared to fight for its interests and for the interests of the working class generally.

That the working class must be prepared to defend itself against all forms of oppression and exploitation. 

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That the working class must be prepared to defend itself against all forms of oppression and exploitation.
How cost-of-living increases can help to beat the freeze

I AM NOT convinced by the arguments of Bill Message and John Charlton (27 January) that it is a mistake to push for "sliding scale" agreements with automatic compensations to recapture for rising prices.

They point out that deduction, especially tax and local authority rates, which are in the front line, receive no automatic compensating increases. That is true. It is also true of any kind of increase. The remedy is for a bigger push, not for the initialState of the argument being taken against it. The remedy is to include housing, rates and the like into the argument.

The agreement is based on the TUC and the government would get off the hook by passing the cost of living on to the wage earner. It is being used against the unions, but it is against the unions to take Heath's "incomes policy" at its face value. The aim of the TUC is to reduce real wages and increase profits. The total argument is a hindrance to this, not a help.

Now of course you can get a bad "incomes policy". But if the public are not given full support for the claim of the militant unions it may mean a repetition of the French Ford workers etc. I think that we ought to try to present full claims-those claims plus automatic cost of living increases.

I consider the TUC scheme to be a bad bargain for workers. Also I think the Ford workers etc. have done us a service in highlighting the true aims of the NCB, the Ford Motor Company etc. It is the TUC scheme that at all-DUNCAN HALLASS, London E2

Suicide

IN THEIR LETTER last week Bill Message and John Charlton display an amazing combination of ill-considered assertions and complete lack of understanding of the world today.

Duncan Hallass does not argue that a cost-of-living increase is a bad bargain for workers. He argues that it is a help to the TUC. This is nonsense. The TUC scheme is to reduce real wages and increase profits. Duncan Hallass' argument is a hindrance to this, not a help.

It goes without saying that we should, as workers, work together for full support for the claim of the militant unions. We should not be afraid to challenge the TUC schemes. And for workers in Ford etc. It is the TUC scheme that at all-DUNCAN HALLASS, London E2

BLACKBURN ARRESTS

ONE FEATURE of the Blackburn attack on 20 January was the number of police who were arrested in their own cells. It was estimated that as many as 200 men were attacked by the police.

Seventy of the arrests took place at the Langworthy estate, both on the day of the march and two days later. There was much confusion and chaos, and the police were not involved, but we feel that the whole incident was a blot on the police's record, and that the arrests could have been avoided.

We suggest that in future local organizations should continue to confront the police in their own cells. The police should be made to understand that they are being treated exactly as they treat the rest of the community.

Witnesses, photographs and information are crucial to the defense. Please contact us at c/o Bradford Observer, 42 Southgate Lane, Bradford, Yorkshire as soon as possible as the trial is expected to be held over the next few weeks.-THE BRADFORD DEFENCE GROUP

PRESS BLACKOUT as Whitelaw TERROR GROWS ON

ONE of the greatest ideological successes of the Whitehall regime in Northern Ireland has been Whitelaw's blackshowing of the world that in the name of security it is illegal for workers to discuss the situation. This is a gross violation of the basic human right to freedom of speech and expression.

The release of more than 600 interned men in the first few months of Whitelaw's dictatorship was greeted with widespread disapproval. But the minister was quick to point out that there were fewer than 30 men left in Long Kesh. Normality and democracy were being gradually restored to the province of Ulster.

The truth is that Whitelaw is afraid of the people. He knows that the people are behind the marchers, and that any attempt to prevent them from exercising their rights will only lead to more violence. He is therefore trying to prevent the people from discussing the situation.

The minister's tactics are designed to prevent the people from speaking out. He is afraid of the people's voice, and he is preventing them from being heard. He is afraid of the people's strength, and he is preventing them from being felt.

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BRISTOL—Storrs circulating at BAC and Rolls-Royce suggest that these companies are still helping the bosses of Fine Tubes and getting away with it. A national blacklisting of Fine Tubes products has not yet managed to force the company to admit defeat. They still find devious means of selling their tubes.

BAC and Rolls-Royce workers operate the blacking consistently—or so they think. Only recently it has become apparent to workers in the factories that their houses are secretly hand in glove with those at Fine Tubes.

The blacking of BAC and Rolls-Royce has been reaching Fine Tubes Factory in Crompton Avenue, Salford, through the famous Tube Sales of Southport.

This sort of loophole in the blacking is exactly what keeps Fine Tubes going.

Portsmouth in Its at all possible outlets for the tube is in operation.

In Rolls-Royce, the story is similar, only this is a nationalised company. The blacking there has been more effective, and so far the management has been able to get away from an obvious confrontation with the unions over the issue.

What they say they do not want Fine Tubes to suffer financially, so they are ordering goods which cannot be delivered, and paying for them just the same. About £100,000 was the figure quoted for goods not delivered. The tube is being held in batches as the wages are less than the blacking.

BAC, however, have a different approach. With the blacking they have no dealings with the unions.

