AT THE SPECIAL TUC on Monday the leaders of the big unions gave belated recognition to the swelling revolt of lower paid workers against the government's wage freeze.

The call for a 'one day national protest and stoppage' must be supported by every trade unionist. So too must the decision to 'co-ordinate and lead co-ordinated action in support of affiliated unions in dispute.'

If the TUC decisions are translated into massive industrial action, then they can give the momentum to the fight against the wage freeze and in defence of the right to take industrial action against low pay.

But the danger is that those who voted against the calls for action at the TUC and even many of the union leaders who voted in favour will now try to sabotage them in practice. They will posture effective solidarity action with the gas men and hospital workers until it is too late and will try to water down the one-day strike until it is no more than a question of half-day stoppages and prolonged dinner hour meetings.

Instead of seeing the strike as the beginning of a massive campaign in support of groups of workers under attack, they will see it as a once and for all opportunity to conciliate.

AWAKE

No one should be surprised by such manoeuvres. The leaders of the big unions spent most of the last year talking to Heath.

It was not some overnight conversion to militancy that made them vote for the one-day strike. It was an awareness on their part that their hold on the unions could be undermined by a militancy of lower paid groups of workers.

Work's time! Don't wait for Vic Feather to give a lead in making the TUC decisions effective. If rank and file action is not called for and nothing is done, then the TUC's limited call would never have been achieved. And unless militants prepare the ground now there is no guarantee of the one-day strike's success.

The TUC leaders who refused adequate support to the postal workers, the miners and the dockers, are unlikely to give real heed to the hospital workers and the gas men unless forced to do so from below.

PREPARE

Rank and file activists in every union must insist that their leaders live up to the promises given at the special TUC. And we must all stand back for officials to give the go-ahead before taking action at rank and file level.

But Tories hope they will be able to wear down the gas men, the hospital workers, the teachers and the civil servants while the rest of the trade union movement stands by without taking real solidarity action. And words alone from the TUC do not worry them.

Shop stewards' committees and union branches must not yet give up on their firing line must prepare for solidarity action with those workers that are in the trenches. Collections, blockading, the...

To back page colone

TUC Report: pages 2 and 3

'ENCLOSE £1. I appreciate the consistent support given by Socialist Worker to the Irish workers' class in its struggle against British imperialism. The £1 is to help the expansion of Socialist Worker into a better and bigger weapon to attack the Tory government and the rotten system they represent.' So wrote one reader this week.

An old age pensioner from Armagh sent us £1 with a promise 'to give it every week until we raise the £30,000.'

Students in Manchester Polytechnic sent us £16.40 with a message: 'From student IS supporters and SW readers at Manchester Polytechnic, who realise that the main fight lies at rank and file level. Small amount reflects how hard freeze is hitting us, and much of the money has been raised on Appeal Thursdays in the odd couple of bob. However, in this way, more money can be raised each week.' Thanks, too, to the Students Union of York for their £20 donation.

One of the most encouraging features in the growing number of collections we are receiving from readers in places of work, readers on the West Yorks' buses in York collected £2.45, £1.15 and £1.11, while one woman, who worked in Pressed Steel Fisher in Birmingham and £1 from a GKN Birmingham worker, A jumble sale in Nelson raised £1.17.

As usual IS branches did their bit. We received the following: From Warrington £100, Tower Hamlets £14, Goldsborough £5.53, Twyfold £11, Cambridgeshire £21.10, Sheffield £35, Liverpool £30.80, Harlow £1, Glasgow North £21.72, Watlington £21, Sunderland £3, Bristol £30, Warrington £20, York £40.81, Rainham £12, Stirling £15.50, Rugby £10, North Herts £60.

We received £63.89 during the week, bringing the grand total to £23,323. A few more here and there would arrive at our target of £30,000.

[Donations to Tony Gifford, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8BN.]

Barber laithes up the rich

Tony Barber's 'neutral' budget on Tuesday brought joyful news to one section of the population. At least. It left intact tax changes introduced last year, due to come into effect this April.

These will mean considerable increases in income for the lucky few who get incomes of £6000 or more.

Consider, for instance, Sir Frank Figures, the man who is to be exempted from paying any group of workers getting more than a £1 plus 4 per cent wage increase. His salary is to be a cool £200 a week as head of the Tories' new Pay Board.

Under the tax changes he will pay £350 a year less tax. Edward Heath himself will be £6 a week better off.

All over Britain company directors and shareholders will be gaining similar benefits.

A few thousand people only will benefit from these changes. Yet between them they will start enjoying £300 million a year extra from the beginning of April.

By contrast, the sweet alliance of old age pensioners, who will get a miserly £1 increase in their pensions until October, will have to share £500 million a year.

Fairness

The government has claimed that its policy is based upon 'fairness', but it is riddled out at almost as much among the few that are very rich as it is among the vast number who are very poor.

The government has tried to sugar the pill in a number of ways — although the sugar cannot taste too sweet to the pensioners who somehow must survive through the summer's rising food prices and the effects of VAT set into their pockets.

The cut in the cost of the insurance stamp is designed to try to appeal to workers. But 4p is hardly enough to pay for the in- creases in, say, the pound of sausages in the last three months, let alone compensate for the 6 per cent by which prices have risen during the wage freeze.

It is no real concession at all for the government to announce that this year's cost of living index has never been taxed in the past, 1971 will not be subject to VAT in the future as will all other goods and services will be pushed up by VAT.

The other 'compensation' — the ending of taxes on 'necessary' expenditure — is little more than a deliberate attempt at deception. Although the price of sweets and soft drinks is not nearly as important for most people as the prices of bread and meat, they have a big influence on the government's own Retail Price Index.

By increasing the price, the government hopes to hide the real increase in the cost of living on other items.
**Troops on murder charge**

**TWO British soldiers have been charged with the murder of a Catholic priest.** The soldiers were accused of attempting to murder three Catholics outside the city last June. The soldiers belonged to one of the British Army's plain clothes units, which were reportedly driving around Belfast in civilian cars. These units have been responsible for the deaths of many Catholics in the city over the last year, and even those individuals who have not been responsible, they have insisted that there is nothing wrong.

The case in question was not a question of murder. The three men were standing at a taxi rank on the Glen Road, outside the city, on 22 June—the day the Private announced their arrest, when someone fired at them from a car.

The army later issued this statement: "Shortly after midday a civilian patrol wearing plain clothes and on surveillance duty was travelling eastwards on the Glen Road. A group of men standing at the bus stop turned out of the way and shot at the rear window of the vehicle, narrowly missing a soldier. A soldier immediately fired back and the men were seen to fall. Another man in a nearby house was also shot by army fire."

**Unusual**

In quite a different way, the men were never charged with anything. The investigation was adjourned and nobody was being questioned. The soldiers were said to have shot blanks, and may indicate friction between the police and the military forces.

There are also a number of other peculiarities. Firstly, the soldiers were allowed to carry weapons in the car, and may indicate friction between the police and the military. Secondly, when questioned about the weapons and ammunition, one of the soldiers stated, "That ammunition had nothing to do with me. The ammunition belongs to the police at Castlejohn, this is issued by the army, not the Special Branch."
The ammunition was also issued for use in a Thompson sub-machine gun.

**Suspected**

One of the accused soldiers, Capt. James McGregor, is an officer of the Parachute Regiment, although he was not in the North on this particular day. It is known that the Special Air Service Regiment is often involved in such activities.

The army, which regards the soldiers as a regiment of the British Army, trained in counter-insurgency tactics, including the use of soldiers in civilian clothes, perpetrators of terrorism, and killers of "non-combatants of the public"—as Frank Killen, the army's "expert," has put it.

"Yes, it has always been accepted here that little was being done to curtail the activities of the service, and it is no secret that the British Army was itself involved in these activities," says a member of the SAS. This case will certainly increase the pressure on the army.

