Tories train ‘law and order’ squads to attack strikers

THE RIGHT TO SCAB—the Tories’ most cherished freedom—is being upheld by the government and the police in a massive assault on pickets.

A training programme involving several thousand policemen and large quantities of special equipment has been conducted to guard employers’ ‘property’ and ‘their’ scabs against the influence of pickets.

In the last two weeks, there have been three examples of large scale thugsery on the picket line. On 9 March, 500 police from all over Yorkshire were brought in to ‘guard’ the miners. From Hulton who were picketing a wharf where unloading was being carried out by cheap, unregistered labour. Even this massive force was not large enough to cope with the dockers, however, and the employers backed down.

Ten days later, on Monday, the police launched two huge operations against pickets.

At St Thomas’ Hospital, South London, where 40 policemen are on picket after being sacked for demanding a wage increase, the employers, John Langford, forced an armoured personnel carrier loaded with scabs through the picket line. The ‘monsters’, as it has become known to building workers, would not have got through had it not been supported by gangs of kicking and punching policemen. Two workers had to be taken to hospital. Another two were arrested.

ORDERS

The tactics of the police showed that they are less interested in arrests than in intimidation by brute force.

They have decided to deter the pickets by constant, kicking, thumb-bending and hair-pulling rather than by expensive court cases, in which they often expose policemen’s lies and lead to acquittal.

Those tactics were in evidence in the same morning at Fine Tubes, Plymouth, where some 500 police had come together from every part of Devon and Cornwall. The police looked keenly on waiting in with their fists than on making arrests.

Those bully-boy tactics have been fully endorsed by the government. Robert Carr, Home Secretary, has told the House of Commons that the ‘existing laws’ are strong enough to smash the pickets.

He reminded MPs that parts of the existing laws, which have not been consistently enforced, give the police powers to limit numbers on a picket line, 10 men workers away from a picket line if, in the view of the police, ‘intimidation or a breach of the peace is threatened’. Any action by police in enforcing such an order will be defended by magistrates everywhere.

It has also spoken of ‘special flying squads’ trained in the business of intimidating the employers’ rights to break up trade union organisation on the shop floor.

The ‘flying squads’ have been training ever since the Salford picket in Birmingham during last year’s miners’ strike, which defeated the police, closed the coke works and helped the miners to victory.

The three-day experience at

PLYMOUTH, Monday—Battalions of police drafted from all over the West Country invaded the national picket at the Fine Tubes factory. The picket was called in solidarity with the three-year-old strike for union rights. Seven arrests were made by the police in their get-tough policy to protect employers and management.


PLYMOUTH: Printers back our fund

AN EDINBURGH printworker who is opposed on principle to overtime was forced to do some last week. So he sent the extra money—£3—to the 15 printshop fund.

Readers at the Chrysler Stoke plant in Coventry sent us £5. Our own printshop workers have donated £20 towards their new premises and another group of printworkers in Edinburgh have sent £3.

York Rebel group have collected £10 and an anonymous London teacher on strike sent the magnificent sum of £100.

An IS social in Stroud raised £25 and Swinsea students collected £7.

Donations from IS branches this week include: Manchester £29.50, Southport £29, Preston £15.10, Teesside £20, Cheltenham £5, Lancaster £4, Edinburgh £12, Dundee £18.18, Loughborough £5, Wrexham £2.50.

This week’s total is £172.22, bringing the grand total to £234.49. Keep up the good work, readers, and we can hit that £300 target.

Donations to Tony CHF, 6 Cotters Gardens, London E2 8DN.

WHAT WE THINK

THE call to all trades councils from the TUC to organise demonstrations in support of the striking hospital workers was a small step towards solidarity that the ‘leadership’ of the movement has taken during the great struggles of the lower paid.

It is vitally important that these are put into the call by demanding that trades councils, union branches, district committees and steward committees in all parts of the country immediately plan demonstrations of solidarity and organise for strike action by other sections of the labour movement.

Friday’s demonstration in Yorkshire called by the Sheffield Trades Council shows the way forward, with strike action by miners and other groups in support of the hospital workers.

The special conference of the TUC called for strike action in defence of those fighting the freeze. This has so far been ignored by the General Council.

The situation is urgent. The low-paid workers can beat the government’s freeze but only if they are given massive backing by groups such as miners, car workers and engineers.

Already the leaders of some of the unions engaged in battle are looking for cover to abandon the fight. When the Tories’ ‘Phase Two’ policies come into effect on 1 April the freeze against the freeze will be illegal.

Rather than organise for a confrontation with the government and its anti-union laws, the officials are attempting to demoralise their members. Both the hospital unions and the civil servants association are talking of calling off the dispute because of lack of cash.

And the GMMU is holding a ballot on the pay offer to the gas workers which leaves the strikers in line for another week.

But overall the situation is one of thousands of low-paid workers tightening their belts, determined to battle on for a living wage against a government and employers hell-bent on forcing down workers’ living standards.

They must not fight alone. The old tried and trusted slogan of the trade union movement—‘an injury to one is an injury to all’—must be recalled. Solidarity strike action, mass pickets and collections can blast a hole through the freeze from which the government could not recover.
The International Socialists' conference in action. Pictures by MIKE COHEN

History is knocking on our door says Cliff

The present period was one of relative stability. Executive committee member RICHARD CLIFF said, moving the report on political and economic perspectives, 'Last year saw victories by the working class in the mines, docks and railways. Then we began to think that the TUC had agreed to discuss incomes policy with the government for the first time.'

The qualitative change in the political perspective was that the sections involved in struggle were now much bigger. But there was enormous difficulty in securing a united front. Ford workers wanted £10, hospital workers wanted £8.

The weak sections agreed with the need for a united struggle, to set up public sector alliances, but the strong sections, like car workers and miners, wanted to go it alone in order to maximise their gains.

There was a discrepancy between ideas and organisation, one must give way. This was the central reason for the present volatility, when groups like the hospital workers have very little experience of organisation.

The unforeseen of the present situation had made possible the growth of our rank and file papers, Cliff said. They had a specific role to play in uniting militants.

When coverall battles are over, he went on. Shop stewards who were used to small, isolated battles find themselves in an impasse. They need to be cemented to their membership.

The campaign's quality need by revolutionaries at the present time is clearly stated, he said. 'You need to fight to intervene in a volatile struggle. A revolutionary party is necessary for the class, without the class, individual militants would not have dared to intervene and launch rank and file papers for miners, dockers and other sections.