They were determined to help in ensuring that effective blacking of Fine Tubes would be difficult.

GIRLS OUT THREE DAYS

RUGBY clubs at Stenall's ceramic factory stopped work for three days last week, management tried to increase work week.

The girls staged a strike to win better pay on jobs previously done in an overtime basis, such as red, etc. Full-time union officials then had to agree to accept the management terms.

LAUNDRY: BAC in public meeting: The RCC, and then 7 February, 8:30, Bishop's Stortford Town Hall.

BRIGHTON: public meeting: The Tory Freeport: Phone 4, Thursday 7 February, 8pm, the Public Hall, Seaford, Sussex.

MERSEYSIDE: public meeting: the BAC: Friday 8 February, 8pm, Seaford, St John's Church, Sussex.


J U M B L E W A N T E D U R G E N TLY (for information only), all meetings, all information, local interest, etc., call 0345 770.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST JOURNAL: in London. For details, send 5p.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST JOURNAL: in London. For details, send 5p.

WALKING OUT

S Telephonic: 1.793.2639

AIRPORT MEN LOCKED OUT

GLASGOW—the Labour group on the city council, which recently betrayed council tenants, is being imposed by its attitude towards maintenance engineers at the Glasgow Airport. The corporation is the employer of many workers who have been locked out of their work for accepting compulsory contractual changes.

The workers have been locked out of the airport for refusing to accept compulsory contractual changes. The workers have received official backing from the AEU, but the management is using every possible means to keep the workers out of work. The management has brought in hired workers to replace those that broke down and transport any drivers and porters who have continued to work with them. The Labour group is now turning its back on the workers who are still radiating support to the workers in the office area asking them to join the strike.
We will not move, say workers in sit-in jobs battle

SUNDERLAND—The Colas Cranes dispute enters its fourth week with no sign of a break. A mass meeting of the 3000 workers made it clear on Monday that the factory will remain occupied until the management agrees to honour its agreements with the workers.

In a letter to the workers, company chairman V. V. Davies agreed to a £3.50 a week pay rise but added that the company would not consider any other demands until the dispute was settled. The company has already offered a £2.50 rise, and the workers are demanding a total of £8 a week.

The workers have occupied the factory since 19 November, rejecting management attempts to move them out. The dispute began when the company refused to honour an agreement to improve safety conditions at the factory.

The factory is owned by the British Steel Corporation, which has been closed down due to the ongoing dispute.

Black Protest at Jailing

BRITISH Steel Corporation and the National Union of Motor Workers have called a national protest against the deportation of two members of the colas Cranes depot in Sunderland.

The two workers, who were jailed for 14 and 18 months respectively, were handed over to the British Steel Corporation’s security by the North East Police. The company, which runs the colas Cranes depot, has said it will not respect the workers’ rights and is preparing to sack the two.

JIMMY SIM is the most high-profile in South Shields since he was fined £32 last year by the Westoe Lodge of the National Union of Motorworkers for working excessive overtime, against a union ban.

For his refusal to pay the fine into the aged miners’ box and since then no miner at Westoe Colliery has spoken to him or worked with him.

Step backwards for white collar union

The right-wing majority on the national executive of NALGO, the local government workers’ union, which has the biggest membership of any white collar union in the public sector, took a major step backwards last Saturday.

Without disclosing its opposition to Phase Two of the freeze it is now reasserting its power for the first time in a long time, and this is being interpreted by union leaders as a sign of weakness.

The new leadership of the union, which has been under attack from the left, has been forced to make a number of concessions to its members, including a vote of confidence in the national executive.

The new leadership has also been forced to scrap its plans to introduce a new pay ballot system, which had been opposed by the majority of the union’s membership.

The union’s members cast their votes on a new ballot system, which will be held on Wednesday, and it is expected that a majority of members will vote in favor of the new system.

Clay Cross puts brake on tenants

CLAY CROSS—At a mass meeting of 200 tenants last week, Councillor Michael Cooke, chairman of the new planning committee, explained the council’s decision to appeal against the auditor’s findings.

He said that the council should call a public meeting next week, during which the council will be invited to make a statement.

About two-thirds of Clay Cross tenants were present at the meeting, many of whom had been affected by the auditor’s findings.

Demand for recall of TUC

SCOTLAND—A call for a recall of the conference of the TUC to plan action against the Labour party and the Conservative government was made by delegates at 70 factories last Tuesday.

The delegates, meeting as the West of Scotland Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions, also pledged local support for the engineering union and the miners, for a day of action against the freeze on 1 May, and for support of the National Liaison Committee Conference on 4 April.

Delegates at the West of Scotland Liaison Committee, which was formed in response to the government’s plan to cut £1.5 billion from the trade union movement, emphasised the importance of the whole trade union movement in supporting the miners’ coming fight against Phase Two.

The miners have already been ordered by the government to return to work for the repair of the damage done during the strike.

The miners’ committee, the Independent Miners’ Association, has called for action to repair the damage done during the strike.

