THE KNIVES are out once more in Fleet Street and the television studios.

As the gas men start to work to rule, to ban overtime and to strike, the loyalty and support of television and the press are using all their powers to win 'public opinion' for the government.

The gas workers were in a swollen mood like murderous layabouts who have abandonded all other interests to save that of their own need.

But the truth is just the opposite. The gas workers are the strongest of any group of trade unionists in the country.

PAY. The basic pay for a 46-hour work week is £160. For a skilled gardener it is £232.57. The average £135. That is a total of £1000 per year in wages, sufficient to support a family of four comfortably at the same time as helping to pay for the education of six children.

HOURS. The average gas man works 46-48 hours a week. Many work even more. In electricity supply, to which gas industry pay has traditionally been tied, the men work an average of 41 hours a week - a foreman guarantees exactly the same as the gas man.

WAGES. The gas men get three weeks' holiday. Their demand for a fourth has been agreed within a matter of hours by the other manufacturers, with a number of other 'fringe' demands on bonus.

REFUSED REDUNDANCY. This is the worst aspect of the gas men's plight. Since 1968, the gas workers have been serumised and have been served with notice of redundancy. The Gas Board has been contemptuous of the law. The workers have been served with a full list of their names and the number of men manufactured, the number of pipes and the number of fitters working on consumer sets.

The main charge made against the gas men is that they carry on the dangers of the nation of hustling gas production. Every accident involving gas, no matter how small, is likely to be proclaimed in the public press. The gas workers are accused of the most minute of faults.

But it is the Gas Corporation which has been enlarging people's lives in respect of the work they do by bringing down the workmen's work in a craft at a time when they should be substantially increasing their wages.

Most of the conversion work to natural gas has been undertaken by private enterprise, many of them employing non-union labour on reduced bonus schemes, which encourages the fitters to cut corners and do shoddy work. In October 1971, a gas explosion killed a travelling gas fitter and injured a child. The Gas Board had been notified of the leak for nearly 24 hours before the explosion. For all almost of that time, the men employed by the board to find the leak were working for a contractor, R. T. McCulloch Ltd.

Mr Jack White, distribution engineer for the Scottish Gas Board, told the inquiry: 'On the day of the disaster the board was dealing with seven escapes, which is one reason why contractors were working at Charlestown.'

Gas fitters' status in Glasgow is equally bad and argues that if properly equipped and trained men had been on hand, the leak could have been discovered and dealt with.

Yet in Glasgow there are only 20 gas fitters apprentices being trained by the local Gas Board, which trained 100 five years ago.

The gas pipe system throughout Britain is not suited to natural gas. Natural gas is lighter than town gas, and does not seal the humped joints in the pipes as town gas did. The result is a sharp increase in leaks all over the country.

These gas leaks are occurring all over Britain. In the last week in January three old people died in Wahall sitting in front of their gas fires. Two died because the fire was improperly fired, the other because it was improperly fired. On 6 April an explosion rocked a street in Denny, Northants., where contractors working on a sewerage scheme started a mine.

The gas workers claim that three explosions and leaks could not be cut if the government and the Gas Corporation maintained a properly-trained and properly-paid work force.

HYSTERIA

The authorities' deep concern for public safety was well illustrated when stewards representing 200 Glasgow gas fitters proposed that the stewards run a service for dealing with emergencies during the strike. The local gas authorities, braving that they should be in charge, promptly refused to operate such a service.

No worker in this country can afford to sit back and let the gas men wage this struggle alone. The government hopes that the stewards will attack this first strike of workers who challenge the freeze. Each line struck against the gas man is a blow against the workers at Ford, the miners, the hospital workers, the civil servants, the teachers. It is a blow against the right of any man to organise for fair wages.

As a rule begin to hit, some employers may well try to break the workers without adequate bail. Shop stewards combine and trade unions must resist such maneuvers, resort attempts to bring gas workers in new forms of heating. If government and employers want full production, let them first pay the gas workers a living wage.

If the rest of the working-class movement backs the gas men they can win a victory even more momentous than that of the miners last year: a victory that will spell no not only for Heath's millionaire politicians, but for his government as well.
US move to export inflation

THE SIXTH major financial convulsion to have gripped the capitalist world in the past five years seems certain to lead to an intensification of trade and economic conflict between the leading economic powers.

Behind the flight of capital from dollars to marks and yen and the dollar devaluation is a major campaign by the United States to export inflation and unemployment to its principal trading rivals.

The immediate source of the instability which led to the financial crisis on the foreign exchanges is the chronic and constant American balance of payments deficit. For the past two decades but in recent years has surpassed $100 billion.

There are several reasons for this development in the American economy. The first cause is the cost of maintaining America’s imperialist machine throughout Europe and Asia. In spite of the withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam the upkeep of military bases in scores of countries will continue.

Secondly, there has been the outflow of American capital from the US to support the investment and trading operations of US-owned multinational corporations. These corporations have added to the problem by not remitting their profits back to the US but keeping them in the countries of operation, thus creating the phenomenon of the “Euro-dollar” – 70,000 million dollars already available for financial speculation across the international exchange markets.

Rocketed

Thirdly, there has been America’s trade drive into Western Europe and Asia, an extension of the continual expansion of American export and is largely the result of the export of technology and production capacity by the international corporations abroad.

In addition, US suppliers of bulk imported goods have rocketed, particularly since countries like Japan and West Germany have been able to penetrate American export markets with their high-quality goods.

For 20 years after World War Two the giant American economy was able to reconcile full employment, economic growth and relatively stable prices through massive dependence on production for the external market. But once this stability could not last. The purely military need for “guns” meant few jobs and has produced new technology within the United States. This trend led to a steady rise in price inflation. But the US economy has been unprepared in recent years to cope with the demands of overproduction.

British troops: help for Loyalist shoot-outs

THE BRITISH REGIME in Northern Ireland is desperately attempting to create the illusion that “justice” – Six County style – is being administered equally in both Loyalist and Republican communities.

The pre-dawn swoops and the detention of a number of Loyalists should not obscure the fact that the Tory government is still tolerating the right-wing extremists while centralizing its repression on the anti-Unionists.

During the last week of Loyalist strikes in protest at the detention of two men suspected of involvement in the bomb attack on a bus full of Catholic workers, gangs of armed right-wing forces forced thousands to stay away from work by mounting road blocks and pickets throughout the six counties. They also attacked Catholic churches, pubs, shops and houses with little or no interference from the forces of law and order.

When right-wing gangs threatened one Catholic school, police and British soldiers advised the headmaster to close down because they were “unable to offer any protection”. No attempt was made to stop Loyalists from burning down a Catholic pub near the city centre, although scores of police and soldiers were on the scene. The same attitude prevailed among security forces throughout the North.

Massive

But while socialists and republicans, led by People’s Democracy, attempted to hold an anti-unionist demonstration in Belfast at the weekend, they were met with a massive show of military strength which involved sealing off the city centre and the usual familiar charges of brutality against the people.

On several occasions in the last fortnight British soldiers joined with Loyalist gang men in attacks on Catholic areas. The New Lodge massacre, where six unarmed men (three of whom were members of the Provisional IRA) were shot dead, was the most blatant.

But on the day of the Loyalists strike the army stood back as right-wing gunmen fired at the funeral procession of three of the New Lodge victims. When the IRA returned fire, the army joined in alongside Loyalists.

That night, although engaged in a shoot-out with the Loyalists in East Belfast, the army was again assisting Loyalists in a gun battle across the “peace line” in West Belfast, yet again killing Catholic civilians.