**Pioneered**

William Whitelaw's claim that he would "do anything to save a life" seems to be no more than a truism at present. He has said that he would be prepared to sign a 2 per cent cut in wages, which would not be enough to stop violence, and that the government was committed to bring in a new Labour policy.

MIKE MILLER

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**In a blaze of publicity the Labour Party and the TUC issued their policy statement for the next Labour government.**

**Promises, promises in new Labour-TUC policy**

**IN A BLAZE of publicity the Labour Party and the TUC issued their policy statement for the next Labour government.**

**Fumon from the TUC on 15th April, 1964.**

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**Pioneered**

**What does the document mean?**

**The document does not mean that all these policies were actually pioneered by the last Labour government.**

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**Unprecedented**

**On taking office, it says, a Labour government would decide its policy in consultation with the TUC and 'having due regard to the circumstances of the time.' It makes the point that 'it will be impossible to specify the precise economic conditions in which the Labour government takes office.'**

**The precise economic circumstances in which the 1964 Labour government came to power were that the country owned the wealth of the United Kingdom.**

---

Chris Harman
Feather's was a highly political shop stewards group in that the working-class movement must be subordinate to the trade union movement even when that system is visibly in decline.

The one issue that separates the TGWU from the TUC is the lack of consideration throughout food prices and rents. After all, how can workers be stung if a government at a time and we have already seen from the commentaries on its relationship with it, whatever its policies, the role.

And the reason it is 'short-sighted' of the TGWU to press for better pay and better terms and conditions. In a situation where strikes illegal, he means that 'collective bargaining is the way of avoiding disputes... it is in the interest of industrial peace that collective bargaining should go on.'

And through the big explosion of the TGWU's opposition Feather on his recommendation that nothing at all should be done by way of action, their spokesperson in no way challenged the logic of his approach.

For Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon this battle is not about fundamentals. It is about who administers the wage policy, about the extent of controls to food prices and rents. Nothing more.

So much for his criticism of the behaviour of successive governments. They have not been, he says, mildly, or even severely, irrational and this is the point he wants to make across the negotiating table if some token of sanctioned action is taken by the movement.

But there was another factor at work in this battle. Harry Urwin of the TGWU, who moved the motion which at the TGWU's debate income members to take part to a day of industrial action against the government's wage control policy, touched on this.

Sneer

Urwin talked of those in the movement who were sneering at their leaders. They were the words with deeds. His motion was a direct call to demonstrate solidarity, to take part to a day of industrial action.

But despite the delicacy of formulation, the people who were for outrageous, were for the government with offered no other olive branch. Like the TUC's attempt they take at heart at moderation.

Finally, when the Electricians explained that on the three occasions he had talked to the government he had not found them so unyielding as his friend Hugh Scanlon was making out. And George said he never forgot that it was embarrassing on a course of action that had terrible consequences—a real fight with the government of the day.

Chaplin had raised no objection to the General Council's attempt to prevent any real discussion at the Congress, but once that token action was taken, such talk was unrepresentative.

It was too with the Post Office Workers. Tom Jackson indicated once again from the rostrum that any real opposition to the TUC would actually be to the government's advantage.

It would somewhat discourage people who are voting Labour at the next election. His colleague Norman Stagg protested bitterly at the TUC's move to fight the government. This was dangerous, he said, because people would not respond. Mr. Smith will doubtless do his best to ensure that they do not respond. At no time was there any move to change such logic. And the big black times are not unprecedentedly moved into action to straighten the proposition from ASTMS, the Association of Teachers.

This envisaged setting up of a co-ordinating committee of the General Council and the various unions actually involved in fighting the government.

This could not be tolerated because it would have diminished the influence of forces on the General Council and could have put some power in the hands of those who might actually use it.

Avoid

At no time and in no way in the Congress were the real issues discussed. The gas workers' strike was paraded as an example of the government's inflexibility. It was very sad that workers who had given such wonderful productivity should get their wages frozen as a reward, it was stressed.

And there was no discussion of actually helping their struggle of those of the teachers and hospital workers' to victory. I'm discussion of unbalancing and unbalancing the whole system and resource of the society, that was avoided, as it must be by those whose politics allow them to envisage only stage moves.

It is a bit of a beginning. And if the paper tiger is not to be exposed as a paper bag, no effort must be spared to force direct, dire consequences of the railways and the hospital workers and those who will see them into the firing line.

Labor is all too frequently haunted by the implications of real generalization. It is the well-hidden secret of history—that all of society rests upon the backs of the working class, that potentially the working-class movement has the power to end the role of the tiny minority of the rich and the powerful.

In the weeks and months to come, the task to unite those sections of the movement who are in sympathy with the TUC, to involve new sections and to build a mass struggle to bring this government down.

Report

Laurie Flynn

Pictures: Mike Cohen

Warmer weather means chance to grab extra sales

by Margaret Renn

YORK BRANCH of the International Socialists has found another way of boosting street sales of its Workers newspaper.

"Now that the weather is getting warmer," they report, "we found a new spot, preferably in the middle of town, some posters, a blank, copy of the Workers. York has a square just next to the market which can be booked through City Council.

"We don't need to have a platform as the council has kindly provided benches. We used the Socialist Worker that evening to get attention. 'Support Gas Workers—Smash the Freeze' other similar slogans on them and giving them to the benches we were using as a platform.

"A few members sold the paper or gave out leaflets and we even had the whole team out together. It turned in to a sale in the street and within 20 minutes we had a genuine audience.

"We kept it up for nearly two hours and had an audience of up to 100 people. Sellers covered the square every Saturday but don't normally sell more than half a dozen papers. On Saturday nearly 30 papers, made with striking hospital and handout 500 leaflets supporting the gas workers' strike."

It is very important, with all the struggles taking place against the government and its wages freeze, that we take up every opportunity of selling Socialist Worker to counteract the lies of the mass media and the press, and boost the circulation to 30,000 copies a week.

If you want copies of Socialist Worker to sell in your town, or in your factory or office, please contact me on 01-789 2030 and we can arrange for the paper to be sent direct to you.

Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

"TELL ME WHO YOUR FRIENDS ARE and I will tell you what you are. That is really all that needs to be said about the current idol of radio, press and television, Dick Taverner. Taverner himself is of no importance. He is merely one of a whole host of figures turned up by the SSI. Watch the Labour Party, supported in it for greener pastures still further to the right.

The by-election results, though, are important, both for the realities they reveal and for the myths that are being created about them. First, the realities. The government is profoundly unpopular—its candidates were also-rans in all but a few elections—but the Labour Party, far from retreating, cannot even turn out its traditional supporters and has suffered massive defections to 'third party' or independent candidates.

Second, the myths. The results show, so the commentators tell us, that the Labour Party has moved too far left and its success because it is dominated by 'left wing' union leaders, whereas what the voters want is a 'centre party' with moderate policies.

The test results of capitalist leaders Radice, formerly of Winchester College, Oxford and the Brigade of Guards, is as right wing a Labour candidate as even Roy Jenkins could have wished, in large part because he called a Labour vote at Chester-le-Street. And his unconvincing came from that pillar of the far right, Alderman Andrew Cunningham of the GMU. Moreover the 'left of' for example, the Lincoln Labour Party is purely verbal.

The proof? What did those 'left wingers' do after Fairwood? They obeyed the government. They put up the rents.

As to the proposed 'centre party' so dear to the hearts of the neo-liberals, the question is: where is it? Substantially none of the Liberals: that is, support for Common Market entry, support for an incomes policy, support for the Industrial Relations Act or similar 'reform' (that is, a move of the unions). But those are exactly the policies of Edward Heath today and of Harold Wilson when he was in office.