Transform

The present struggle will continue and many of the workers who gained from the second round will strengthen the struggle. The struggle will shape leaders and give them confidence. Class confidence is vital in the struggle, government and international state—this is the crucial role of a revolutionary party.

Cliff asked the conference to set itself a number of important tasks in the coming year: 50 workplace Socialist Worker discussion groups, a series of 10 industrial worker meetings and every branch to increase its membership by at least 50 per cent. He said that IS must transform its organisation and root it more firmly in the working class movement. 'Revolutionaries must never change the working class unless they are convinced that the working class has

DEFEAT FOR 'REFORMIST' DEMANDS

You clarify your ideas in the course of the struggle,' he said. 'Don't be introspective. Workers learn through involvement in the organisation. The motion was defeated.

KEVIN WHITTON (Stockport) moved a motion on the trade union scene. He said that the existing trade union leaders could do the work of building 'cadres' in each struggle.

Cliff said that a policy of broad recruitment could bring in two categories of workers who did not understand the need for total commitment to the party, who could do valuable existing members. 'Members must be recruited who are clear on our politics.' But Bob NOYES said, 'We have had the experience of people who do not understand this clear on many aspects of IS policies.'

FRANK HENDERSON, a car worker from West Ponton, said that he joined IS because it was a revolutionary organisation capable of building the revolutionary party. 'I joined on the basis of my relationship with IS. I didn't cross the 'Is', and don't all the 'Is' and all the IS because of its relations with the class.

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JIMMY MacCAllUM (Glasgow North and TASS member) said that there was no map, no general description of how you change the consciousness of the class. The real situation was one in which a revolutionary socialist organisation intervenes and raises a strategy. The demand for substantial wage increase goes far beyond a cost of living increase. The fight for a wage demand involves workers at the workplace and raises their preparedness to fight and their confidence. We had to mobilise workers to fight for increased wages.

JOHN PALMER (National Committee) said: "Every conscious section of the ruling class is aware of the significance of the demand for more money. The fight for more takes more in the form of the distribution of wealth. A rising scale demand is a cut-out from the present struggle. One struggle by housewives on council estate in support of a wage struggle is worth two tons of resolutions from ‘housewives committee’.

The motion was defeated.

The situation is particularly favourable in the mines and docks," he said, "and there has been an unexpected response by our members to the health, gas and civil servants' struggles where we have not only intervened but made a genuine contribution to these struggles.

The pay gap and file papers are becoming a significant force in a number of industries such as docks, mines, textiles and building. It is indicating support for our members that leading militants are being whipped by both employers and unions. We need a wider influence to expand our influence and defend our militants.

The situation in the TUC was that IS branches were operating at much a higher level than a year ago. Communist Party and enthusiasm were on an upward curve, he said. The organisation was moving forward, and the gains from the many new workers coming into the struggle would be in the Socialist Worker. Worker discussion groups in workplaces were vitally important in developing this trend.

Jim Higgins told conference that several branches of the IS had joined in the last 12 months and due to a number of meetings they now had a much more accurate record of membership. There is a far more effective organisation in the IS than is reflected in the figures of membership, he said. ‘Membership means sacrifice in time, money and energy.

The social composition of the union has improved. We have more manual workers and more skilled workers. Stewards has increased. A high percentage of our branch officials are manual workers.

The number of our branch officials has increased. The number of our branch officials has increased. The number of our branch officials has increased.

The worker had increased pressure into the battle against the re-emerging fascist organisations, but the leadership of the union had yet to grasp the reality of a real intervention in the black community. A real move into the black community is the key to recruiting several hundred black workers.

MUST SUCCEED

Turning to industry, the most important question raised was the need for the IS to support the ongoing National Committee of the Industry’s conference. 1973, he concluded, will show the urgent need to build a mass-based revolutionary movement. Congress suggested that the theme of the conference is ‘the coming months could be taken from a sinking ship and transformed into a titanic worker-veteran revolutionary and IS member Henry Harrington.

‘Good luck to the conference. Our members are 10 feet tall compared to the government’s.’ We must succeed at last long in building the party.”
To a roar of applause and cheers, many members of the audience held up their fists as they heard the words of the speaker. 'Socialist Worker' editor ROGER PROTZ said the paper had 'come through' the crisis of the past year, and that the paper now had a greater influence than ever before.

John Taylor of the Leeds branch of the Socialist Party said his organisation was a transitional stage, and that the workers who joined it had a key role in the decision-making process.

Frank Henderson (Wolverhampton) said opposition to factory branch organisation had not been uniform, and that the organisation had to prove its worth.

Mike McKenna, a member of the party's national committee, said the party's organisation was a transitional stage, and that the workers who joined it had a key role in the decision-making process.

John Daven (Wignall), a worker at GEC's Leigh-Willows plant, said that the party's organisation was a transitional stage, and that the workers who joined it had a key role in the decision-making process.

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Women: call to end freeze on equal pay

Moving the report of the women's sub-committee, Anna Pasko (National Committee) said there had been a considerable development of the work done by the committee in the last year. In particular, its report on the Women's Voice had been well received and the latest issue had produced 5000 copies.

Women had become more active in the working class struggle, she said, taking part in strikes and demonstrations. But there was a total lack of political leadership among women, which opened up tremendous possibilities for the women's movement.

Sara Carver (Manchester) moved a motion in support of the report from Harlow calling for more systematic women's work in the factories, and the production of regular bulletins and the perspective of forming a Women's Voice discussion group. She said the National Committee was asked to look at the possibility of creating a full-time job for a Women's Voice editor and organiser.

Margaret Rees (Hornsey) said the aims of the motion were good, but the scope was too wide. She said the aims of the motion were good, but the scope was too wide. She said the aims of the motion were good, but the scope was too wide. She said the aims of the motion were good, but the scope was too wide.
Election Win for Peron's Front Man

by Vic Richards

The presidential election result in Argentina is a clear victory for the movement of ex-dictator Peron. His supporters won more than half the votes, and so has been declared president-elect without the need for a second round.

The victory came as a surprise, although the opposition had expected 40 per cent. The large vote for Peron seems to come from the increase in the electorate, especially from young voters, but some have come from island-dwelling voters who formerly supported the Radical Party, and perhaps from those surviving the period before Peron’s dictatorship, but who with no hope of winning but hoping to gain something for themselves in the horse-trading between the first and second rounds, have been swept away.