Recent court cases have followed the same pattern. Great publicity was given to the fact that more Loyalists were arrested on arms charges in December last year than were Republicans. But many of them have been put on suspended sentences or given very short jail terms while Republicans continue to get up to 10 years on identical charges.

The main reason for this is the public opposition, organised in churches, pubs, shops and houses with little or no interference from the forces of law and order.

The British troops: help for Loyalist shoot-outs

THE CRISIS

John Palmer reports

IRELAND NORTH AND SOUTH: THE BEST SOCIALIST ANALYSIS FROM REPORTERS ON THE SPOT

by Mike Miller: Belfast

The crisis in the aircraft industry

The huge sums of money being spent on Concord will only serve to save a few hours for businessmen or to carry on pleasure trips for a tiny handful of privileged people. Or have we already sold out to the middle classes and lost all amount of money providing a reliable and efficient bus service for ordinary people while at the same time wasting millions on Concord.

TO INCREASE the circulation and readership of Socialist Worker we need to get it read in more and more workplaces – factories, offices, etc.

There is a limit to how many copies people can sell. If one factory in particular, for example, is about 70% of the time a branch of the narrow trade union in that factory, or there are problems with the management, there is little they can do about it.

The key to selling the paper is to find those who are most trade union conscious, the interested people. Often, workers who buy it outside the factories are the ones who will sell their paper to their section of it – they wrap it up in their pocket and don’t realise that they’ve sold a copy.

½p per copy plus 3p postage, six copies or more free.

BRISTOL INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS, 9a Oakland Road, Bristol 6.

HELP OUR SALES TO SOAR

by Margaret Renn

The shooting of soldiers, it remains totally legal, so do a host of other Loyalist extralegal activities.

Even if the British are unable or unwilling to deal with the extreme right, there are signs that many ordinary workers are becoming increasingly unhappy with what has been going on lately. The response to the UDP-OVP call for a protest on the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne was expected to be much larger than they anticipated.

In all 120,000 people were away from work out of a total workforce of 600,000. Most of those either went to work or went home when electricity cuts closed their factories. And there has been no attempt to organise any sort of protest at the most recent arrest of prominent loyalists in East Belfast.

Sacrifice

It is now obvious to the leaders of the extreme right wing that they cannot call on the Protestant workers to sacrifice one day a week and rely on their shock troops to ensure that the call is heeded. Support for the Loyalist Association of Workers, an UDP front, is falling off. There is a growing number of workers refusing to go to work, or go home when electricity cuts closed their factories. And there has been no attempt to organise any sort of protest at the most recent arrest of prominent loyalists in East Belfast.

PRO-STYLE Campaign

British workers: what can we do now?

The British workers and MTU workers can take the lead in the struggle against the war, against the cuts and for their own living standards. The workers in the English MTU can take the lead in the struggle against the cuts and for their own living standards. The workers in the English MTU can take the lead in the struggle against the cuts and for their own living standards. The workers in the English MTU can take the lead in the struggle against the cuts and for their own living standards.
and unemployment

The mid-February issue of The Worker, the monthly paper of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, has just been published. It makes the point that Irish workers are being presented with "no choice" in the election.

The paper states that no choice exists in the election. It claims that "no choice exists in the election." It argues that "no choice exists in the election." It concludes that "no choice exists in the election."
Police move on South African strike wave

by W Enda

The MURDER of 21-year-old student Roberto Franchi was a result of the South African military using violence against peaceful student demonstrations. The student, who was shot in the face, was killed by a South African military officer.

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RUSSIANS SEE RED OVER BOYS IN BLUE

TOM CLARKE’s award-winning television play about a clay-mining strike in Cornwall, Stocker’s Copper, didn’t win the top award at the North International Television Festival in Prague last June, as it was expected to, because of a rather curious intervention of the Russian judges.

When it came to the vote, the Russian, East German and Czech judges voted for the Russian entry, a worthy but boring saga of love on a Communist farm. The British judges voted for Stocker’s Copper. The Russians then made it known that there would be no prize, as the BBC had not paid the entry fee for Stocker’s Copper. The film, they said, was a disgrace because it attacked a state institution.

"What institution?" the other asked.

"The police," replied the Russians. Westerners protested that these were the police who had oppressed and defended capitalist property. The police, they said, were the same everywhere.

The Festival was declared the winner and a special category of ‘honourable mention’ was created and applied to Stocker’s Copper and the Russian entry.

ONE of the men chiefly responsible for the marketing and distribution of the film in the UK was Mr. A. Ashford, who was chairman of Distributors in 1967, when thalidomide reached its sales peak. In 1962, after thalidomide was withdrawn, he was shoved into the chemicals and plastics group.

Since then, Mr. Ashford has never looked back. He became managing director of North America in 1968 and a managing director of Belpo since 1969.

On 1 February, he accepted a new executive directorship of the company, and his partners were expected to go on meetings where he would take their questions.

SUGAR ON THE PILLS

MORE ABOUT Stylus, whose brand of contact lenses was recently put to the test, and the test was passed with flying colors.

The test was conducted by the American Psychological Association, and the results were published in the February issue of The Times.

A DEEPLY tragic tale of human suffering lies behind the advertisement appearing in The Times on 8 February.

WHILE on the subject of driving, well, we didn’t think that the charge of breaking the speed limit on motorways has been supported—by magistrates—by Whitminster in Gloucestershire. They were judging the case of Mrs. Tuckett, the managing director of the Les Mont garage, Cardiff. Mr. Tuckett, was up for consistently driving his vehicle more than 100 miles down the M5.

Mr. Tuckett’s lawyer, Mr. Richard Gaskill, beguiled the magistrates not to apply the almost automatic disqualification which would apply in such a case, said: "My client is in the youngest director and manager of any garage in this big group. Perhaps the court could extend leniency because of the importance of driving licence, and place him in the distinguished category of Stirling Moss, Princess Anne, the Minister for Aerodromes, and the Bishop of St. Albans."

The magistrates agreed. They fined Mr. Tuckett £25 and endorsed his licence.

Three blind

THE radical proposals in Labour’s plan for London, if they get control of the GLC in April, have delighted the left of the party. They should, however, be weighed against the refusal of two constituency Labour Parties to re-nominate three Greater London councillors for re-election this year. The three are Frank O’Connor from Camden, Vic Collins from Canning Town and Brian Bunter from Lewisham.

By an amazing coincidence, these three councillors led the fight inside the GLC Labour Group for non-implementation of the Housing Finance Act (they were laughed out of court by the majority).

Greater London Labour officials were to be seen at all selection conferences. Their views on ‘unlikely’ candidates were taken very seriously, and the three most left-wing GLC councillors are now out in the cold.

Lunch hour

A LOT of work was done in the meeting called by the all-party Chemists Group (chairman Ted Garrett, Labour MP for Wakefield, secretary David Crouch, Tory MP for Canterbury) in the Charing Cross Hotel last Wednesday. The lunch that followed the discussion on the transport of chemicals by road was magnificent.

And Mr. Lakhindar Brahmi, the Algerian Ambassador in London, greatly enjoyed his lunch in dining room No. 3 of the House of Commons last Tuesday. His hosts, the British-Algerian Parliamentary Group, were headed by Mr. Dickson-Mahon, Labour MP for Greenwich, and Sir George Sinclair, Tory MP for Darting.

Dr. Mahon was in action on the Wednesday when he chaired a meeting of the all-party Shipbuilding Group in the Commons addressed by Mr. Anthony Grenwell, President of the Shipbuilding and Repairs National Association, Mr. Grenwell is not a socialist, but neither is Dr. Mahon.

That is, £30 for nine central heating systems (total value: about £750).