The point is that there is no attempt to be a protest—just a vote for particular policies but a vote against the 'system' with which the Labour Party is correctly described, as the Tories, as an expression of deep-seated discontent. The Labour Party is not benefitting from this discontent, indeed it is suffering from it. It is, in the words of the TUC, 'back on the left' but because its record in office weighs more heavily than its promises.

The job to turn the discontent into useful channels, into the fight against capitalism. The by-election results are significant as a symptom of the enormous possibilities that are opening up for revolutionary socialists and of our responsibility to utilize them to the full.

ANARCHY RETURNS

NOT SO very long ago there was a spate of speeches, articles and books—many of them from members of the Labour Party—telling us that we lived in a 'post-capitalist' society. The old anarchy of capitalism had been abolished by intervene government planning and international agreement. 'The old problem of anarchy-with its devastating effects on unemployment and living standards, was a thing of the past. This is now over. The new system of capitalist planning and "international agreement" is a chronic and growing instability of the iron-cloaked system that will rip all the agreements wide open and lead us into a trade war like that of the 1930s. The last "settlement" of this problem—devaluation against gold—lasted exactly through.

The current idea—a joint Common Market 'float'-will, even if it is achieved, merely save off the immediate plague of a further crisis in the non-capitalist future.

The chickens are coming home to roost. Capitalism is sliding into a world crisis. The long-run answer is precisely that socialist reconstruction of society that the Labour Party and capitalist 'experts' tell us is "old fashioned" and "outdated".
THE POLITICAL atmosphere in Argentina was electric three months ago with the return of Juan Domingo Peron, who had been exiled from 1955 to 1973. Peron's return marked a major event in the presidential elections is taking place in an atmosphere of anti-climax.

Large sections of workers and even many who had hoped for his "return" still live in the illusion that major change was ahead. But Peron, with the backing of the business community, is now in a position to do whatever he wants. His position is not as strong as it was in the opposition and he will have to be careful not to alienate his own supporters.

ABANDONED

Nothing better illustrates this than the march on March 25, a demonstration called to commemorate the anniversary of the 1973 military coup. Only 30 activists, locked in seven cars and escorted by 1,000 policemen, began the "march," and so went the demonstrations on the way that it had to be abandoned after two days of detentions.

Massive detentions up and down the country have had the effect of stifling the protests and the demands of some of Peron's followers have been frustrated. The arrests and detentions continue to grow as Peron's government becomes more repressive.

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STERN GANG SHOOT UP RENTS (WITH A LITTLE LABOUR HELP)

Perhaps the best example of the fairness and impartiality of the freeze is the precept with which the rents of tenants of Crown estate in London are being doubled. The government argues that it can do nothing about these rents because they are "controlled" by Labour's Rent Act, 1965 (Kelly), which gives the Crown a monopoly in the fixing of rents.

Every year a gentlemen calls from the local council with an application from the landlord for an increase in rent. The landlord's job is to arrive at some agreement between landlord and tenant. If there is no such agreement, either party can appeal to a Rent Assessment Committee. By Crossman's law, two of the three committee members are (1) a lawyer and (2) a valuer or accountant. The third man can be anyone at all, and it doesn't matter who he is because the decision he makes will be looked after by the lawyer-valuer majority.

On one occasion, a Rent Assessment Committee considered six applications from a block of flats in Wrights Lane, off Kensington High Street. The rents had already been assessed by Rent Office officials, and here they were, recommending the landlord's application. The landlords appealed. When the Assessment Committee made their decision, the result looked like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Rent Officer</th>
<th>What Rent Assessment Committee decided</th>
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<tr>
<td>£255</td>
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Mrs Gloria Baldwin, the secretary of the Wrights Lane Tenants Association, could not believe that the committee had recommended the rise. The members thought that the committee had taken leave of their senses.

On the contrary, however, Committee members are not expected to arrive at the same sort of conclusion. Only recently, on a visit to one of Crossman's constituency, a committee met up with an old renter on his way to the committee meeting. The renter was given £248,875 for the renter to go ahead and increase the rent by even more.

The owners of the property in Kensington were Key Flats (another 5000 tenants) and have more than half the rents in the building. As well as being the owner of the building, the company made a profit of £605,000 by increasing the rents by 50 per cent, and the rest of the rents are going to be increased.

Since then Metropolitan have heard that many of their tenants have gone into property speculation all over the country. They have bought about £20 million from various banks and insurance companies. In general, the company report, says the first company report, that "excellent relations were maintained with a number of the City's leading banks which enabled the company to acquire a considerable number of London properties.

In 1971, there were 1194 applications to Rent Assessment Committees from landlords. In 1974, the rents were increased from the recommendations of the rent office. The purpose of these Assessment Committees was to hold rent increases to less than 10 per cent.

Mr S. and his fellow directors, in short, have never had it so good. They can depend on the Rent Assessment Committee to make things easier for them and to increase rents.

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Mr S. and his fellow directors, in short, have never had it so good. They can depend on the Rent Assessment Committee to make things easier for them and to increase rents.

THE CLASHES of meetings for "extra-curricular" parliamentary activity are sometimes so annoying. Take, for example, the interesting meeting of the Lords and Commons Cricket Club, chaired by the honourable and commoner Mr T. (for Torquay) and Mr C. (for Cambridge). The meeting was held in the Sports Committee meeting room on 28th February. It clashed with the all-party Sports Committee meeting chairman Tam Dalby (Labour, West Lothian) and Mr J. (for Manchester, West) and secretary Patrick Wall (Torquay, Halton). The meeting was called to discuss a number of outstanding issues.

And it would have been difficult for anyone attending either of these meetings to see the film "Travels of an Artist in the West Himalayas," which was showing in the Palace of Westminster cinema. The film was booked by Sir Frederick Bennett (Torquay, Teignmouth) whose last essays into the West Himalayas were on behalf of Yahya Khan, the Pakistani dictator who got so much support from Sir Fred during his invasion of Bangladesh.

A REVELATIONARY SOCIALIST MANIFESTO by Kuznet and Moskolewski. The famous Soviet writer to the Polish Worker's Party, written in 1954. A clear analysis of the Eastern European regimes and a call for social revolution. 40 pages. [PLUTO PRESS Unit 10, Cannon Street, Cheltenham GL51 7CB London NW1]
Making Hay while the moon shines...

Profile

Hughie Hay by Bill Joseph

Picture of Hughie Hay by Bill Joseph

ENGELS

It is common to think of Friedrich Engels as the shadow and not the partner of Marx, and nothing more. He was, however, a man of outstanding ability in his own right—though much of Marx's work as a whole was based on Engels' knowledge of 19th century working conditions.

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IS BOOKS

6 Cotton Gardens
London E2 8DN

A Bentley group factory is tough organisation is needed to stop sackings

Paul Foot

Britain's top tycoon gives more leisure to his workers

A CHEAP piece of sociology was handed out by Sir Charles Clare, chairman of the multi-million-pound giant Sears Holdings, in his last annual report.

'The next decade will witness a steady increase in the demand for leisure facilities as the general standard of living in the country is raised and working hours are shortened.'

Last month, William Cottons, a subsidiary of Sears in Loughborough, increased the leisure time of its workers by 100 per cent. The 663 men were sacked.

Clare became chairman of Sears in 1955, when its only interests were manufacturing and retailing footwear. Its profits that year were £1,200,000. By 1971, Clare estimates profits of not less than £410 million for the group, a 33-fold increase in 20 years. Clare has guided Sears' expansion into engineering, department stores, motor vehicle distribution, jewellers and betting offices. Sears also has interests in the United States, Canada and Germany and owns 100 companies worth £364 million. While the profits have gone up, the number of workers have gone down by 1,000 a year for the past five years alone.

STOPPED

But footwear has remained the most important part of Sears Holdings, providing 46 per cent of the profits in the past two years. Its giant subsidiary, the British Shoe Corporation, owns nearly 2,000 shops, including the Dolls, Saxone, Freeman Hardy and Willis, Curtes, True Form, Lilley and Skinner and Castle Shoes.