The loss for the middle and upper-class politicians is not a victory for the working class of Argentina. Although workers provided the backbone of the Peronist vote, they have been a coherent force at any point in the election campaign, and are likely to be cheated of even the smallest gains.

As soon as Peron’s victory became known, he gathered a collection of former workers to form his government, including senior army officers. He has no intention of challenging the power of the army, as this would mean mobilising workers for a revolutionary force. Peron’s choice of future ministers is a gesture of compromise towards the army, which is enormous powerful despite its almost universal unpopularity and its failure to break the lock on working-class voting.

In exchange for an agreement not to challenge the established order, the army will accept a Peronist government. The Peronist trade union leaders will go on with this for the moment, as they would feel threatened by the growth of any mass working-class movement.

Puppet

But an early split between Peron and the trade union leaders seems likely. Peron’s return to Argentina will be embarrassing for Peron, who likes room to manoeuvre and a sense of ‘historical role’ to fulfil. He withdraws from the presidential race last December because he did not wish to become a puppet of the army, and has now raised the banner of anti-imperialism and supported guerrilla groups from a safe distance. His aim will be to try to still the factories rather than attack the government.

The problem is that Argentine workers will not be able to fight the military battles while they still have illusions in Peron. For so long a section of the left have tried to exercise or challenge him, but have tried to use his illusions to shift the Peronist movement to the left. In any case, the left cannot mobilise even a section of the Argentine working class, who are not only demoralised but the government have the support of young workers.

An important change of direction will be necessary for the left to take the lead in the coming struggle.

Wounded Knee rebels fight for rights

by Dave Finkel

of the United States International

Militants of the American Indian Movement have now occupied the town of Wounded Knee in South Dakota for three weeks, and the US government still refuses to consider their demands.

Only the determination and discipline of the well-armed Indians, and the fear of unfavourable popular reaction to a second massacre at Wounded Knee first happened in 1890 whenjasper Johnson was murdered. The Free Press—have prevented the FBI and more than 100 US marshals from shooting to crush so far only small sections of the occupation with armed force.

What has been achieved, it is clear that the Indians involved will face arrest, prosecution and mass repression. The Indian Movement, however, will not disappear, and has already taken their protest across the country, and the right of Indians to elect their own leaders.

Genocide

For many years American Indians have been kept to the margins of American politics. They are regarded as ‘marginal’ to the dominant culture and image which the government and press carefully maintain in order to prevent their demands being taken seriously by working-class Americans.

Thus, when newspapers portrayed as that of a race of bloodthirsty savages who were unworthy of the protection of the officers and farmers who won the West for democracy.

In real life, the destruction of the Indian population was a series of acts of genocide, carried out in the process of capitalist expansion. Most of the tribes were hunted down and subjugated by the US Army and other armed forces supported by the far connection, railroads and large ranches. The Indians’ culture, history, and racial-ethnic identity were destroyed because they were forced to degrade and what are considered as reservations.

‘Moderate’

Not surprisingly, much of the recent Indian revolt has taken the form of a re-discovery and reassessment of the Indians’ history and role in American culture.

Even at unemployment centres, the government has tried to lead job training and other programs which have maintained the same kind of joblessness and unemployment level as being destroyed by Nixon’s welfare. The same situation will have an even more devastating effect on American Indians, who suffer all the problems of marginal joblessness as well as racial discrimination.

The effects will be worse for Indians because, unlike black people, they have had a well-organised movement capable of direct action in the past.

These attacks reflect the deepening crisis and instability of American capitalist, and will be followed by full-scale attacks on the more powerful, working-class bases.

Unite

American workers, and especially black workers who are already feeling the razor edge of these attacks, must take the lead in defending the Indians movement and helping to unite it with the struggles of the independent black movement.

The International Students for Socialism (SPS) and its sister organisation, the Student Union League of America, work closely with black, Latin and working-class organisations in the struggle for a new society. Our work is supported by the many millions of people who are fighting for a better world.

But this has not happened without dissatisfaction growing among workers, some of whom have been disillusioned with the government’s response to the job cuts.

Germany: workers suffer from the mark’s balancing act

by Colin Gill

The devaluation of the West German mark against the dollar is in a series of attacks on the pricing standards of German workers.

Continuous evaluations of the mark and devaluations of other currencies in the past few years have threatened to undermine the strong export performance of German industry. The unemployed or downgraded departments, on the other hand, have been more important than the effects of Thabo’s regime. Some have been responsible for the reduction in export law—charges such as carrying false identity papers or being sacked for the Provisional Revolutionary Government.

Since October, 100, there have been so many strikes in West Germany that it is extremely difficult to trace prisoners.

The government has announced that it is based in Berlin, 10,000 (January), and none at all (this month).

Inflation has been at 7 per cent, and by various estimates the final settlement came down to between 30 and 40 per cent, and higher social insurance contributions since the government has been in power.

The government has now announced measures for reducing inflation, including the reduction in the mark’s and inflation in wages.

Some hope for a better deal are placed in the SPD, as was seen in the general election three years ago when the SPD dominated the SPD government. But the illusion that an SPD govern-
DALE OF PLENTY

THE International Socialists branch in Scarborough has been putting bulletins into the Dale Electric Company who have sent their third bulletin containing a few sharp words to the Socialist Worker for sale of Dale Electric shares and it's all been happening over it with Dale directors.

The bulletin has predicted a nine-month strike and elects Mr. Leonard Dale Mill, chairman and managing director of Dale Electric, which is in liquidation, 'Private and Confidential' and 'Not to Be Divulged to a Third Person.'

It has been circulated to every worker in the factory. It is, by any standards, a masterpiece.

Dealing with the company's growth, Mr. Dale writes: 'Strange as it may seem, the company's growth was made possible by its two industrial disputes in the electrical industry by people similar to the International Socialists.'

It is clear from the fact that Dale, which makes electrical generators, made its biggest advances during the national strike of December 1970 and the miners' strike.

Mr. Dale tells the workers: 'I would now like to deal very carefully with the paragraph where they state: "Every bit of the cake was created by you, the workers, and every bit of the cake that is uneatable and not going to swallowing this.'

'Very small'

Consider profits, for example, Mr Dale argues with the figure given in the 1985 bulletins, but complaints that it does not take tax into account, Tax, he adds, 'is a tax on the companies and the country pay for education and all the other services which this country provides.'