Coal News also records the triumphs of Mrs. Wills, wife of a retired miner, who sold a £60 room heater and four radiators to a friend and netted £3,000 (4").

EVENONE knows that remarkable homes are places where ‘young offenders can be reformed’. Especially in a country that is not short of homes. So I hope all unemployed humanitarians in the Glasgow area have noticed this advertisement in the Evening Times on 1 February.

LARCHGROVE REMAHOME

1212 EDINBURGH ROAD, GLASGOW 32

 Applications are invited from

MATURE MEN

used to working with unhealthy individuals

Training in H.M. Forces will be considered advantageous.

The Home deals with boys in the 7 to 15 years age group and the principal objectives are to instil good habits in order to prepare them for further education or to train them for work which will be in a craft or agricultural special in which they will get a living.

Applicants, in writing, to the Secretary.

LARCHGROVE REMAHOME

1212 EDINBURGH ROAD, GLASGOW 32

NOTHING to report this week.

That’s the end of it. Shortly we shall have to say goodbye. We hasten to add that any letters sent this week will be saved and replied to as soon as possible.
THE PLIGHT of the lonely old lady on the fourteenth floor of a council block has been given quite an airing in the press and on television. But little has been done about it.

And the problems of the five-storey blocks, maisonettes and tenements haven’t been given any attention at all.

But action that may prove to be a landmark in future council housing has been taken in Liverpool. After deciding to build more houses in 1969, the Liverpool corporation housing committee has also recommended a ban on the many-storeyed ‘slab’ blocks and will refer the matter to its architects.

This recommendation should be framed and hung in the housing offices of every big town and city across the country. We hear too much public relations garbage about high-rise blocks providing a compact, self-contained community. We don’t hear about the massive cost of land whose price is driven up by speculators. Or that, below, terrace-in-the-sky blocks are cheap to build for people who have no alternative accommodation. Or that prefabricated blocks are dirt cheap and quickly finished as well as horrible things to look at.

Leeds was another council that has decided to stop building tower blocks after the death of a pensioner last month on the outskirts of the city. But it is not known if this decision is to overcome widespread public disaffection. These blocks are neither terraces on the ground nor terraces in the sky, but terraces cut up and laid one strip atop another, rising from three to seven storeys high.

Squall

Leeds council has a lot of experience in building these blocks but the repeated disasters have taught it so much.

The first massive development it built in 1934 on the edge of the town was taken into the tame paws of the government by attacking the rights of shop stewards and workers. Despite the magnificent resistance of workers, the mass march of the dockers, the Act is still being used to attack mass action by workers in shop-floor organisations.

It was a community system, with its contempt for elementary human rights, is an expression of the values which dominate the society in which we live in, a society which the Tory government, in launching the attack on workers, is committed to perpetuating.

But it is also a society which the Labour Party will not change in practice. Indeed, much of the present Tory policy is merely a slightly toned-down version of what we had when in power.

The system has to be fought at every point. Every strike won, every successful battle with the Social Security is a gain for us. But in the longer term the only way to build a revolutionary socialist society that can see and take over the nation’s economic system is to fight to that end.

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It was a community system, with its contempt for elementary human rights, is an expression of the values which dominate the society in which we live in, a society which the Tory government, in launching the attack on workers, is committed to perpetuating.

But it is also a society which the Labour Party will not change in practice. Indeed, much of the present Tory policy is merely a slightly toned-down version of what we had when in power.

The system has to be fought at every point. Every strike won, every successful battle with the Social Security is a gain for us. But in the longer term the only way to build a revolutionary socialist society that can see and take over the nation’s economic system is to fight to that end.

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Squall

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Through the dancing in the floors. You can hear every time somebody bangs a door.

They laughed when I mentioned the walkways. Walking to their flat I had to dodge falling sheets of water and jump over the large pools.

Deserted

"They're neither sheltered nor a meeting place, not for nine months of the year." Graham outlined other complaints. "The place looks pretty bad in summer—even then it's drab and grey and dismal. But in winter it looks like a village—like a desert village."

"I suppose you could say this place is like a village—a deserted village. They're starting in people from outside of Leeds and there's a lot of students here too. A lot of the flats are still empty.

Of course the pub and the garages have not been built. There are about half a dozen shops on Leek Street estate. The phone boxes are a good walk away and the post office may be knocked down.

To walk round Leek Street for most of the year or most of the day is like walking round a ghost town.

Rows of doors each with their own shoes. Dark gloomy passages where a number of women have been attacked. Garage shutters situated outside people's front doors.

Everywhere a dullness and greyness that reflects the nearby factories of the last century.

No wonder people don't want to live there.

Leek Street stands as Leeds' second monument to criminally bad planning. The occupants have responded to it by the earliest possible summoning of the removal van.

It is time that the people of Leeds and other cities said no more momentos like Quarry Hill or Leek Street. Councils must put an end to these blots on the housing landscape.

For once a step into the past must be taken. Give every family a house and make estates places fit for working people to live in.

Fighting the fungus

THE ONLY WAY Stanley Pratt, who lives in the notorious Elicor Street flats in Saltford, Lancs, could get the fungus out of his council flat was by going on rent strike.

Last October he refused to pay his rent until something was done about condensation in his flat which had caused a fungus all over his ceilings and walls.

Housing officials looking into Mr. Pratt's case discovered at least four like it in the block of flats. "In one flat," the City's Deputy Housing Manager told the local paper, "we practically tore the ceilings down and some of the walls."

Lime Court was built by Seddon, a local building firm in 1967. Seddons also built Apple Tree Court across the way in 1971. Mr and Mrs Lillian Edgar moved into a flat there when the flats were opened.

One night they woke up coughing. They turned their mattress over and found it was covered with green fungus.

The fungus also covered their walls and ceilings.

As for Mrs Edgar's brother, "You can take it in by being there," she told the local paper. Even my plates have got fungi on them. I'm absolutely fed up with it."

Mr Edgar is badly ill with rheumatism and spends most of the day in bed—on the floor.

A spokesman for Seddons Housing Department said that the department had no responsibility for damage caused by condensation.

Black Ant marries Black Beetle; no mixing of the insect 'races' (Right) Neighbour: 'You could not tell what he was thinking.'

CHILDREN are not born racist or anti-racist. Such attitudes are learnt.

Some of this learning occurs in schools, chiefly in geography and history but more subtly in early education when they are learning to read.

What sort of world does the school reader present to the seven, eight or nine years-old child? It is a middle-class world without industrial workers except for the occasional oddity like Jack Pook in Macmillan's The Yellow Book of Very Short Stories.

Blacks and foreigners appear as comic, curious, stupid or sub-human characters—sub-human in that a close link is made between them and animals. Thus the Manx man learns to carve from the fish of the sea and the bohemians are living with the Red Indians.

Animal tales can contain racist themes. A play entitled 'A Happy Family' from both of Harry Kurtz's New Dramatic Readers is apparently about black white snails. But look at this extract.

MOTHER SNAIL: It is a pity that you and I are the only white snails left, I wish I knew what had happened.

FATHER SNAIL: They were killed, frightened away by a storm. They are not adapted to their adopted home. It's a pity that he's not white like us. How will we find a mate now? We're not part of our race here! Of course there may be black snails about. black snails without houses, but they are so vulgar.

REJECTS

An 'inferior' snail is eventually found for their adopted son.

Juda, whose white snail black occurs as a theme in the story of 'The Clever Little Ant' (The Violet Book, 1958) was adopted. It's a pity that he's not white like us. How will we find a mate now? We're not part of our race here! Of course there may be black snails about. black snails without houses, but they are so vulgar.

Juda, whose white snail black occurs as a theme in the story of 'The Clever Little Ant' (The Violet Book, 1958) was adopted. The snail is finally found for their adopted son.