Between Marble Arch and Oxford Circus on London's Oxford Street, there are 18 shoe shops—half of them belong to Sears.

Sears' bid to take over the Pennine group in November 1972 was blocked when rival bidder United Drapery put up the pressure to have Sears referred to the Monopolies Commission. Sears already controls 45 per cent of the all-important chain shoe shop business.

A Bentley group factory is tough organisation is needed to stop sackings

Paul Foot
shown their readiness to defend their wages and conditions. The Bentley shop stewards' combine committee forced the group's managing director to negotiate with them last June for the first time ever.

And all the signs point to battles ahead.

At Cottons, for example, the factory was built about 16 years ago during a boom in demand for knitting machines. It was a white elephant from the start: it was far too big. For several years now the knitting machinery market has been in decline.

In August 1971, after 200 redundancies in the previous May and December, 400 more workers, including 100 apprentices, were made redundant. The policy of letting Cottons run down seemed deliberate.

WEAKENED

No wonder one steward claimed that 'certain factions wanted to see Cottons go to the wall' and that the closure was as much to do with boardroom politics as with the economic viability of the firm.

Workers claimed there was sufficient work in the group to prevent redundancies: and only a fortnight later another factory in the group increased its workforce by more than 100.

The men's willingness to fight for their jobs was severely weakened by the response of the trade union officials. After the 400 redundancies were announced not one public statement of opposition came from the engineering union's district secretary, Enric Scrivens. About the latest 663 sackings he has been more outspoken: 'The cutback of the labour force is needed to make the company viable for the future,' he said. No outspoken he has been that the union's local technical and supervisory section (TASS) has reported to him the executives for making reactionary press statements without consulting the membership and so undermining the fight.

Two years ago Cottons shop stewards sent a report on their firm to the AUEW research department. They were told by the district secretary that this could be done only through him and he did not think it relevant. The lesson is clear for all workers in the factory: they should rely on their own strength and accept no redhundicapation.

Now it is almost certain that the factory will be closed in two years time. Sears is not going to keep a half-empty factory open—It will either rent the factory out (already British Leyland, British Electrical, Freers and Manfield Hesty have been mentioned) or sell off the site for redevelopment.

The combination is black not only for Cottons. Sears has made it clear in several statements that any expansion of investments will be in the leisure business, through William Hill, its booking-making subsidiary, and through as many shoe retailers as the Monopolies Commission will allow.

DIFFICULT

Against this background and the inability to find fresh markets for knitting machinery, an attack on the knitwear sector more and more likely, despite record profits last year. There are even rumours that Clare is thinking of 'hiving off' Bentley.

The combine stewards have a difficult task on their hands. They must start a campaign among their members to ensure co-ordination and solidarity.

They also need to take the combine committee more seriously and back talk with action. As one leading steward said: 'We need to know exactly what tricks Sears Holdings and Bentley Engineering are up to and organise to fight them. We should realise that even though the lads get good wages and a regular job at the minute, there is no real security.' And he added: 'We also need to know how this whole rotten system works and organise to fight that.'

Sears: keeping it in the family

SIR CHARLES CLORE, chairman, 77 directorships, of which Hill Samuel and Orange Free State Investments are the most important outside Sears. He has possibly fallen out with fellow directors at Hill Samuel after they backed the United Drapery bid for Timpson against his own. Orange Free State Investments is biased towards South African companies. He has more than 1,200,000 shares in Sears and 777,000 in beneficial holdings. Also more than £300,000 in debenture stock. He sold his property interests in 1966 for £10 million.

LEONARD SAINER, who married Clore's daughter; 13 directorships and more than 100 million shares in Sears interests, 96 million of them in British Shoe Corporation.

MRS WIMIFFRED SAINER: directorships in Selfridges, Lewis's and Miss Selfridge.

JOHN CHRISTIAN GODFREY WEGERIF, Clore's cousin; 33 directorships including Phoenix Assurance, which runs Bentley's compulsory pension scheme. The terms for this are worse than many non-contributory schemes in the private sector. He can afford to pay his ex-wife £500,000 a year in alimony.


NOTE: The non-beneficial holdings of Leonard Sainer include an interest in S.4,942,022 ordinary shares in Sears Holdings as a trustee, with Lord Melchett and Edward Footing, of the C Clore Family Settlement. The beneficiaries under the settlement are Alan Evelyn Clore and Mrs Vivien Louis Duffield.

UNTIL last week the Smith family were living in a condemned and rotting house in Nottingham's Dundas Street. Their plight was reported in the Socialist Worker two weeks ago.

The council has now rehoused them. Press publicity has helped get some action for this one family. But there are many, many others left to rot in similar circumstances thanks to the deliberately created housing shortage.

Next door to where the Smith's were housed until last week, live the Murphy family. They too have visited the Nottingham Council time after time asking to be rehoused. They too have been told that nothing can be done before next year unless they move from one condemned house into another.

Mr and Mrs Murphy and their 12 children have to live in three rooms because the rest of their house is totally unfit for human habitation. The children have to be sent to bed early to give the older Murphy's room to breathe in the tiny cell-like living room.

ROTTING

Ten of the kids sleep in the one bed. You feel ill in the one bed. The smell of decay is overpowering. Green fungus hangs off the ceiling. Wall-paper hangs off the walls.

Access is via a rotting staircase. The stairs are a constant danger for young Stephen Murphy. He has fallen down them three times recently. He suffers from recurring fractures.

The lavatory is outside. It is rotten throughout with no fixtures and fittings coming away from the wall.

This plus the fact that the broken-down lavatory is inhabited by a large sewer rat which terrifies the children. There has also been noise from the Murphy house since the Smith's is a place that has been boarded up for three years. It is jam-packed with rats. At night you can hear them running about.

They have now found their way into the Murphy household, grave at

TREVOR SHAW

FLASHBACK to our report on the Smith family

The Murphy children all suffer permanently from bad teeth. One of the little girls is totally covered in sores.

There are no electrical power points in the house. All appliances are run off the lights through adaptors. This is extremely dangerous. A house up the road burned down recently because its occupants were forced to use this dangerous system and a fire resulted.

FORK OUT

The Nottingham Council says it cannot do anything for the Murphy's. There are no houses available and not enough being built. Nonetheless the money was found for wonderful new Taylor Woodrow shopping centre.

And the people of Nottingham and elsewhere continue to fork out money to fund the arms race. There are thousands of Murphy's left to rot while the big business system goes on.

TREVOR SHAW

Prepare Power

J.T. MURPHY

IN this book first published in 1934, Murphy considers the role and success of the revolutionary left 50 years ago and its later influence. The author was a key figure in this first shop stewards movement.

Special offer to Socialist Worker readers: FREE hardback copy of Victor Serge's BIRTH OF OUR POWER with every copy of Murphy's book, £1 plus £2 postage.

PLUTO PRESS, Unit 11, 29b, 2 Chalbi Road, London NW 1 8UH.
WHAT goes on inside British hospitals is decided by 9610 rich men and women called 'consultants'. They are appointed by committees dominated by other consultants.

They are lords and masters, not only inside the hospitals but in the Regional Hospital boards, on each of which is an organised cabal of six or seven consultants, who effectively govern the board's policy.

Consultants are well paid by the National Health Service. All of them earn £20 a week, and most earn a great deal more. But most consultants have 'opted' for a little private practice on the side.

This profitable sideline, originally offered to the consultants to keep them in the Health Service, has been enhanced by the growth of private health insurance schemes like BUPA that subvert the Health Service in every area.

Although only one per cent of beds in hospitals are designated by the government as 'pay beds', 15 per cent of consultants' camouflage and effort is devoted to them.

Sometimes the consultants put their private patients in beds which are allocated for National Health by the pending new Westminster Hospital, Coventry, was opened in 1971, the special private wing at the top of the hospital was ready for patients. So private patients were slapped into wards designated by law for public patients.