After tax, profit was only £600,000, £238,000 of this, means Mr Dale, 'has then to be paid out in dividends to our shareholders, people who have loaned the company money.

Mr. Dale is at his most bitter in answering the fact—again unadjudged—that the company saves a million, £400,000 worth of shares. Half of this money, he argues, would be used to loan to the miners to 'save them that were very small'.

The rent struggle with hard-earned cash which he earned with his own hands, apparently, was done by loan in his work as managing director of an advancing class of London.

Not obliged

Mr Dale is unrepentant when it comes to his own salary—£7500 a year—and the £2500 a year that he got last year. 'I think,' he writes, 'when you take into account the number of hours I put in, income tax and surtax, I think you will agree that in many cases my take-home pay looks proportionately worse than that.'

(The average 'top line' pay for a skilled electrician is £21 a week.)

Here is how Mr Dale deals with another charge against his management in the bulletins—try to make a point that meals are taken among the dirt of the workplace.

SHOCKING COPPERS

IN YORKSHIRE they've been beating the police again. A shocking business. Apart from the pun, the responsible are policemen.

They happen to have been at special 'crowd-control' courses at RCAF Finsimley, near Doncaster. The sessions are organised like this.

Half the officers are detailed to be 'bent, not broken.' Their instructions are to 'be as realistic as possible.' The other half behave like policemen, and try to 'drive a wedge' into the pickets and arrest the militants.

It seems that the 'pickets' are behaving rather more realistically than necessary. According to the Yorkshire Post (10 March): 'A number of their opponents received injuries, including the fracture of a bone.'

At one stage, the report, 'three men from Bamberley were off duty because of injuries.'

Labour executive backs the rent Act—blacklegs

LABOUR's left-wing National Executive has struck another blow for freedom in the party's grass roots. On 1 March, David Skinner, who is secretary of the North East Derbyshire Labour Party, wrote a letter to Reg Underhill, the party's national organising secretary. Underhill's letter gave the results of the same. This re-naming of the constituency party's decision to remove 12 sitting councillors in Derbyshire from the panel of candidates for next month's council elections. All 12 had 'implemented' the Tory rent Act, and had put up rents in their areas.

The constituency party was, under the Labour Party constitution, performed its rights in nominating the 'implementers' for the past. Thereafter, the executive set up a sub-committee to investigate.

The sub-committee, wrote Underhill, decided that 'in the interests of national unity' the 12 councillors be reinstated on the list of candidates from which local parties will select their candidates for the district elections.'

'I was asked,' wrote Underhill, 'to emphasise the point that councillors should not be penalised for whatever position they may have taken up on the rent Act, but that in the interests of national unity the committee, and not one particular party in the district, has the last word in the matter.'

Not content with rubbing the noses of the Clays, the executive is now refusing to support the council's proposals, thereby sending out a signal to the rent blacklegs which existed in Clay Cross.

On guard!

CONGRATULATIONS to Adam Raphael of The Guardian for his fine piece on the 'Tory wage bill' which pours into them from City institutions and pension funds. Among the most general of these is The Guardian and Manchester Evening News Partnership which poured £560,000 into South Africa in 1974 and £595,000 in 1975. It is estimated that they have an interest in South Africa.

On 2 May, a Greenpeace activist chapel at The Guardian has asked the management to withdraw these funds, and to use proceeds from the chapel. A Guardian leader on the subject is not expected.

Cavendish Mr Reid?

THE entire staff of Socialist Worker has been moved to the 'search for the Morning Star', Monday, 5 February.

The audience thundered a welcome to Communist Councillor Mr Reid, leader of the 25 communist councillors in Clydeside. He was said to be 'unable to go to court—only the courts of the class of Clydebank.'

We are issuing this call today that in no circumstances will we implement this Tory Rent Act whatever the consequences.

Mr Reid has only just begun, he said Clydeside will be the place for the people to defeat the Act and that if a hair of his head is touched, then the whole working class of Scotland will be behind them in action.

Confident of the threat of councillors being imprisoned, Mr Reid said to friends: 'How do you fancy supping porridge?'

He said: 'I told him I would go to prison on my principles than dine on smoked salmon and caviar.'
WHY PETER WALKER CAN AFFORD TO SMILE

THIS IS PETER WALKER, (inner) always smiling, always smug. He's the Secretary for Trade and Industry. He's the one who tells us how to pull in the belt and make sacrifices in the country's hour of need.

Fifteen years ago, Walker was an office boy. Now he's a multi-millionaire. He made his money by cashing in on the shipping and insurance boom in the City. He joined up with Jim Slater, the City's top wheeler-dealer. Together they built Slater Walker Securities into one of the most profitable financial enterprises in the world. Long before Mr Walker became a minister and resigned from the Slater Walker board, the firm had opened up operations in South Africa. Since then, it has become the tenth largest industrial and finance group in South Africa.

Hardly a month goes by without another Slater Walker bust. Profits have doubled twice during the last four years. Last week, the Guardian disclosed that at least two Slater Walker subsidiaries in Natal paid their workers less than starvation wages.

Mr Slater said he was 'shocked'. He explained that he had only 'received' the subsidiaries as an 'investment'.

Mr Walker said nothing at all. He just went on trying to get better terms for South African capitalism from the Commonwealth.

Smile on, Walker. You have the chance.

Trotsky's History of the Russian Revolution

IT IS SCHOOL BREAK-TIME in the Natal, in Slater Walker country. The little boy on the left of the top picture is one of the luckiest children in the province.

Children in Natal, if they are black, do not get any breakfast. Sometimes, the day after pay day, their parents give the children a penny to buy a slice of bread in the break. They get nothing else to eat until they get home in the evening, and the meal then is usually miserable.

The little girl on the right is more typical. Her parents can't afford a penny. She is already half-starved and is unlikely to be suffering from kwashiorkor, the starvation disease which has stolen down one in five of black South African children.

She is watching her friend, hoping he can spare a mouthful.

She will eat less this month than Mr Walker and Mr Slater will eat for lunch today.

Her parents, however, will be helping Mr Slater, Walker and their kind with their £65 million in dividends shipped out of South Africa. The pockets of rich men in England every year.

Share with children. At least Mr Walker is still smiling.

The apartheid police state has never had an easy ride. Countless thousands of brave and dedicated people have challenged the regime and organised for its downfall.