When you looked at Neighbour's face you couldn't tell what he was thinking. He had a very black face and a rather flat nose and thick black hair. When you looked into his eyes you could not tell what he thought, but he was thinking all the same.

Then comes the theme of the blacks' affinity to animals. The party arrive at a river full of crocodiles. This presents no problem to the blacks as They were used to swimming rivers.

But an ugly, violent scene occurs when the policeman attempts to cross on his horse. The horse is called Judy and both it's name and the description of its fears in the water give it an almost human personality.

Even though 'Mr John had trusted Judy,' the horse panicked.

Mr Jobs falls off and gets his head kicked. 'Three of the black men stood and did nothing but Neighbour jumps in and saves the policeman.'

A reward Neighbour was sent back . . . to his wife and children.

Thus the good, police-loving black man is left in peace and also given a medal for his courage.

The story has a final twist. 'During the Second World War another policeman

Christopher Columbus landed first in the New World and after paddling in God's enchanted uprooted god. The natives, Indians, were polite and respectful and directed him to Haiti . . . He sailed to Haiti.

The Spaniards, the most advanced Europeans of their day introduced Christianity, feudal labour in mines, murder, rape, bloodthousands, strange diseases, and artificial fangs.

There was also slave labour. The pillage of Africa.

In 1789 the slaves of San Domingo revolted, the struggle lasted 12 years. The slaves ultimately to turn the local armed forces, a British force of about 60,000 men and a French expedition of similar size.

The result is the only successful ideas revolve in history. It is a result that C.L.R. James discusses with in his magnificent book, 'The Black Jacobins.'
TWO YEARS AGO Ford workers blasted the first hole through Tory wage policy. Just as the men and women of Ford got to work, the Tories were flushed with enthusiasm at driving the postal workers to defeat. But within a matter of weeks the grins on big business faces were gone.

The unity and determination of Ford manual workers at their strike totally transformed the situation. The Ford empire was losing its market share to other British and international rivals. Carefully projected profits were wiped out. There was no one producing the goods.

It was time to call the fire brigade--Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon--who contrived a settlement to the strike and imposed it on their members.

They ordered a company-administered secret ballot to vote on a new offer--around £2 over two years, short of the parity with Midlands car wages that Ford workers were within an ace of winning.

Now once again the men and women at Ford rose back to the starting gate. They are engaged in a bitter struggle to make sure that Ford and the Tories do not again drive down their living standards and topple the ruthless regime of exploitation which results from production for profit.

Since 1971 the law of the land has joined forces with government and employers. Those docile for big business, the Tories, have enacted a Counter Inflation Bill which Henry Ford and his workers must obey.

Copped

But Ford has been having a fine time with the law of the land for years. In April last year, while Ford workers were in the middle of an economic standstill enforced by the 1971 pay deal, the Tory budget reduced purchase tax on cars by 5 per cent.

But 5 per cent reduction was not enough, according to the car industry, and Ford copped the equivalent of a 4 per cent increase.

Also before Ford gave this particular display of deep concern at inflation, there was a paradox. Immediately after the settlement of the 1971 dispute, Ford boosted its prices by nearly 7 per cent, pleading that the increased costs were the result of the strike.

In fact Ford was aware of and anticipating the forthcoming CBI 'Declaration of Intent'. In July Ford put its name to the agreement to limit price increases over the next 12 months to 5 per cent.

Like many others it signed after lifting its prices. And as soon as this arrangement--extended for an extra six months--came to an end in November last year, Ford raised its prices by another 3 per cent. By sheer coincidence they did so on the day before the freeze was announced.

All in all the company boosted prices by 20 per cent in as many months. And such was the expanding demand for its British-produced cars and components at home and abroad, plus the immense increases in productivity forced out of the workforce over the same period, that the company would have made record profits without any price increases at all. Indeed it should have been able to reduce its prices but, despite the inflation already massive profits, Ford refrained from doing so.

For the past two years Ford has never known such a bonanza. From a £30 million loss in 1971 it has recovered to an estimated profit of £60 million-plus for 1972.

Ford will do at least as well again in 1973. All this is a direct result of the expanding car market, the incredible productivity increases in unemployment and the two year control of wages formulated in the last agreement.

Last year Ford management set almost inane high production targets on, for instance, the Cortina and Cortina estate production line at Dagenham. And it has been getting production very near those targets. It has done the same in the Leamington foundry, without ever replacing workers who have left.

Avoids

Clearly there is no better time for Ford workers to take the company for every single pound they can extract. This is recognized by the same giant unions who are pussy-footing, twisting and turning and wringing hands over what to do about actually opposing the so-called freeze.

The current Ford claim, published by the FGWU, carefully avoids putting a figure on wage demands. But union leaders are (figuratively) a week in the fringe of the devastating attacks on working-class living standards brought about by the present crisis of British capitalism that the value of the 30 per cent rises Ford workers won in 1971 has almost entirely disappeared thanks to increases in the cost of living.

Ruthless

And if this alone was not reason enough to fight the claim all the way to success, Ford workers are still fantastically poorly paid compared to the rates other car workers have extracted from much less profitable firms. Ford has raised the profits from ruthless measured day work for longer than any other British car manufacturer.

And still in 1973 the company is paying something like £10 a week less than British Leyland or Chrysler. The Ford worker only approaches these rates by putting in massive amounts of anti-social overtime.

But Ford workers have a responsibility that extends far beyond themselves. In 1971 they began the demolition job which cleared a way for Tory policy for millions of other workers. They can do it again.

Build

By successfully fighting their struggle--repelling the attentions of the trade union fire brigade and the magistrates courts of the Tory Counter Inflation Act--they can open up new horizons for the lower paid.

By seeking the practical solidarity the trade union leaders are so incapable of forcing the men and women of Ford can help to build a movement that will really see to other people's needs, particularly those of even lesser paid workers.

Ford workers can spearhead a united battle that could melt not just the freeze but the government behind it, too.

THE FIRE BRIGADE: Jones and Scanlon with their US counterpart Leonard Woodcock.

THE CAR WARP--Ford Foundry is grey with greasiness, pollution, overwork. Ford bosses as a show piece have given Europe for me schedules. For penalty, but white alike overtime, earn the touchup, other industries. Pollution is a worker's cure, legal action is a damage to regularly left back. Park air in the only thing, air, is hazardous to the body. Inside the grey, literally everyone, made sick by plant are put to work.

Die

Since they're there, they are a little or risk. Management--sanitation is a risk. They don't get the money. More from coming back.
Tony Barrow, TGWU steward, machine section, Ford Foundry, Luton:

Any law which strikes against the interests of the people must be disobeyed. Direct action against such laws and those who inspired them is 100 per cent justified.

Such freedom as exists in this country and elsewhere did not fall out of the sky via the Houses of Parliament. It was fought for and won against the law by working people.

We must be prepared to select those among us who are to take the full consequences of organising "unlawful" strikes. And we must defend them if they are attacked. We must win. If we fail, then we fail not only for 50,000 car workers but for railwaysmen, miners and dockers, for the whole working class. We must defeat the lead to crush this bloody government.

John Allin, maintenance electricians shop steward, Dagenham:

If fairness had a face to do with it, with their soaring profits and massive sales, Ford would concede £10 a week, four weeks' holiday and the 35-hour working week.

Workers feel very remote from the company, frustrated and angry. There have been virtually no disputes for 12 months, an economic freeze for two years, a massive increase in productivity and fantastic profits.

You just can't tolerate a situation where someone comes along and says: "Sorry lad, there's nothing in return, the country's in dead trouble." People are starting to think about the whole thing, this whole desperate system of society.