A chief consultant at the Westminster was Dr C J Heath, who also happens to be chairman of the planning committee of the local Region, and chairman of the consultants' pay committee.

When this illegal practice was uncovered, there was some protest in the Health Ministry, and a hint of a fine. But most consultants who prefer their private beds, in private, got to work and the problem was dropped.

Mr Heath, needless to say, did not resign. He was not prosecuted for breaking the law. He continued to mint money, and was promoted to Westminster. He is dead now, but the central principle of his life—that the Health Service is a short cut to riches for the consultant—is still being practised throughout the land.

In the course of last year a House of Commons Committee which investigated these practices decided that it is time to stop it, and that only to be told that private practice was 'pure profit' and that nothing should be done to hinder it. He wrote: 'They do not consider the national interest in X-ray, Pathological department etc., or the effect on other operation.'

Private patients pay on average £51 a week for 'board and lodging' in the hospital, for special private rooms, television, and the like, but they do not pay for all the extra service in the hospital. Nurses often claim that private patients expect harder for the course, nutrient workers get added help from the queue for help.

In 1972 a House of Commons Committee about the eye department of his hospital.

The consultant practiced on private patients in the Ophthalmic department operating theatre after the afternoon's NHS operating list had been finished. The regular nursing staff were in attendance at the private operations for which extra duty they received an occasional box of 'confectionary'.

The consultant probably made £400 from his afternoon's work. The nurses got sweets, but the men and women who sterilised the theatre, washed the linen and cleared away the mess—the 'annexed'—could do nothing.

The same consultant would also expect junior doctors and nurses to help him operate on patients in a private clinic.

The junior doctor wrote: 'The surgery sister on duty would write down the necessary certificates which she then placed in air-light containers. These were taken to the clinic in the boot of the consultant's car.'

The use of National Health Service equipment for private patients is the biggest part of the consultants' and private patients' subsidy.
Parliament and the law: take the advice of Gladstone

by DUNCAN HALLAS

"I AM SORRY to say that if no instructions had been addressed in political crises to the people of this country except to remember to hate violence, to love order and to exercise patience, the liberties of this country would never have been achieved."

The man who said this was not a Marxist. He was that pillar of the Victorian century, the apostle of the industrial capitalists and their motto: "We must protect the older class of capitalist landowners for political power."

Because in those days parliament was the place where decisions were taken, the industrialists fought for 'reform of the House of Commons' for their own control of it.

And they got their way, as Gladstone well remembered, by mass agitation, the use of limited violence (rioting, the burning down of Bristol city centre, the sacking of Nottingham Castle) and the threat of worse to come--of revolution unless the Tories surrendered.

No major political change was ever accomplished in the name of means or still more "unconstitutional" means. It was the mid-Victorian century's revolution which brought the capitalist landowners to power.

Gladstone could afford to tell the truth about this central fact of party history. He had in mind was the one thing that fixes the people. And in his day, the working class was politically powerless and the defeat of Chartism--one of the most noble and just causes of all time--was a threat to the ruling class. The lie about 'the people' and the 'rule of law'--considerations which were never mentioned or heard of in the days of Gladstone--were in the days of the Right of Strike taken into the hands of the state. For red power lives with the owners of the means of industrial production."

The people with time on their hands who are in the drug companies are not using the law.

They lack in the corridors and corridors with bribes and flattery for the doctors these gifts of stationery, equipment and express delivery of reports. They show the doctors the gifts are sent by the drug companies--"They tend to keep up the appearance that we have to work and the state which can be used to being treated with consideration and dignity. Patients actually have to leave hospital injured in conditions which have to be changed in the work of the National Health Service."

But the government has not been doing just for 20-odd and nobody much has gone on the streets anywhere. The Labour government started the decline from the 1940 idea of negative neglect. The had followed on by actually dismaying of the NHS. An industrial military, at last a policy, put it better when he said: "I have always had a problem trying to get across to the public that the government has got a duty to do."

"Now parliament represents the will of the majority. Therefore we must obey the Industrial Relations Act, accept the "Fair Rent" racket and allow the government to abolish the right to strike for higher wages. In the fullness of time there will be a general election and if 'the people' so desire, they will get a different government which will abolish all these things."

"Tale

There are so many things wrong with this argument that it is difficult to take it seriously. First of all consider the question of 'Incomes Policy.'"

The Tory election manifesto of 1970 told us that the main cause of social unrest was Labour's damaging policies of taxation and devaluation. So wages started chancing prices in a desperate and understandable way. The 'living standards'. Labour's complete failure and we will not repeat it.' (A Better Tomorrow, p.11.)

The Tories (like Labour before them) are doing, in this field, exactly as they have always done, exactly the opposite of what they promised. And does any honest person believe that the future election slogans of the Tory and Labour parties will be worth the paper they are written on.

More fundamental yet, the story that parliament still decides policies (as it did when it was a ruling class pressure) is a fakery for political children. As more and more people got the vote so parliament became less and less important.

When Heath decided to reverse his line and adopt an 'Incomes Policy' strategy, who did he open discussions with? With parliament? Of course out.

He arranged talks with the direct representatives of big business (the CBI of organised labour (the TUC, not the Labour Party) and with the chiefs of the state bureaucracy. Their agreement was important to the government. That parliament was a formality.

"Power"

True, sham battles are fought in parliament. There is a great deal of sound and fury. But the real battles--against the Industrial Relations Act, against 'Fair Rent' and now in defence of the right to strike--take place in independent trade unions. For red power lives with the owners of the means of industrial production."

"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..."
FROM THE CHASTITY BELT TO THE FACTORY FLOOR

TODAY'S socialist historians have had to dig through the accumulating layers of Cold War muck, Stalinist rubble and social-democratic debris to rediscover how in the past the exploited and oppressed have resisted and built alternatives. Such excavation is vital, so that today's revolutionaries can learn from those of the past.

But apart from a few articles, almost nothing has been written on the history of the struggle of one of the most persecuted and deeply ingrained myths of capitalist society—the myth that women are inferior to men.

The publication of Sheila Rowbotham's Women, Resistance and Revolution, an attempt to show some of the ways women fought back during the past 600 years, is therefore a significant event.

The book starts by looking at the position of women under feudalism—another type of society in which they were treated as inferior, and shows how the very structure of the feudal economy prevented women from seeing themselves as oppressors.

Deadweight

Women could only begin to see their oppression with the growth of capitalism, which in breaking through the deadweight of medieval religious dogma propelled out a new women and towards thinking for themselves. Admittedly, the start there were women (and some men) who fought against their oppression, using first religious, then secular arguments to back up their case. By the 19th century, Sheila suggests, such resistance could become separated into two kinds: working-class women protesting against their economic condition most notably in food riots, and upper-middle-class women refusing to accept definitions of female inferiority.

But none of these women saw that the answer to their problems involved a change in the whole system of society, and the liberation of women meant for the liberation of humanity from capitalism.

Such ideas only appeared under the twin impact of the industrial and French revolutions. First, the solutions offered were utopian—human relations should be transformed either simply through propaganda or through some sort of organization. But whatever their promise, their inherent weakness was that they were unable to provide the basis for a stable society.

It became an important problem only at the end of the 19th century. With the rise of the socialist movement in the Second International, and a growing awareness of the need for a socialist society, the struggle for the abolition of women was not so far so far down the agenda.

Once the Bolsheviks were in power they introduced an ambitious programme which aimed to establish the first equality between men and women. Within weeks of their seizure of state power there was a complete transformation of the family structure, including equality of husband and wife before the law, the abolition of the distinction between illegitimate and legitimate children and men's and women's paid work. This was to be available on demand and there were plans for the abolition of the drudgery of housework through the introduction of public restaurants, communal kitchens, launderettes, clothing-centres, collective housekeeping arrangements and facilities for child care.