This is the two-part story of one such man, jailed, beaten and finally exiled who is now a member of the international Socialists and still fighting for workers' power.

The bricklayer's shop steward on a hospital building site in Ealing, West London, is a small, cheerful man called George Peake. His workmates respect him as a tough negotiator but few of them realise that their steward is more than just the usual union activist.

For George Peake is a South African revolutionary who has suffered imprisonment and beatings at the hands of his enemies and has the grim distinction of being the first political prisoner on the fortress of Robben Island.

George was born in Bulawayo, Rhodesia, in 1911. His family moved to South Africa when he was 11 and lived mainly in the Cape Town area. His father was British, his mother from St Helena and the family were duly labelled 'cape coloured'.

At high school George became deeply involved in the Trotskyist movement. He was apprenticed as a bricklayer in 1937 but his job and union activities were interrupted by five years' service in the navy.

When he returned to trade he found himself in union work. The Trotskyists had little interest in the unions and George worked closely with the Communist Party.

Because of his political background he never joined the party but its working-class orientation and its commitment to organising black workers into the unions led to a close liaison for five years, until that orientation and commitment changed.

Tough

South Africa was a racist society but Black and White trade unions were in power and the full trappings of the apartheid state were imposed on them. The Nationalists took over after leaders impressionable and idealistic Nazi sympathies.

But even before 1948 union work was tough. Blacks were not allowed to hold office in the unions, there were substantial pay differentials for white and black workers and the white leadership of the building union was deeply reactionary and conservative.

George was at the heart of the struggle to organise building work and transform the union into a fighting force. The employers blacklisted him but such was his support that he became the first-ever coloured organiser for the union in the Cape Town area.

By 1955 substantial changes had been made in the union. Black workers were elected to the executive, the secretary was black and there was no longer a colour bar on officials.

When the white reactionary elements were finally routed from the union hierarchy they sought and won government support in forming a whites-only break-away organisation.

But George's activities were not confined to the union field. In 1953 he was elected first national chairman of the South African Coloured People's Association.

The Nationalist government was basically perfecting the machinery of apartheid to clamp down on opposition and by 1955 the Ministry of 'Justice' slapped a five-year ban on George Peake, the first to be interned under the Suppression of Communism Act.

George was ordered to report from 35 organisations - 'I didn't belong to 33 of them!' - and was restricted to meetings of not more than two people.

Undeterred, George continued his political activities clandestinely. He was a time of political ferment, with the black movement challenging the hideous apartheid regime.

In 1955 the new and powerful Nationalist Party held a 'Congress of the people' in Johannesburg torouse and organise massive support.

The Nationalists responded with a wave of arrests and 156 Congress members were charged with high treason. George, a member of the national consultative committee of Congress, was among those arrested.

The trials dragged on for four years. George was forced to appear in court daily throughout this period but in 1960 he was among those acquitted of the treason charges.

With the detention order lifted, George attempted to return to bricklaying. But the union was now firmly right wing. The leadership were frightened of the government and openly co-operated with it and George was not allowed to return.

Then came March 1960, and the Sharpeville massacre, and the bloody watershed in South African politics when blacks demonstrating peacefully against the pass laws were slaughtered by the security forces.

The race war went on to a full offensive. Every opponent was subject to arrests. The raids in the night became a commonplace and hold without trial for six months.

He had broken off his relationship with his wife and child and there was no one in the night to become a commonplace. So he was not allowed to return and held without trial for six months.

He was given 12 months' hard labour but appealed and was out on bail. The went straight back to the council to continue his campaign but the great was not allowed to report him as he was a 'statutory communist' and little was known of his fight.

The black movement has reached the crossroads. Subject to continual
Stop this killer road say women

Panda cars were on the scene. The women and children were pushed off the road as the traffic was directed. One woman had her coat torn and her arm was bruised.

But the Little Londoners hadn’t finished. The housewives and children crossed and re-crossed the road as the police pleaded with them.

Eventually an inspector was called up to try and sort the group. He promised to bring a radar trap down the following day. He also kept asking the women to take up their grievances with the two councillors who sat on the pavement sheltering from the rain.

Afterwards one of the speakers said that if they would be left alone by the Civic Hall but if they didn’t get any satisfaction they would report it..

And, as she added, the building works on the new site have promised to help too.

Christopher Columbus landed first in the New World... and after praising God, he acquired urgently his gold. The return, red Indians, were peaceable and friendly and directed him to Haiti... he sailed to Haiti.

The Spaniards, the most advanced Europeans of their day introduced Christianity, forced labour in mines, murder, rape, bloodthirsty, strange diseases, and artificial lighting.

There was also slave labour. The plight of African slaves was that in 1791 the slaves of San Domingo revolted, the struggle lasted 12 years. The slaves defeated the local 14000 strong British force of about 50000 men and a French expedition of similar size.

The result was the only successful slave revolt in history. It was this result that led to the magnificent book, The Black Jacobins.

by NANCY HALL

the struggle of one revolutionary from Robben Island...

Police attempt to move the blockade while a city councillor watches beneath his umbrella.

Stop this killer road say women

'THIS ROAD is a killer'... 'Save our children'... 'We want a crossing' proclaimed banners displayed by a group of angry Leeds housewives last week.

The 40 women and children from the Little London and Carlton estates were protesting against the accidents involving their children on Camp Road that divides the two estates.

The mother whose two children had been the latest victims of speeding vehicles was part of the group that blocked the road with prams and kids. As the traffic piled up, the women stood there determined that they would get a crossing to protect their children and stop number 11 of the 10 accidents in the last year.

The decision to block the road where they wanted a crossing was the latest stage of a long campaign. Previously two petitions had been sent in to the city engineers but only a letter of acknowledgement had been received.

Direct action

This time, the women from the two estates had decided that direct action must accompany their third petition. They are determined to get some action to get a zebra crossing on the road that cuts through the centre of Leeds.

Children have to cross the road to get to the two local schools. Old age pensioners have to get to the shops and the police station.

But the police were determined that the road should not be stopped for long. At one time up to six police raids, bans and arrests, the Congress movement decided to go on an armed offensive and to set up a special military wing.

It formed a group known as Umkonto We Sizwe—Spear of the Nation. Its object was terrorism against state property—government buildings, prisons, railway stations. Although he still had a one-year prison sentence hanging over him, George was a member of the Spear of the Nation.