Henry Ford: Polished showpiece

Dennis Beadle, TGWU shop steward, wheel and tyre assembly section, FTA plant, Dagenham:

Everybody knows that this is the time to hit Ford. But people do falter on the "law of the land" and "greedy workers" stuff. People fear that the government could keep us out for months and send us back defeated. We know that the TUC is a shower and we know that we must not be taken in.

Colin Beadle, TGWU shop steward, wheel and tyre assembly section, FTA plant, Dagenham:

With this freeze, thousands of other workers are watching us, looking for a lead. Of course many of the men are in awe of the law of the land, because great amounts of time and energy have been spent on bending workers' minds, getting us to accept dozens of rules, regulations and laws which on examination are blatantly against our interests.

This is where the dithering of the union leaders comes in. They are so tied to the present set up, they fail to give the members any lead in educating them for the struggle.

Of course this is a rich man's law and of course it can and must be broken. The only way you ever win anything is by action.

With the state inevitably ranged against us in all our battles, and with almost every plant in the industry on measured day work we need to develop a national shop stewards movement in the industry. We also need to go out and win support like the miners and dockers. We do not need to be isolated and if we do not let ourselves be, we will win.

Political and social freedom are not two separate and unrelated ideas, but are two sides of the one great principle, each being incomplete without the other.

JAMES CONNOLLY

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AN EQUAL FIGHT FOR EQUAL RIGHTS


MOST ACCOUNTS tracing the history of the Women's Liberation Movement in Britain start with the strike of the Ford women in machinists in 1968.

This strike was over the low grading of women's work despite the obvious skill involved. Out of it came the National Joint Action Committee for Women's Equal Rights, which organized a demonstration of trade union women for equal pay in May 1969.

Shella Rowbotham, in one contribution to this book, cites the campaign of the Hull tailorwomen's wives as an influence on the early stages of the movement.

But despite its working-class influences, the movement's appeal and consequent membership became largely, though not entirely, middle-class, and the small workshop groups are built up of middle-aged professional women and the wives of professional men.

It is clear from reading this book that Women's Liberation is not an organisation with a single 'line' but what it has always claimed to be, an umbrella movement of many different attitudes and analyses. Unlike the American Women's Liberation anthologies, The Body Politic contains no hostile attacks on middle-class women.

This is not to say that there have been no women from the left groups in the movement, nor that they have not attempted to apply a Marxist analysis to the position of women in our society. Families from left groups, including the International Socialists, were in the movement from the start, but unlike American Women's Liberation, the British movement cannot be seen as a reaction of women in left groups to the frustrations of their male comrades.

Rather, as Shella Rowbotham points out, it was the initiative of women trade unionists in the origins of the movement that allowed women in left groups to raise the women's question again in marxist circles.

It is a platitude on the left that Women's Liberation is middle-class, and that it has so far failed in its attempts to involve working-class women, despite the efforts of marxist women and the constant claim of women in the movement that this is necessary.

But it is equally impossible to deny the reciprocal effect that the women's liberation movement has had on the ideas of all women and men in Britain.

FORGOTTEN?

If the activities and campaign of Women's Liberation around the four demands—for equal pay, equal education and job opportunities, 24-hour nurseries and free contraception and abortion on demand—are as effective in the above, they have raised awareness of the ways women are oppressed in capitalist society.

Although Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky did not doubt that women had to be involved in the struggle for socialism in their own right, the women's question has been largely forgotten in the past 50 years. An analysis of women's role in declining capitalism has not been developed.

It was left to the radical feminists in the movement to attempt this. The resulting theory that women's oppression stems from their biology and that women cannot be liberated except by 'extirpation of reproduction' must be countered by an understanding of the prominent position of women in primitive societies in which reproductive roles did not exist.

Feminism is not to be attacked on a purely theoretical level. It is necessary to involve working women in politics, in their unions and in their states.

For anyone (and they are mainly blokes) who believes the women's movement to be a sterile monochromy of middle-class feminists engaged in continuous 'talk sessions', or for those who claim the movement is dead, The Body Politic may make enlightening reading.

It is not entirely representative of the writings and activities of the movement and it is a pity that documents to conferences were not included, to give an idea of the debates which affected the development of the movement.

But it does include interesting articles and statistics on women and the unions, black women in the labour force and women in labour history.

WHERE AGNEW IS MASTER OF SEWERS

WITHOUT MARX OR JESUS, by Jean-Francois Revel, Paladin, 50p.

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS, by Hunter Thompson, Penguin, 70p.

The FIRST of these books is sub-titled 'The Rise of Revolution has begun.' Unfortunately the author doesn't tell us what kind of revolution he means, where it has come from, or where it is going.

He is more concerned with the cultural and intellectual climate within France than with the revolutionary forces there are now in the USA.

Is a rather indulgent afterword Mary McCarthy explains that Revel is an explorer of myths, a puckish scribbler, using his own peculiar concept of America to criticise the intellectual and political paralysis prevalent in French society. She praises him as a pamphleteer, a kind of 20th-century Swift, describing America instead of Lilliput.

This semi-literary justification seems inadequate, for, in translation, he has lost most of the style except when dealing specifically with the Left. The Vietnamese make a clear distinction between that which is good and that which is bad in American society. Europeans, who have suffered infinitely less in the past 20 years, should be able to do the same.

Unlike Without Marx or Jesus, Fear and Loathing Las Vegas is written by an observer. Hunter Thompson is down there, rooting around in the psyche rubish-heap of the Middle American mind. He lacks Revel's sophistication but makes up for it in drive and an ability to ride the nightmare through to the very end.

He has written an intense, paranoid, hallucinatory book that is repelling and fascinating at one and the same time.

Vegas is a gash, vicious town where 'the shark ethic prevails.' He describes the gambling and the kind of resort where Nixon's biggest financial backers and Mafia capos would take a holiday. 'If Charles Mansou checked into the Sahara Hotel tomorrow, nobody would hustle him as long as he tipped big.'

With Nixon on television and the Battle Hymn of Lieutenant Calley on the radio, Thompson was every kind of drug, psychedelic and otherwise, to evade the realities of the city. Vegas becomes a microcosm of America in 1971, with Nixon at the mayor and Agnew as master of sewers.

Wave

In a particularly perceptive way Friday compares the decline of the underground culture. He remembers the naive optimism of the mid-1960s. Our energy would simply prevail. There was no point in fighting — on our side or theirs. We had all the momentum; we were riding the crest of a high and beautiful wave... Now, less than five years later, you can go up on a steep hill in Las Vegas and look West, and with the right kind of eyes you can almost see the high-water mark—that place where the wave finally broke and rolled back.'

Thompson's disgust with the Nixons and the Joe Fraziers is matched by his despair at the decline of the opposition.

Some revolutionsaries may be tempted to smirk at the failure of 'hippie' to cope with 'the grim, most-horrible realities of life', but before they do so, they should consider something of which even Revel is aware. The climate of opinion and the cultural attitudes that evolved in the USA opened up a whole area of discussion on the left. The thinking of an entire generation has been affected. Stock attitudes to blacks, women, homosexuals, and even the way we use our resources, have been challenged.

Politics has been brought into the home, the kitchen and the bed, as well as into the factory, because quite simply, politics is not only about that power but about how people live.

Roger Lewis
THE TWO LAWS OF CENSORSHIP

Nigel Fountain on the TV bosses

They don't go on about earthquakes much in Russia, whose rulers, in their wisdom, consider that such information might lead to dismay among the population, grumbling that the system isn't all it's cracked up to be.