But this was not just a practical solution; it was also a symbolic one. The Bolsheviks believed that this would help to break down the barriers that had kept women down in the past. By 1920s, the feminist movement had begun to emerge, and women were beginning to demand more rights. Women were no longer seen as property, but as equals in society.

Julian Harber reviews Sheila Rowbotham's latest book: Women, Resistance and Revolution, published by Allen Lane, price £2.95

ALEXANDRA KOLLONTAI, the only woman member of the Bolshevik Central Committee whose writing on women's liberation is discussed in detail in Sheila Rowbotham's book, has written extensively on the topic. She believed that the only way to achieve true equality was through the socialist revolution. She argued that women's liberation was not simply a matter of equal rights, but was part of the wider struggle for social justice. Her ideas were influential in the early days of the Bolshevik party, and she served as a member of the party's first Central Committee.

Less access

Certainly it is true that through revolution in these countries women have become less oppressed. In some, they have even been steps to liberate women from the home and so far only dreamt about in the West.

But with all decision-making in the hands of authoritarian non-democratic parties, the women have been less able to access political power than they were before. The case of Iraq, where there was no democracy at all, is an example. The history of women's liberation becomes mainly the history of ideas. Sheila Rowbotham suggests that this leads to some odd conclusions. It may be that ideas like China and North Vietnam are socialist.

Short shrift

Any book that aspires to such a wide canvas must inevitably leave things out, so it is perhaps a little unfair to be too critical. But this is the case for what she omits. Nevertheless there are two main criticisms of this book.

The book gives too short shrift to what has come to be called 'bourgeois feminism'—the struggle of middle-class women for reforms within capitalism. The socialist movement has generally been hostile to such women, it is true, but they have often won advances for women which all socialists should welcome. It is not necessarily a good idea to spend too much time talking about education and professional training. What is needed is a clear picture of the role of women's liberation in the struggle for socialism.

The history of such struggles has lessons for the current Women's Liberation movement today. The attempts of certain of the British suffragettes to set up their own police force when the Home Office refused to allow women constables. My second criticism is that Sheila Rowbotham, the industrialized West entirely after 1914. Of course there is no consideration of such interesting questions as how far the early Communist International took up these issues. It is the role of women during the Spanish Civil War, and the Nazi-German-Soviet axis, that the socialists put their liberation programme into practice? And above all, this book is—most important—why is this part of the world the work of women's emancipation has been so slow for so long a time, while the socialists have so long failed to advance ideas that have survived—though often in rather different ways?

VICTOR SERGE

Memoirs of a Revolutionary 1901-1941

TRANSLATED BY PETER SEDGWICK

The memoirs of Victor Serge, revolutionary, novelist and poet, are a testimony to the experience of three successive revolutionary generations—the anarchists, the Bolsheviks and the so-called 'sectarian' Trotskyists. It is a story of the growth of political consciousness in France, the syndicalists of Barcelona 1917, finally Russia 1917-1924. The annihilation Serge himself survived as virtually a lone witness.

ISBN BOOKS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN
THE VICTORIA and Albert Museum in London is currently showing some 50 photographic prints from the archive of the American Farm Security Administration covering the years 1935 - 1943. They form a small part of the total archive which was created in the wake of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl in the 1930s.

The exhibition, titled "Starved, Stalled and Stranded: The Freedom of the City by Brian Fred, Directed by Albert Finney, Court Theatre, London.

THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY is about Bloody Sunday in Derry—but doesn’t follow the events of that day exactly. A public meeting in Derry is broken up by an army CS gas attack. Three people stagger blind into the Mayor’s Parade in the Guildhall building. They drink the municipal boose, masked as ermine-lined councilor’s robes, talk about their reasons for marching while waiting for the coast to clear. Meanwhile, outside the building the army have become convinced that 40 armed terrorists have occupied the building. When the three finally emerge with their hands up they are shot dead. An official inquiry finds the army was not at fault. The play has been misrepresented, probably deliberately, by almost every national daily newspaper. The three intruders represent accurately the confused mixture of people and motives to be found on any civil rights demonstration. Michael Heparty is a 22-yea-old ‘moderate’ who believes that to be a ‘moderate’ is really sympathetic to the Civil Rights marchers was ‘all the people marching in silence, Rich and poor, high and low, doctors, accountants, plumbers, teachers, bricklayers—all shoulder to shoulder—knowing that what united ten thousand was their rights nothing in the world was going to stop us getting them.’

To which Skinner, a 21-year-old unemployed Bogside of haggard tendencies replies, mysteriously enough, ‘Shite’. For Skinner ‘it has nothing to do with any of the wrong things. It’s about dignity and boy scouts. It’s about, the poor—the majority of the people. It’s not about what it’s all about, then it has nothing to do with us at all.‘

Lily Doherty, the third of the Bogside of Hoolies lives with 11 children and a sick husband. No job, no home, no flat. She marches, as she finally admits to Skinner, because ‘it’s the only place here where in the depths of her pain for her she struggles for the right thing. It’s the only thing in her armoury for a general betterment of things, whatever that might amount to.‘

‘Me in the middle of it all, marching for Declan, but that the stupidest thing you ever heard.‘

The judge says in even terms that ‘it’s the same with Patrick—he’s just talking his head off.‘ A professor of pathology explains that the effect of a 7.62mm bullet ‘once it’s inside the body... it shatters the bone and flesh tissue. And then, as it passes out of the body... it can take a gaping wound and as it exisits it brings more damage. The strength of it which makes the wound even bigger.’

‘Nine of the casualties caused by the ‘subcultures of violence’ are the first ideals the dead then denounces the “evil people” who have “one purpose” — and one purpose. “The world is going to stop you getting them.”

‘LILLY ‘And the silence before my body disintegrated in a purple convulsion, I thought I glimpsed a tiny rock: that life had eluded me because never in my 43 years had I imagined that in a very small, unimportant happening, isolated as the fact that this, my last experience, circuits or taping your own Coronation Street.‘

And that’s the 10 years all about. Well, you may have come across a number of little news items saying the government doesn’t want to start talking about BBC and ITV Charters in 1976. They’d rather leave it till 1977.

Under present legislation they’ve got the whole business sewn up tighter than Harold Wilson’s abdominal support. They don’t want you running your own local cable-TV programmes or for your own video-‘

Because you’re all absolute idiots who just want to trouble the government by broadcasting BBC mummery.

Or worse still it might turn out you aren’t all absolute idiots and you won’t go pussyfooting around it’s then there was some funny noises but when he laid it had gone away somewhere and the message is that it won’t be back for at least 10 years.

Now, any of the electronic tycoons will tell you that Sir Robert

For audience read ‘absolute idiots’

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, California, 1935: a picture by Dorothy Lange from the exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

John Helmerland

San Joaquin Valley, California, 1935: a picture by Dorothy Lange from the exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

HAVE you ever been on trial? What a bloody good question. Of course you haven’t. Ordinary people don’t get on the box unless you’re guilty of murdering Polonius, pick-pocketing, or getting yourselves out of a ‘nothing’ bag. You can’t let ordinary people into the studio to run their own programmes. They’re ‘absolute idiots.’

Angela Rippon talking. Our local link-girl on Westward TV. We were discussing something rude I’d said on another regional television. I gave her the old bogey.

‘You’d think all those people out there are idiots, do you? I mean tell me, how am I expected to understand? ‘Oh, well,’ she said, ‘if they aren’t idiots in their own homes they certainly aren’t going to get them in the studio.’

‘Angela, that’s where you’re wrong.‘

Lack a cut of a newcastle Brown. The Beech’s declared its Faith in the Newcastle United. They’re throwing open the studios to anyone who wants to get in front of a

FORTY minutes every week, Monday night. ‘They’re here!’ are among the words of the day.