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Regeade miner held for NRC

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For his refusal to pay the fine into the aged miners’ box and since then no miner at Westoe Colliery has spoken to him or worked with him.

I would like more information about the International Socialists

Name

Address

Send to: IS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN
Massive rise in price of chicken

A STAGGERING hike in the price of chicken has occurred in the past few days, with supermarket shelves emptying as the country faces a severe shortage of the bird. The price of chicken has jumped by as much as 50%, with some supermarkets reporting shortages in certain areas.

This is due to a number of factors, including the impact of the global pandemic and the recent increase in feed prices. As a result, many chicken farmers have been forced to raise their prices, leading to a widespread increase in the cost of this popular meat.

GAS WORKERS, reaching bitterly to the government freeze on their wage increase, have been taking action unofficially in many parts of the country demanding more than the £2 they are being allowed. Although the Tories are intent on making strikes against its wages ceiling illegal, there have been GAS workers in Lancashire and parts of Yorkshire. In Scotland a one-week strike is planned.

Flying pickets bring out most of Lancashire

WIGAN—Most gas workers in Lancashire are now on strike. The dispute is taking on new dimensions as the government attempts to bring the workers back to work. Workers in the Wigan area are currently on strike, with picketing taking place around the town. The government is using the Army to try to break the strike, but so far efforts have been unsuccessful.

In the Wigan area, picketing is widespread, with workers blocking roads and disrupting traffic. The government has said that it will use all available means to bring the workers back to work, but so far it has been unsuccessful.

In other parts of Lancashire, the situation is similar, with workers continuing to take action.

Glaswegian gas workers are also on strike, with pickets lining the streets in an attempt to bring the workers back to work. The situation is tense, with the government using police and military force to try to break the strike.

Pickets out

YORKSHIRE—Gas workers in Rotherham, out in indefinite strike and in Daresbury, they have gone on a further strike by striking and banning all emergency work. When Sheffield workers voted against strike action on Monday, workers from the other towns went flying pickets to Sheffield in an attempt to prevent the strike action.

In Carlisle and Workington, gas workers are also out, the former picketing their fellow workers in Leeds.

Another striker told Socialist Worker: ‘This freeze is the last straw. The Gas Board has accepted three freezes now. Other industries just look through. The gas workers get left behind.

‘The government is that these workers think it can get away. This government makes a profit—other nationalized industries lose money, but they get the wages. Even if we are £2.50, that will only bring us up to £29.50, which is what the director general got two years ago.’

Scotland

Glasgow gas fitters’ shop stewards and members of the Scottish Gas Workers Committee wrote to the Gas Board on Sunday to plan further industrial action to stop the strike from spreading. A meeting of gas workers in Glasgow was discussed and the Gas Board was asked whether it could address the matter for the Glasgow workers, who are in a separate union’s position. He then spoke for a full 21 days, during which time the committee had caused between the union and the Gas Board.

He said the British Gas Corporation (BGC) had never been in this situation before, but that if the workers took their stand, it would do all it could to help them on their claim.

Welcome

Shop stewards answered him vigorously. The store was full of customers, many of whom were workers from the company. BGC officials were on hand to help.

Dennett started to answer these charges, but after another 15 minutes he was told that he had to stay his welcome and that there was a lot of work to do.

The committee will not accept the new proposals, and will continue to campaign for better pay and conditions.

We appeal to gas workers throughout the country to join the strike, which will start on Saturday. The government is trying to break the strike, but so far efforts have been unsuccessful.

The situation is tense, with the government using police and military force to try to break the strike.

The two sides are due to meet again next Monday, in the hope of reaching a settlement. However, the situation remains very difficult, with the government and the BGC both determined to find a solution.

Glass workers ready to fight

WEST LONDON—The 700 workers at the Rockrose Glass Factory in Greenford, who are to lose their jobs this week, have decided to action to save their factory from closure. The company has announced that it will close the Greenford plant, which employs 700 workers. The workers are now preparing to take action.

The company's chief executive, who controls the majority of the factory, has said that the company could not afford to keep the plant open. The workers are preparing to take action to save their jobs.

The strike is likely to be a long one, with the company not able to offer any guarantees for the future of the plant. The workers are now preparing to take action to save their jobs.

SW 30,000 sales drive

by Margaret Renn

ALBERT LUCK is a member of the Executive of the SYGFT and Works of Radical Times, a small independent newspaper. He was a founder of the SYGFT and has worked on the paper for over 20 years. He has also been a shop steward and a member of the SYGFT's workers' council.

Five planks over: Privatisation, lock-out, Nationalisation, the British Gas Corporation (BGC) and the government's economic policies.

SW 30,000 Sales Drive

The SW 30,000 sales drive is a major campaign to reach a total of 30,000 sales by the end of the year. The drive is aimed at increasing the sales of Socialist Worker and to raise awareness of socialist ideas and policies.

The drive is being led by the SW's national sales team, which is made up of experienced salespeople who are dedicated to reaching as many people as possible with socialist ideas.

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