In May 1961 he was assigned to plant bombs at the Roeland Street jail in Cape Town. The group had a complete plan of the prison and chose an area where no prisoners would be harmed by an explosion—at most a door would be blown open and prisoners might escape.

With a carefully prepared alibi that said he was staying with friends 16 miles away, George made his way to the prison late at night and placed the detonator behind a gate.

Then a spotlight snapped on and an Afrikaans voice rapped out: 'George Pake—stand still! It was the security police.

Vans blocked off every exit and the elaborate police precautions convinced George that he had been betrayed.

"All right, George," an officer said, "make the bomb safe."

"I thought it was the end of me," George said later. "They taught me how to prepare a bomb but not how to dismantle it. It was cold night but the sweat poured off me as I attempted to make the bomb safe. But finally I got the detonator out."

He was taken to interrogation headquarters and beaten up while the officers waited for the arrival of the Chief of Police.

He told me that worse would happen to me unless I made a complete confession and named everyone in my organization. If I did I would be free to go.

He left me with a sheet of paper and went away for an hour. When he came back the paper was blank and he flew into a rage. Two policemen came into the room with a big lamp.

Crushed

"They put towels on their hands and punched me and demanded to know names. They opened the door, put my fingers in the lamp and repeatedly smashed them opening and closing the door, I screamed but didn't talk."

One of the policemen produced a list with 13 names. "Just tick off three names," he suggested.

"I won't talk—I want a lawyer," George said. The police laughed and took him up again.

Forty-eight hours later he was taken to court and charged under the Explosives Act. Bail was refused. He was taken, ironically, to Roeland Street prison where he was beaten up by the warders and locked away in the dirtiest, vermin-infested cell they could find.

He was not allowed to bath and had no contact with his wife and family. "I got a bit demoralized."

At his third court hearing, against court protests, he was awarded bail of £1000. The money was collected in the black community that day and George was released.

His release coincided with the introduction of the Sebouzakte in parliament, with a minimum penalty of five years and a maximum penalty of death.

"I was terrified the law would be retrospective and that I would be hanged for the explosives charge. I told my commades I wouldn't stand trial and would escape."

The Communist Party members insisted I should stand trial and turn it into a political trial. They said it would be another "Reichstag Fire" trial! But I went on insisting and eventually it was agreed that I should escape.

The escape was carefully planned with decoy cars and walkie-talkie contact between the cars. They drove through the night to be bordered by Botswana but the police, somehow, had been tipped off and they ran into a road block outside Kimberley.

A police officer pulled open the car door, 'Which one is George Pake?" he demanded. No one spoke.

The officer tore back the sleeves of all the occupants, looking for the distinctive tattoo on George's arm—a legacy from his navy days.

He was driven back to the interrogation headquarters at Cape Town and was met by a beaming Chief of Police.

"George," he greeted him, "I brought you back because you didn't say goodbye to me."

Continued next week.
Gravedigger of revolution

The "great leader of humanity" with two other leading humanitarians, Truman and Roosevelt.

Shatter

Just less than three years later, Stalin's successor delivered a shattering blow to the talk of a "new socialist order". At the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1956, Nikolai Khrushchev revealed that the "leader" of the world's socialist nations, Stalin, had actually been a "traitor to the people". In a long and often bitter attack, Khrushchev outlined Stalin's crimes and how he had "uprooted" millions of people and "sent them to their deaths".

Stalin had indeed been a tyrant, but his methods were seen as a necessary means to achieve rapid industrialization. He was often described as a "fascist" and his policies as brutal and oppressive. His death in 1953 was celebrated by many as a moment of hope for a more just society.

The March issue of International Socialism journal takes a critical look at the state of the left with the working class preparing for a major confrontation with the government and analyses the experience of recent key struggles.

The "great leader of humanity" with two other leading humanitarians, Truman and Roosevelt.

Special article

by CHRIS HARMAN

The 20th anniversary of Stalin's death. Since Stalin has been recorded with discretion silence by most of the left press, Socialist Worker believes that such an important anniversary should not pass without comment.

The Sixth of March was not treated as a great anniversary anywhere this year. For no reason of any political or ideological significance, it was not even mentioned in the Soviet press. Even the Archangel of Stalinitism, Joseph Stalin, did not appear in the papers.

Stalin, wrote leading British Communist R Palme Dutt in Labour Monthly for April 1953, was the "symbol of the champion of the oppressed and exploited over the whole world, the main target of the hatred of the proletariat, the oppressed and exploited, the miserable fighter for peace, the shield and bulwark of human dignity in the face of the third world war...

The whole world with the exception of a handful of evil nations, measure the power of Stalin... The genius and will of Stalin, the architect of the rising world of free humanity, lives on forever..."

Dutt and Palme Dutt knew that the "architect of the rising world of free humanity" was in fact the architect of some rather gruesome happenings inside Russia. But for thousands of rank and file communists his words seemed to epitomize their own feelings.

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The "great leader of humanity" with two other leading humanitarians, Truman and Roosevelt.
Lack of contact between stewards and rank and file

The Ford management's offer of 2.40 had also been less than highly attractive for those who wanted to avoid a fight and were given no lead in an alternative direction. £4 is the maximum the extra-cost and Ford in one instalment.

In addition the Ford management had cleverly concealed the union's claim for a 12 month agreement 'in view of the new facts'. This was very attractive to the union bureaucrats who wanted at all costs to avoid an expensive fight. Ford would presumably reply to the 1974 claim on its merits. And there was a chance the company would then be free of the union levy. Except of course for the real insignificant fact that there is to be a Phase Three, and others after that if the Torn is got away with it.

The situation now is that parts of Dunlop and sections of Dagenham are courageously trying to carry on the fight. But other plants and sections are not implementing the advisory strikes and overtime bans that the official unions have uniformaly not supported.

A further meeting with Ford management is now scheduled and some sort of deal will doubtless be struck in all probability within the freeze norms which the unions are supposed to be opposing.

But no one should lose heart from this situation. It has its logic. But it is in no sense inevitable. Nor is it unchangeable.

Groups of active socialist militants in every plant and every section fighting to build the confidence of the rank and file, fighting to challenge the company and the government at the level of ideas, will transform the situation. They will prepare the way for success in the new battles that will inevitably come.