In South Africa and Ireland academics get paid large sums of money to read sufficient books such as Black Beauty and the novels of Flora O'Brien in order to conclude that no one else should read these books, and perhaps not even goats.

We don't do things like that in Britain. We've got a free press, television, parliament and a court of law such as at the old ear shaped up under some lucky voiced of Black Beauty then there can be no doubt that the victim will receive massive coverage in the popular press and quite likely serialise his or her sexual exploits in the News of the World for a large fee.

Censorship in this country is far more subtle than that. It comes down to two techniques, both of which are becoming more popular.

LAW ONE: If you're going to expose anything, expose a wife-beater, or a man selling iced cows to mentally retarded Arabs, it's really shocking and nobody gives a damn one way or another. Under no circumstances is the publisher the Home Secretary.

LAW TWO: Noble the exposer be a lady, the victims are very poor and wrap him in sufficient cotton wool to ensure that he won't be able to differentiate between an igloo and the Marmalade Hilton.

Law One is magnificently demonstrated by the Granada Film in Action programme The Friends and Influence off John L. Poslusz. The film was not banned on legal grounds—the lawyers of both Granada and the Independent Broadcasting Authority had closed in. The issue was one of 'policy'.

BANNED

Accusations were made that it was 'uninsideable', that it was 'unwarrantable' and that it was 'allowed to go on for too long' and there is no chance of court proceedings in the next 16 months. There were worries about 'contempt', but Poslusz is at a bankruptcy proceedings in a criminal court.

To the IBA, which banned the programme, the crucial point was tightening up that the case raised the whole question of the conduct of public affairs—and that the film was an attack on the IBA itself had clear links with the witch hunt.

What now worries the workers on the IBA is that it is difficult to see just how far they can go in future, now this formidable barrier to invasion has finally been erected.

The IBA has created a precedent by which any unit which proposes any new series of public service programmes can automatically be immediately authorised.

It conforms to a picture. Last week Ida Farb was seen on television reading from a copy of the Bible into a children's home—and the enormously topazite operation began. One just try to get permission to film the only hospital, or any area where the state exerts direct power. There's an example of how Law Two works. Recently I interviewed a man who had been prominent in the BBC drama series field in the mid-1960s. Because he wishes to go on eating out the next few years have withheld his name. Over the years he had used the scenes of cotton wool forming, and lost his early optimism.

I went into TV because I thought that this was the place where the people—the important thing was to try to express it. There was a liberal atmosphere within which the audience could react and form a critical society. Ten years ago Stuart Wolf, the controller, was always defending the right to make programmes. This is now an attitude very few BBC officials cling to, certainly not the head of the unit where it happens to lie, to keep up an inadequate posture, so that it can control everything else more rigidly.

Another theory is that Play for Today and Garnett succeed. The idea that the only designated areas for success, big audiences, big money is more attractive to the corporation of both, I suppose, a contradiction which runs all through this society.

That's drivel. But the same story can be told in current affairs, news-watch out for the weather forecast.

POSTURE

A backbench has been whipped up in the community as a justification for political control. That's a process which has gone on ever since. It's been more intense over the past three years, but has accelerated steadily over the past eight.

I thought it might be possible to go on fighting, to become a political base, rather than Tony Garnett (of The Big Flame) has managed through his work with the lifting of censorship.

Why do the BBC tolerate people like Garnett? Well there have to be restraints, precisely. And the censorship wardens who actually control programmes.

FORCED

This is where the entire climate of TV has changed. There was a directive which went round all light entertainment producers on the subject of language, particularly the way that the word 'shit' was used on the air.

The only programme using it 'legitimately' was Till Death Us Do Part, because everyone knew Garnett was going to cover it. The BBC has done this, and this helped 'alienate the audience from the programme. It may have been an unwise decision, but it isn't quasi-political censorship.

Ten years ago we had little interference, without forced alterations of the character of the work. The feeling is that, as writer, director and producer, you are doing a show, you know the material is not erotic, but it isn't quasi-political censorship, it isn't theviewpoint of a political party.

That person, the newly-honoured Andrew Mamas, has issued a statement through the Writers' Guild announcing that he isn't interested in politics, or political subjects, that the BBC wants "good family entertainment" and that he shouldn't be commissioned. If it's written, it'll be made, but not through the back door of the director.

CHANGED

Then of course the modern technology means you can make a TV programme, which makes it easy to edit.

When I started with the BBC there was no such thing as a producer and director. Everyone was worried about the programme, concerned to make sure it was the best it could be, but did it yourself, except in a series where there could be a few episodes, in plays there was no editing.

The independence, the ideal of the creator, has changed. The director who used to be a collaborator, an apparatus, someone doing a job, often not able to do the plays himself.

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The servant Anna confronts the dying Agnes—a scene from Ingmar Bergman’s latest film

HOLDING THE MIRROR UP TO A DYING CLASS

INTERNATIONALLY acclaimed Swedish film director Ingmar Bergman (he was featured on the cover of Time magazine) continues his pre-occupation with the themes of boredom, suffering and death in his latest, prize-winning film Crisis and Whispers, now showing at the Curzon cinema in London’s Mayfair.

Now that is probably saying enough for most readers, but in view of the esteem in which he and his select company, are held by our cultural guardians, (certainly, acts, I was lily represented by the manager, who took out a large school master’s pocket watch and inferred me, with a withering look, that I had already missed 12 minutes of the film) I would like to take the analysis further.

In this film, Bergman’s bleak, Protestant vision (this son of a pastor, he was punished as a child by being locked in a cupboard) is mitigated, usually by the use of colour, a device he used only once before in his whole career, and by master and by Bach and Chopin.

The story touches, the surrounding death of Agnes, observed by her sister, Kati and Maria, and targeted by the sallow Anna, the servant whose simple kindness was accepted by the sick immediately after Agnes’ death. ‘She’s strong, healthy woman, she’ll have no difficulty finding work.’

It is set, at the turn of the century, in a Swedish village, on the one hand the privileged inhabitants full emotionally isolated, locked into the rigid community which is being unraveled by a servant, they turn more inward and, in the attempt to fill the vacuum with formalism and ritual, the village becomes a character.

Bergman holds up the mirror to this backdrop, its studied indifference, and the cruel reality of the bourgeois marriage society. The husband, in their old age, has a husband, matromial his brother in a broken wine glass, and then presents herself in his bed, speeded by, with affection and tenderness.

The younger sister, Maria, succumbs to the family doctor, finds her biodad husband to a pathetically ineffectual suicide attempt with a paperknife, which only increased her disgust towards him.

Clearly not so well in this household, which could be seen as a symbol of a class without a future. At Agnes’ death-bed, the priest speaks of her privilege in being called upon to bear such suffering on behalf of all, and asks her spirit to pray that God gives some comfort to those who must endure these wretched existences here on earth. In the end, she is resurrected, her torment un Walter, to the horror of her sisters. It is only in the arms of the servant Anna that her death becomes completed; symbolic again, perhaps, in terms of class.

In Bergman’s vision, then, the exploited may triumph—but only in a Christian sense, by virtue of innocence and simple faith. But, they add to the meaning that solidarity and community can give to existence, but remains deeply pessimistic about the possibilities of human relations in childhood, together with the rarefied world of ‘art cinema’, that he and his troops have inhabited for so long, compared to prose to present seeing a clear way forward.

Obsessive, doubtmg and pessimistic, he has made a career of painting on the same mind—quite brilliantly indeed—to the cursed introspective world of middle-class intellectuals.

David Wild
THE UNIONS

AS FAR AS THE members of the National Society of Operative Printers and Assistants are concerned, their organisation has always been implacably opposed to the Industrial Relations Act and all of its provisions.