Just form yourselves into a group and one of you make up your case. He’ll ask Mr Alasdair Milne to consider your case, and he’ll get his committee to consider your case. Any cases left over after that are free to camp about in front of the cameras as long as they don’t talk politics, fart-and-a-half disputes, advertise, appeal for money, be obscene or indecent, make personal attacks or incite to riot or sabotage.

The IBA is handing over a slice of Angela’s territory to Yorkshire TV. People have been writing to the Times saying it isn’t right for good honest Anglos to be turned over to crafty Yorkshiremen.

The honest Anglais with their savings in the business have got their MPs up on their in the House of Commons. John Hill, Conservative, put his mouth where his money is and told the House that it isn’t because he’s get’s shares in Anglia that his blood’s bolting. Because he thinks Yorkshire taking a slice out of his viewing area will upset the

John Eden, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications kept saying over and over that it wasn’t any bad business what the IBA did with its cash. But it’s pretty crooked and crook with him.

Then they all calmed down. Sir John shut them up property. ‘It would be wholly wrong,’ he said, ‘to intervene in determining what should be the appropriate contract terms. There are big commercial interests involved.’

And that’s no news to Lew Grade—or anyone else for that matter. It’s a funny world, though, isn’t it, when any old judge who gets the knee-trembles can stop the IBA in its tracks when a government minister can’t?

NEXT item. Close Please. Can I have you same long words to you absolute idiots.

A chap called Sir Robert Cockburn—you all know him—was asked by the government to look into the – and commercial possibilities of the multiplex cinema industry in competition technologies. Video cassettes, camcorders, systems and so on.

He says he did hear some funny noises but when he laid it had gone away somewhere and the message is that it won’t be back for at least 10 years.

Now, any of the electronics tycoons will tell you that Sir Robert

Tom Clarke

Eamonn McCann
The International Socialist is a democratic organisation whose membership is open to all who accept its main principles and who are willing to pay contributions and to work in line with its programme.

We believe in independent working-class action for the abolition of capitalism and its replacement by a classless society with production for use and not for profit.

We work in the mass organisations of the working class and are firmly committed to a policy of internationalism.

Building a tough industry for trade unionists. It is much more difficult to organise because of the survival of many old prejudices, and because of the ruthlessness of some trade union leaders who would prefer to maintain a column of disaffected small traders. Full support must be given to the building of trade unions and to the increase of the trade union movement throughout the world.

We believe that the trade unions must form the backbone of the socialist movement and that the workers must take control of the economy and society.

Barlow: underpaid blacklist

Barlow had nothing to say on the subject. I decided that I thought they were the lads who should have been there.

Of course I knew that there would be disagreement, but I think we have just worked out between us. The regional committee of the union has been good, lots of encouragement to me.

The developments that have taken place inside the union are not necessarily good, but I believe that the work of organising among the workers has been so successful that it is inevitable that certain difficulties will arise.

We are working on a new plan to build up a core of shop stewards and we have been working on the establishment of new unions.

I think it is obvious that the trade union movement is growing stronger and that the workers are more determined than ever.

What a threat to the trade union movement is the issue of the NIRC. It was announced that there would be no replacement of full-time officials, so it was impossible to build up with just full-time officials as an organisational basis. Nothing would have been possible without the full-time officials.

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Barlow's victory will be a great boost to the trade union movement. It is clear that the workers are determined to fight for their rights.

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LAST WEEK'S by-election results should be taken seriously by the International Socialists. They confirm the clear ideological and tactical differences between the TUC, John Batt, and the ISU. Together, these differences have led to the development of a new perspective within the ISU, and in the process, the TUC has been confronted with the need to reconsider its own position. The TUC's failure to address these issues has led to a decline in its support. The ISU, on the other hand, has been able to build on its achievements and has continued to grow.
Students at Thames Polytechnic have raised the joint demand for more housing, and have gone out of their way to establish student unions to organize and collective organizations. The students’ union has participated in tenants campaigns and has put its resources at the disposal of both national and local student groups in the area. Local organizations of the labour movement are now responding. Messages backing the campaign came from the Greenwich Trades Council, Greenwich Tenants’ Association, and the Greenwich Labour Party.

Gretna Press, in writing to the local paper, has written to student unions. Now it compares housing, student unions, and tenants associations.

In January, student unions have been established with links with local unions. The students’ union is also organizing a campaign against housing, the police, and the council. The campaign has been taken up by the students. It is now being taken up by the official, community, and student bodies of the National Union of Students.

Right-wing union boss bows out

by Geoff Woolfe

THE RESIGNATION last week of Walter Anderson, General Secretary of the National and Local Government Officers’ Association, must have surprised those who thought that the largest white collar union in the country was all set to see the government’s line on the pay freeze. But the writing has been on the wall for some time.

Since 1969, Anderson and his supporters have acted as nothing more than a front for the government in the trade union movement. In 1971, at the Conservative and Blackpool conference, Anderson ‘bowed out’ of the NALGO UNISON. The general secretary of the Conservative party was the only member of the government present. One of the reasons for the decision was the lack of support for the pay freeze by the union membership.

Pay Board job?

There are a number of positions to be advertised this week. It has been reported that the Pay Board has appointed a new member, to be appointed to the post of Chairman. The new member will be appointed in April, following the resignation of the previous Chairman. The Board has also announced a further vacancy for a new member, to be appointed in May. The Board has also announced that it will consider the possibility of appointing a new member in June, following the resignation of the previous member.

Notices

10 books can now be obtained by applying to the Pay Board for a membership subscription. The cost is £5 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Pay Board, 150 Whitehall, London SW1.

Fines are due on Monday, 10 March

500 fines are due on Monday, 10 March, for non-payment of fines. Applications should be sent to the Pay Board, 150 Whitehall, London SW1.

Special offer

Two tickets to a special screening of the film “The Pay Board” can be obtained by applying to the Pay Board, 150 Whitehall, London SW1.

LEEDS is social

Leeds is social, and no one can deny it. The city is full of social events and activities, from concerts and exhibitions to sports events and cultural performances. The Leeds city council has a strong commitment to providing social services, and there are many community centres and libraries where people can come together and socialize.

Societal Medical Association

The Societal Medical Association (SMA) is a national organization that provides health care services to people in need. The organization is funded by donations from individuals and corporations, and it provides medical care, mental health services, and social services to those who cannot afford them. The SMA has chapters in many cities across the country, and it is a leader in the fight against poverty and inequality.

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Support grows for Fine Tubes

SUPPORT has been pouring in for the Fine Tubes national picket on Monday 19 March. Among the 600 names that have already been received are delegates from Asell’s Brewery, Birmingham, the Rolls-Royce姊妹 company, the British Leyland Combine, the BAC combine, Yarrow shipyards, a claim that his dismissal was a consequence of his industrial action will stop training on Sunday before the picket, and delegates should not rely on getting to Plymouth by rail.

For further details about the mass picketing, contact Fine Tubes Strike Committee, 36 Broadhead, Exeter Street, Plymouth, Devon, Phone 0752 66485. 6687.

Black R-R

DERBY move

A MEETING of the Bristol Engine Drivers Left of the R-R in Birmingham agreed to black the Rolls-Royce-Radiant factory from 15 March if the firm does not stop using Fine Tubes products on the RB 211 engine.

Drivers will be instructed not to deliver and the management will stop work. This follows a meeting with the management from Rolls-Royce Derby and the union will be meeting with the financial loss to them through collection of wages.

It was stressed at the meeting that what is essential is to do everything to the Fine Tubes dispute. Derby should be as black as any other factory under the unions.

If the blocking was properly warned by the drivers, it could halt production of the RB 211 and bring the Plymouth dispute.

At Rolls-Royce-Bristol the unions have been tightening upon the works under repeated pressure from sections within the factory. A contingent of stewards and workers will be on the national picket and the district committee of the AUEW is organizing a coach.