**FACTS, ARGUMENTS, ANALYSIS**

- **for every trade unionist in the fight against the Tories**

   **ANTI FREEZE**
   - A handbook for trade unionists by Roger Kline

   An International Socialist pamphlet price 2p

   6 Carlton gardens, London. E.2. BER.
BURRY MY HEART AT WOUNDED KNEE, by Dee Brown, to be published later this year in paperback by Pan Books, hardback: Barrie and Jenkins, £2.25.

JUST OVER 100 years ago, at the start of the Civil War, the American West was populated by a peaceful race of migratory hunters—the 'Red' Indians. Thirty years later, in 1890, there were scarcely any bands of Indians left on the plains.

Tens of thousands had died—either in battle or through disease and deliberate starvation. The remainder were herded together, brutally humiliated and confined to small, infertile areas—insultingly known as 'reservations'. Since that time, one of the greatest propaganda feats of all time has been perpetuated. In systematic fashion, the publicists, historians, writers and Hollywood film moguls have created the myth of the 'savages' Red Indian. Generation after generation in America and Europe were raised on a cultural diet of cowboys and Indians.

RELICS

The myth bore no relation to the reality of American history but it was almost universally accepted. The few Indians who remain as the remnants of this once proud race were treated as historical relics of the pioneering age, the golden age of America's birth. In history it is history re-written. But in the past few years a different story has emerged. Spurred on by the Vietnam debacle, a small group of radical historians dug down into the records, examined some of the myths and started to re-interpret the shameful beginnings of American nationhood. The sight of John Wayne in the film The Green Berets has prompted thousands of viewers to begin to question the version of their own history that men like Wayne had so carefully propagated for decades.

Perhaps the most impressive result of this reappraisal of American history is Dee Brown's Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee, an account of the 'Wild West' from the Indian point of view. Brown's book has been at the top of the American best-seller lists for months and is shortly to be published in paperback in Britain.

The title is taken from a poem by Stephen Vincent Benet and refers to the final grisly episode in the Indian wars, the massacre at Wounded Knee. This was the climax of 40 years of broken promises and bloody warfare as the expanding American nation responded to the initially peaceful gestures of the Indians.

The body of Big Foot after the massacre at Wounded Knee. Where then is the warrant?

by Martin Tomkinson

When Christopher Columbus landed in America, he wrote to the king and queen of Spain: 'So tractable, so beautiful are these people that I swear to your majesties there is not in the world a better nation. They love their neighbours as themselves, and their discourse is ever sweet and gentle and accompanied with a smile.'

The Indians continued to treat white men in this manner right up until the 1860s when tribe after tribe was forced to defend its lands and its traditional hunting-grounds against the depredations of rapacious white men.

Brown tells the whole grisly story in detail, backed up with the tragic words of the Indians themselves, and it is only when they had taken to be their friends. Brown notes that among many tribes, scaling of their enemies was unknown until it was introduced by the Europeans. So does one of the favourite proofs of Indian savagery prove unfounded?

The men they tried to gag

LEWD, BLASPHEMOUS AND OBSCENE, by Arthur Calder-Marshall, Hutchinson, £2.75. THIS BOOK is an account of trials by which the state tried to imprison and gag radicals and dissidents in the 19th Century. It is dedicated to Richard Neville, Ian Anderson and Felix Dennis, the defendants of the Oz trial, 'whose views I disagree and whose right to express those views I will always defend', writes the publisher who describes himself as a Christian liberal.

In many ways the book is unsatisfactory. It is badly organised and repetitive, and its style and tone of the law books and dusty library shelves. Nevertheless it is essential reading for anybody with more than a passing interest in civil liberties or the operation of the press and the courts by the state.

Calder-Marshall repeatedly shows how each of the trials he describes was a political trial. Although the charges were ostensibly concerned with blasphemy and obscenity, the motive of every trial was political.

Corrupt

He at his best when he is dealing with post-war repression after 1918 and the intolerances of the 1930s. He characterises the government as that of the 'Cabinet and the courts', and describes the activities of agents provocateurs in some detail. Hardwicz has followed standard practice, and made an attempt to minimise the extent of government espionage and surveillance, but was hard to obtain and documents have been scarce.

In order to write this book, the writer has had to use the techniques of the KGB and the��ler administration to badly insulting abusive language in order to make a point.

White in prison he met Woolf, Yorkshire-born editor of the Swing Book Club, Brown the most popular title in the world. The trouble is, he is still publishing to edit an 'underground' paper from jail.

Ignoble

Just as Black Dwarf, Two Penny Soap and The Socialist Review were the honourable ancestors of today's World, Private Eye and Private Wrong, so the Whitehorses, McWhiters and Freedom Under Law groups have been equally preceded by William Wilberforce and the Society for the Suppression of Vice. The 'Vice' Society is described as the 'only finger group for combating proclivities to the greater glory of God and the greater profit of [their members] Mr Witchett.'

The book tends to flatter as it does not refer to the 18th century. It covers the doings of the 19th century. Those appearing in the book become increasingly articulate and decent athletes with little sense of humour and few ties with the working class. The facade love of man's daughter makes a brief appearance in Hambly's book, but the struggle had taken different forms and was being fought in other places than the courts.

The message of Calder-Marshall's book is that the state will use whatever weapons are easiest and easiest to hand. The increasing use of the vague word 'complacency', the action of 'censorship' to banarise papers as in the Oz trial, the jailing of the demon, can only mean an increase in the trials, verdict, and jail sentences. It requires revision to demonstrate the current state.
No, it won't make the Tory bastards sit up

DAVID WILD
REVIEWS
LAST TANGO IN PARIS

ONE Thing is certain about Last Tango in Paris (Prince Charles Cinema, Leicester Square). Whatever I or any other reviewer may say about the film, most people are going to see it anyway. If they get the chance—such has been the aura of publicity that has surrounded this particular production.

Another certainty is that a lot of self-appointed guardians of public taste are going to be telling you what you should think about it. And no, unless you are in the film industry or desperate to get audiences back into the cinema, and in therefore prepared to push into more controversy than I have before the first, Before the Revolution, to the recent The Conformist, which was set in Mussolini’s Italy, at one level this was simply a way to stage the emergence of a fascist character. Structure is the central character; and on the other hand, is a painting by a great master of the Shining Reich. Any radical film or photography, however, presents a picture of complexity and contradiction, ranging from the most disingenuous conclusions, and Bertolucci’s films do this.