The union’s general secretary, Richard Brayshaw, has consistently appeared on the left of the TUC general council. He has called for the TUC to break with talks to the Toiies until the Industrial Relations Act was suspended, later hinting that a general strike alone would bring them down.

He later insisted that the TUC boycott the Downing Street talks until the oppressive legislation is set aside.

At the March 1971 special TUC conference, after the Toiies’ opposition to the then Industrial Relations Bill, the NATSOPA delegation naturally cast its votes in support of the successful TUC general council proposition strongly advising unions not to register and outlining an overall policy of opposition to the legislation the institutions the legislation would set up.

As the April 1971 issue of the NATSOPA newsletter, ‘Affiliated unions shall be strongly advised not to register under the Act and by any union decides to apply to be entered on the provisional register, or to take any steps to remain on the provisional register, it shall inform the General Brayshaw has consistently done so, and give the General Council the opportunity to express a view."

SPEECHES

At the annual congress at Blackpool in September of that year, the NATSOPA delegation voted with the motion to encourage affiliated unions to strengthen the TUC position from one of neutrality to one of active opposition to registration to one of ‘instructing’ unions not to register. They won the day.

Two months later, NATSOPA took the start of the TUC in Preston. It was the first time that the union had been carefully preparing what might generously be termed ‘contingency plans’ — an act before they took NATSOPA off the register, the set up another organisation which they registered under the old trade union Act of 1871 and 1876 and which was subsequently transferred to the provisional register set up by the Industrial Relations Act 1971. All the time that they had been making militant speeches against the Act, the vicious class nature of the government and calling on their members to hold meetings and demonstrations to Kill the Bill, the NATSOPA leaders had been overworking on the basis that the Bill would become an Act and the Act would be here to stay.

On 24th May 1972 a secret meeting held in the NATSOPA offices in London, was attended by representatives of full-time national officials of the union, its trustees and the general secretary’s assistant. Concluding the organisation, the Association of Professional Technicians and Graphical and Service Personnel.

meets less than one week after the new registration was registered. It appears that the matter was never raised even on the union executive.

In any case the union members were at no time consulted or informed. Their union journal led them to believe that they were part of an entirely unregistered union.

There was no more any discussion with the TUC general council of which Dick Brayshaw was and a member of the new committee with the original March TUC non-co-operation action. And with this secret body on the register throughout. NATSOPA’s TUC delegates were placed in the peculiar situation of voting at the Brighton TUC in favour of the suspension from Congress of organisations like the National Union of Seamen, the National Union of Bank Employees and the National Graphical Association who were openly on the register.

One person who did know about the situation was the Registrar of the TUC and Employer Associations, the state appointed charged with administering the registration aspects of the Tory Industrial Relations Act.

In August, the TUC’s general secretary, Richard Brayshaw, announced that his union had been granted a derogation that would enable it to continue functioning as an unregistered union.

BRIDGEBOROUGH: run-down but

by David East

This body went on to the old-style register on 19 July 1971 and on to the new Registrar’s books on the same date and on 13 November 1971. And while NATSOPA despised the act and lost its income, the Registrar of Printing Technicians and Graphical and Service Personnel did not appear, as registered in fact it came off the register three weeks ago, on Friday 26 January 1973.

The "new" organisation had exactly the same head office as the deregistered NATSOPA and its membership covered precisely the same area. It had the same top official, Dick Brayshaw, known as treasurer or general secretary, who was to be in power until the beginning of 1976.

The first executive committee was composed entirely of full-time office and employees of the union. Its members were Owen O’Brien, Arthur Davis, John Selby, All Skinner, Archie Smith and Joan Long, the general secretary’s personal assistant.

No mention of the operation was made in the annual report of the NATSOPA executive to the 1971 Governing Council of the union which

GAMES

He could not say whether or not they had different memberships, nor explains how it came to pass that both bodies, the registered NATSOPA and the unregistered Association of Printing Technicians and Graphical and Media Personnel. A spokesman for the Registrar of Trade Unions and Employers Associations said that there were two entirely different organisations.

QUESTIONS

They vest control of funds in very few hands, and reproduce that in the original rule book. And the third organisation is used as a base for applying for agency jobs and the other so-called advantages offered in the Act.

The fact that NATSOPA’s shell has been taken over the matter as speedily and secretly as it went on is probably due to new legal advice and to the fact that a few people were beginning to ask questions. The style of the whole operation is, however, by no means unique.

The July 1972 issue of the union’s journal carried a prominent article under the title ‘City Strippers: the bare facts’ which denounced asset stripping as ‘big business for the rival capitalists’. Three weeks later the Sunday Times disclosed that the Alliance was holding a commercial radio contract in association with Thames Capital, the ‘Thames Capital, John Bentley.’
THEORY TAX FIDDLERS

VATART: POSSESSED
POTION FOR THE WORKERS

That TV Blackout -Next Time a 'Show-In'

HEARTY congratulations to the ACTT members who enforced a half hour blackout on TV. It was a protest against the suppression of the Posolony film. This action by the ACTT makes it clear to all the only people who have a working class free inquiry are the organised workers.

Let us hope that this is only a beginning: that printworkers and journalists will take action similar to the ACTT when it is necessary, as often as we can.

Better still, perhaps the ACTT members will ask themselves: "Who does Graham belong to anyway?" Bernardine who takes in the money from our work, or to us who do the work? And perhaps then they will go beyond a protest blackout (with no announcement that it was a protest, the reason for it the same, the film will be censored, and the film themselves, with an announcement that the bosses have tried to suppress it.)

EYVER, London W.C.

Letters to Socialist Worker must be typed or written on one side of the paper only. Letters may be cut for space.

that is required of the moment is that we operate a VAT system. But the aim is a single rate of VAT throughout the EEC. Every other nation taxes necessities between 6 per cent and 7 per cent. Unhappily in future we will pay VAT on food.

A common view of VAT is that 'it won't add up to 10p an article of 10p'. The correct way to see it is that you spend £10 per week on taxexable goods and you will have to pay £1 tax. Another inflationary aspect of the VAT system is that big stores will undoubtedly employ extra staff to deal with VAT and the cost on you. (Incidentally they will save enormously by not paying purchase tax on goods subsequently scrapd or kept, VAT is only paid on goods sold)

And they will be more able to sue the public when they are the group who is going to be hardest hit by the large amount of unpaid paperwork the VAT system will produce for the Commons and Exchequer.

The reactionary nature of the VAT system was recognised by that prominent champion of the oppressed Douglas Jay MP, when he wrote of its adoption: "Much if not all the progress made in the last 50 years will be lost, and we will have a greater equality of income, which is the greatest single foundation of democracy. We should risk moving back towards the sort of inequality prevailing in Italy and France and the widespread poverty and stress which this always provokes."

Jeff Shaw
DEMONSTRATOR ACQUITTED OF ASSAULT AFTER POLICE WITNESS CHANGES STORY

BRIAN SON: Second trial

LONDON: Brian Son, 20-year-old apprentice printer and member of the International Socialists, was found not guilty at Westminster Magistrates Court today after a week of assessing police workers, causing him actual bodily harm, and possessing a bladed article. He had been accused of last February at a London-sponsored demonstration in protest at the police killing of Daniel Dürry. The jury before whom Brian was tried had heard four witnesses, each of whom sought to reach a verdict and a retiral was ordered. On Thursday, Brian appeared at the trial to support the accusation of assault by the police officer who arrested Brian. At the hearing, Brian’s solicitor stated his case. Where he had seen he had said both the court and the correct, he now said he had never been able to see the arrest because of the dark and the confusion.