Far left polls well in French election

by Richard Kirkwood: Paris

RESULTS of the first round of the French elections gave the Communist Party 21 per cent of the vote and the Socialists 20 per cent between them.

Groups to the left of the Communists, the PCF and the revolutionists got 21 per cent between them. In addition to some that got a total of 46 per cent for the left.

The conservative condition, which is the outgoing government majority, had 46 per cent as well.

At first sight it might seem that the left had won. But this is far from certain. The complicated American system regarding presidential candidates which gives the right a good chance of winning national polls and controlling government, as well as safeguarding interim candidates, means that the general election will be determined by the number of votes secured by each candidate. A candidate must get at least 50 per cent of the vote, or 10 per cent of the vote and be in the second round. In both cases the candidate must have more than 10 per cent of the vote.

One must therefore wait until the final round of the election before making any conclusions about the outcome.

The left is divided into two main groups. The left is divided into the PCF, which is the Communist Party, and the Socialists, who are the centre-left Socialists.

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Tories set signals for big rail clash

THE GOVERNMENT and the British Rail Board are still as determined as ever to press their claim for an adequate wage structure and compensation for higher speeds, heavier loads and longer distances which should not be overlooked.

At the time of last year's crisis on the railways, the Associated Society of Loco Engineers and Firemen got an agreement from British Rail that their long-term claim for such pay adjustments would be dealt with in the current price freeze. The claim is presented in the case that the claim increases in basic pay, they would very soon make a profit.

Once the claim is settled, the railways have expressed concerns that the claim is an additional one. In 1965, the Labour government was busy peddling productivity deals. ASLEF alone, with the other rail unions signed such an agreement.

In the seven years since ASLEF membership has lost 40 per cent to 27,000. The deal "corroborated" the old system of pay rises on a three-year scale for extra work. The claim's settlements over the years have frozen at 44p an hour and have not changed since. If there is no increase in basic pay, they would very soon make a profit.

Over the same period, however, train travel in the UK has changed drastically. Loading on goods trains has become harder, more freight speeds have increased year by year until 100 mph is commonplace.

The driver is required to be able to handle more, and the number of engines has increased. And while technology is more sophisticated it also demands the latest equipment and technology.

The old methods and time taken ago ASLEF leaders have pushed for serious negotiations and got nowhere. Meetings have been set only as a result of direct action.

So far the union has staged two one-day strikes with another due this week.

Train drivers have implemented a policy of general non-cooperation, refusing to make "safety checks" and this claim for a £40 basic weekly wage plus proper meal payments is now.

Water action

GLASGOW. The next group of workers to confirm to government the country's wages are being held down are the example of others in the public sector. The Glasgow Road and Path employees of the Scottish Road and Transport Association have announced their intention of striking for a £40 basic weekly wage plus proper meal payments this week.

STEP UP THE FIGHT

From page one

Meeting, pint packets and demonstra-
tions must be organised NOW.

Strike committees of all the hospital workers and teachers must begin approaching other workers organisations in their area for this kind of help NOW.

If the hospital is a key way of getting the necessary activity is through joint action. The unions can offer each other help to set up joint mass meetings and organi- sations.

And they should take the initiative in finding out about other workers into the struggle.

Finally, there are other groups of workers like the miners with claims outstanding must insist that there is action taken now and do not wait while gas men and hospital workers fight on alone.

MORE THAN 240 hospitals all over Britain have now been affected by the hospital workers' strikes. The response has been so strong that rank and file workers have surprised the union leaders who resisted calls for all-out action.

The press has been making desperate attempts to route public hysteria against the workers. But it does not seem to have had much success in persuading people that those who take home less than £15 for a full 40-hour week should have their pay increase restricted to a mere £1.84 by the government.

Union chiefs behind Ford retreat

On TUESDAY Ford workers at Swansea, the Halewood body plant and the ED plant and paint, trim and assembly shift in the Dagenham complex returned to work after their three-day strike in support of the £14 a week pay claim, shorter hours and longer holidays.

The three-day strike was a Retreat from the strike that Ford workers, decided on at their meeting in Coventry three weeks ago. The retreat is an effect of the local authority's proposal, particularly the two biggest, the Transport Workers and the Engineers.

Ford has never been in a better position to meet the unions' wage claim. The company's profits are at record levels, Ford's share price has been boosted by its steel and wage freezes order that Ford workers must have so much in the massive plant of Phase Two and Three of the Tories' anti-strike code in place. The factory must be closed to all for 3 or 4 days and those strikers who have not agreed to return to work will have to sign a document stating that they have not exceeded the strike deal.

It is not only the ancillary workers in hospitals who are affected by the freeze, regulations to freeze all payments by 27 March. Already nurses who belong to the Confederation of Medical Employees have voted four-to-one for industrial action.

In South Wales, 4,500 ancillary workers were on strike today. It was reported to be 3000 planned by the unions. 'What that were planned for Monday became three-day stoppages and launderers came out on strike.

In Swansea the unions have warned that if the government goes through with the 'voluntary' freeze, all emergency services workers in the industrial plant and municipal unions have refused to come on strike. However, the public sector union leaders have reported difficulties in holding the line.

A total of 54 hospitals are now involved in the strike, which has affected at least 10,000 workers. Industry has been magnified, despite lack of success of the strike, the public still does not want to work. In the United States, hospitals groups have reported that the government's policy of preventing strikes and promises have been respected, with little success, so that no volunteers will be brought in and new nurses will be deployed. It will not be until now in the strikers' strike.

On the last meeting in South Wales, at Crumpell hospital in Swansea, the workers walked out and two-day workers of the district public health service walked the picket line.

Support

In Sheffield attempts have been made to use removal vans to carry dirty laundry to be cleaned in Stockport, but such an effort has been met with a mixed reception.

In the United States, workers have carried out a number of similar operations, but the strike has been successful.

The National Union of Public Employees at the Northern General Hospital: 'The management puts up a brave face, but we are being blackmailed by the strikers, and this is not going to work.'

In Sheffield Trades Council has passed a motion calling for the support of the hospital workers and undertakers to make collective action.

In Wolverhampton, strikers withdraw emergency services after an attempt to bring them back. The National Union of Public Employees, the NUPE, Western branch secretary, Mr Goldthorpe, and his team of district members have been given a number of grievances over the pay and working conditions. The union has been successful in pressing the government to find a solution. The government has now been given a number of grievances over the pay and working conditions. The union has been successful in pressing the government to find a solution.

The strike is the largest in the country and has involved all other ancillary workers as it has been pulled out in a series of weekly picketing strikes.

The strikers are demanding a 20 per cent increase in the basic rate and an extra 30p a week.

Ambulance men threatened to strike as well as public service workers in the area, who were due to work in the laundry. Within an hour members of the United Ambulance Men, who are due to work in the laundry, were in meetings.

A large hospital in the Tyne area is affected by a number of actions. At Newcas-le General and St Nicholas the laundry staff are out. Sites Royal Victoria Infirmary is the general strike, and all other ancillary workers are to be pulled out on a series of weekly picketing strikes.

The report that the government is ready to make collective action is virtually necessary.

The ambiguity of whether the government is really his

PUBLIC SECTOR UNITY

NORTH LONDON. Groups of public sec-
tor employees have been working to-
gether in the last week in an effort to
create their strength. The Camden and
Islington Public Sector Workers Action
Committee has been active to achieve this with a united rally on Wednesday.

The action will take place for week-long strikes and each of them will be consulting whether to extend the action. After a mass meeting at Bute

North London's hospital delegation was sent to seek support from Smithfield meat

Producers will be meeting on Thurs-

day night to discuss the strike to take the action. The meeting is due to be held on the 27th.

For details of the local public sector workers, contact J Williams, 79 Bayham Street, NW1.

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