The judge, who constantly interrupted disputed evidence and insulted the defense counsel, said he was aware that this was quite inadmissible. Judge Hughes is a former lieutenant of the Royal Navy Reserve, former member of the East Police Authority, and former president of his local Tory Party.

LOUGHBOROUGH: 836 men, more than half the workers at William Cotton’s knitting machines factory, have received redundancy notices in their pay packets last Friday. The factory is part of Charles Clod’s Bentley Engineering Group.

No action

It took the jury just 5 minutes to assess Brian Son’s case of the “not guilty” verdict. The only witness on which Brian Son was involved was as a victim of the police of Paddington Police Station after his arrest. The Director of Public Prosecutions has already ruled that no action is warranted on two complaints brought against police officers, but Brian may bring a civil legal action against the officer he was accused of assaulting.

COãNDALE IS 5

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TUESDAY 11 11

THURSDAY 22 22

FRIDAY 22 22

HIGAN: “The Prison” — Why is the integration of prisoners not working? Speaker: Dr. Keith O’Neill, 1700 Wednesday, 6 pm


HOUNSFIELD: Henry Wicks on the 30th at, 11.30 pm. Tickets £1.00. Members only.

LEAMINGTON: Current issues in Soviet Russia, Speaker: Dr. Keith O’Neill, 25 January, 11.30 pm. Members only. Contact: P. Perkins, 13 West Street, Brighton.

GLOUCESTER: Meeting open to the public. Speaker: Dr. Keith O’Neill, 30 January, 11.30 pm. Members only. Contact: D. Perkins, 13 West Street, Brighton.

ILFORD AND DAGENHAM IS 5 public meeting: Speaker: Dr. Keith O’Neill. 50th birthday party — Speaker: Dr. Keith O’Neill. Contact: P. Perkins, 13 West Street, Brighton.

WANDSWORTH: Tuesday 11 11

JUDE: 2:30pm on 24 January, Speaker: Dr. Keith O’Neill. Contact: P. Perkins, 13 West Street, Brighton.

OTHER MEETINGS

SAVE FAMILY ALLOWANCES

UNIONS AGREE TO MAKE REDUNDANCY OFFERS

NOW: LONDON: The union for the workers at the large textile factory, which is made of Cotton’s, has been closed for several years, and its management has made no attempt to find work for the workers on other machines or to other factories. The local branch of the engineering union (AUEW) has accounted for management redundancy, the union secretary, Eddie Scrivens, said that the workers out of the factory will be compensated for their loss of work, he said. The cut-back of the labor force to the factory means that the company will need to make the factory a viable proposition for its continued existence.

RUMOUR

Cotton’s is ‘not viable’ because of deliberate Bentley Group policy. Without a force to manage change in the factory will probably close completely within two years. The workers at the factory are still waiting to leave. It means that 1500 jobs are lost in four years.

The rumour is circulating that

WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A BLOB WHO ROBS YOUR HOME AND ONE WHO ROBS YOUR-energy? The first will go to prison and the second will pay his bills.

This comment on the mentality of the owners of Rockway Glass, who are closing their London workshop, quickly came from Arthur Harris, chairman of the Rockway Glass Company, at a public meeting last Sunday morning. Most of the workers at the local trade union branch, heard Arthur Harris and other local trade unionists in the background to the threatened closure.

The announcement that the factory would close was a secret. On 19 January, the regional manager of Rockway Glass said that the factory was being moved. The plant was over-producing, Arthur Harris and other local trade unionists think the factory had fallen into disuse.

The response of the workers was that the factory would be closed. Many of the workers were out of work production.

Every effort

The real reason for the closure is rocketing fuel costs in London. The site is just not viable. The only way left open is to go out of business. Between £15 million and £20 million of out of work payments, explained Harris. He made clear that the future would be in a loss and that the workers were facing a closure threat. A one-day strike is to begin this Friday.

In a message of support from the Group, published in the Upper Clyde, Hub McBeath, a holtamaker’s shop steward, said that the trade union leadership have failed to act. The workers are facing a closure threat.

SECRET MEETING OF RIGHT-WING EXTREMISTS

THE BINTER links between the right-wing Tory Monday Club and the nationalist Front National are likely to get another powerful boost at a “secret” meeting later this month.

John Lysdall, National Front chair- man, is due to address the Monday Club on 24th. The two organizations have a long history of cooperation, and John has been invited to address the meeting. Lysdall is known for his anti-immigrant and anti-Semitic views.

The meeting follows a series of friendly gatherings between the two groups. The meeting will take place at a location to be announced. The meeting is expected to be attended by representatives of both groups.

The meeting is expected to result in a boost to the Front National, which has seen a surge in popularity in recent months. The meeting is likely to provide a boost to the party's efforts to increase its support among the right-wing electorate.

The meeting is expected to be a closed meeting, with only invited guests being allowed to attend. The decision to hold a closed meeting is likely to be seen as a sign of the groups’ desire to keep their activities out of the public eye.

The meeting is expected to be a high-profile event, with both groups promoting it heavily in the media. The meeting is expected to be covered by a large number of media outlets, including television and radio.

The meeting is expected to be a key moment in the ongoing relationship between the two groups. It is likely to be seen as a positive development for both organizations, and it is expected to increase the number of supporters for both groups.
Flying, the union's general secretary, who told them there would be a total shut down of the union's offices if the strike was not settled. The reason he gave for such action was that the company's offer of at least another 10 per cent on the current weekly rate for full time workers did not meet the demand of the workers and that the pay for part time workers should be 80 per cent of the full time rate. The union did not allow the workers to cross the picket line even if they wanted to. The result was a walkout by all the workers who were on strike.

The company's announcement that it would be closing the factory was met with anger by the workers, who described the move as a desperate attempt to force the workers to return to work. The union called for a general strike to show solidarity with the workers at the factory.

The workers at the factory were determined to continue the strike until their demands were met. They were supported by the trade union movement and the community, who organized rallies and meetings in support of the workers.

The strike ended after 10 days, when the company finally agreed to the workers' demands. The workers returned to work and the factory was back in operation. The union celebrated the victory of the workers and the power of solidarity and unity.

**Brisbane**

**WOMEN FIGHT FOR UNION RECOGNITION**

BLACKPOOL—65 women at Empire Swimming Pools have been on strike for union recognition since last Friday. The youngest strike is 16 years old and the oldest is 42. The women are striking to demand equal pay and recognition of their work.

**Meeting**

The union spent the weekend trying to hammer out a policy to enforce the demands for no redundancies and work for full pay. The union was advised that there is no reason at the present time for any industrial action. However, the women are prepared to take a strike if the management doesn't meet their demands.

The women are organizing to fight for their rights, and the union is supporting them. The women are making good progress in their strike, and the union is confident that they will achieve their goals.
Ford hiding behind Taorsi says convention was 'United action is vital'

by Paul Holborow

WOLVERHAMPTON, 22 May: in response to the scurrility of the 4,000-strong picket, the chair of NECC, and a former chairman of the Midlands Area Council, Mr John Aitcheson, said, "The picketing outside Nuneaton was designed to impress the workmen with the importance of the strike". Mr Aitcheson, who has been busy for the past few days, said, "The picketing outside Nuneaton was designed to impress the workmen with the importance of the strike".

ICE BREAKERS

Tom Clewteff: how many further arguments or demonstrations or strikes.

"The resolve of the members is heightened when they see the women of EDSO 5000-line's factory meet the latest offer with a smile and good cheer. We will not be cowed," said a member of the NECC, who has been on the picket line for a week.

"But our members have learnt a great deal. They are not fools. They know that any action taken by the organisation and the management is of no use to them. We are really, really, really determined."