The Tango: Paul and Jeanne disrupt a ‘Come Dancing’ competition and are told: ‘There’s no place for love here, if you want love, go to the cinema.’

EMOTION

On one level, you could say it’s about age and ageing, the film, being half Paul’s age—about the fantasy of middle age. But in the first place, it’s coinciding with the girl’s fantasy of the experienced super stud, the big man in the city, and the relationship that turns into disgust. Or it’s about the juxtaposition of spontaneity and emotion with ‘reason’ and ‘normality’—brilliantly conveyed in the last tango sequence of the title, where Paul and Jeanne disrupt the French equivalent of Arrow Dancing. The president of the tango jury, desperately trying to get them off the floor, says: ‘This is a competition, no place for love. If you want love, go to the cinema.’

Or as the synopsis says, about the impossibility of constructing a rapport based on emotional and physical response, beyond social conventions.

To add to that wealth of detail observation, Jeanne’s mother lovingly handing the dead colonel’s boots, their dog that he had trained to find Arabs by their smell and never bark at anyone well-dressed, Bertolucci’s usual superb colour photography, and music by Oliver Nelson and Gato Barbieri (the Liberation Music Orchestra fame) and you have a rich and many-dimensional film on any level.

The Tango: Jeanne and the dead colonel’s boots, their dog that he had trained to find Arabs by their smell and never bark at anyone well-dressed, Bertolucci’s usual superb colour photography, and music by Oliver Nelson and Gato Barbieri (the Liberation Music Orchestra fame) and you have a rich and many-dimensional film on any level.
Challenge to right in engineers’ poll

by Bill Message

JOE GORMLEY, president of the Special Trade Union of Mineworkers, is a man who can always be relied upon to surprise people. Unexpectedly, this surprise takes the form of astonishment that such a mild-mannered, mild-mannered face, as the rank and file of the NUM proved to be last month, could be defeated by a right-wing president.

So mills received a totally different type of letter from the NUM last week when Gormley appeared to be advocating a general strike to defeat the government wage freeze and when he led a successful revolt against the leaflet of the newly-formed General Council.

Speaking at a conference in Dublin last week, Joe Gormley has said that the government must begin by recognising the right of workers to negotiate on their own behalf. He went on to say that the government was right to negotiate on its own behalf, as the government was right to negotiate on its own behalf, as the government was right to negotiate on its own behalf.

WAGE CUTS

Unfortunately this is not the case. The leader has not changed spots, this is the only thing. He has simply reflected pressures that are upon him.

Gormley was elected president for life a couple of years ago. Michael MacGahern, president of the SDH General Council, was another Communist Party member. Since then no voice has been raised against Gormley’s policy of political intervention. The entire NUM is now an expression of Gormley’s in advocating ‘co- operating’ with the government. Gormley and his colleagues have pursued the company’s policy of wage cutting, as the government’s policy is wage cutting, as the government’s policy is wage cutting, as the government’s policy is wage cutting, as the government’s policy is wage cutting, as the government’s policy is wage cutting.

At the NUM conference in London last week, Gormley issued a general warning to the delegates about the dangers of a general strike, and with the election that the government was right to negotiate on its own behalf, as the government was right to negotiate on its own behalf, as the government was right to negotiate on its own behalf.

Gormley: suffering from split personality?

This was said by Gormley on 15 February, the day that he issued his famous appeal to the trade union movement for a general strike to defeat the Tory government.

At the NUM conference in London last week, Gormley issued several warnings to the delegates about the dangers of a general strike, and with the election that the government was right to negotiate on its own behalf, as the government was right to negotiate on its own behalf, as the government was right to negotiate on its own behalf.

For Gormley is like so many other union leaders who cannot be held accountable to their members. They have concern in ‘continuing good relations’ with the employers, but when there is real unrest among their members they are forced to talk a good verbal conciliation in order to head off militancy and safeguard their own positions.

There is of course a huge measure of truth in what Gormley says about the necessity of a general strike against the Tory government. He does not mean all this, it is that he is his responsibility to lead one of the most powerful unions in this country into action which can then be spread and supported by other trade unionists who are also engaged in a fight against the freeze to win their claims.
SOCIALIST WORKER has been correctly pointing out the powers that the Tories have taken under the freeze to make strikes illegal. This is an obvious attempt to break the union movement.

But we must be careful not to go along with those who are saying "strikes are illegal under the freeze". In fact, it is an attempt to break our right to the right wing in the unions to knuckle under.

The Tories' powers are intended to intimidate, in the same way as the extreme powers they have under the Industrial Relations Act to imprison people for "incitement" to strike.

That the Tories are taking these powers is a sign of the weakness of the working class. They will only use them on trade unions in a much wider, and therefore much more serious, way.

Socialist Worker must always emphasise that a strong political offensive in the class war is the best of all ways to defeat the Tories. They intend to weaken trade unionism by getting the leadership of it.

United action in support of workers fighting the freeze down the line through this employers' law as surely as the Penontonese did did.

BARLOW FOLLOWS NOT LEADS BUILDING WORKERS

Freedom from racism

A MAJOR SLOGAN contained in the Communist Manifesto is "Workers of all countries unite". This is not just an empty phrase, but the very essence of internationalism.

We stand by it. The combination of Mervyn Hughes' 17 March is that somehow when it comes to the struggle for socialism, Britain is isolated from the rest of the world.

We fight against all immigration restrictions because by its very nature it fosters racism and by doing so weakens working class solidarity. Imperialism is rejected as an empty phrase.

We fight for the red dismantlement and insecurity, by which Mervyn Hughes attempts to justify immigration control, is a threat to workers' welfare and at the same time and not only destroy the class that creates this situation, but to rid the world of workers' class.

This quite simply means utilising all the resources and levers of power, and indeed of profit, to place men over nature.

Capitalism destroys. A socialist society would have a totally different concept of the earth's operation. Our modern nation state, being inherently racist, intentionally uses these problems if the worker happens to be black.

For socialists to hedge on this issue is to put our backs on the international working class and all oppressed groups of the world.

On his second point about the environment, when two-thirds of the population is living below a mere subsistence level, side by side with fantastic wealth and a major war, not only does it destroy the class that creates this situation, but to rid the world of workers' class.

The Greens have gone over to "socialist" parties, but they are not at all interested in socialist politics. They are more interested in the Greens' political programme.

Love your readers questions: a pensioner from Appletown who says he is going to the "Soviet" system. Do you think that it is more likely to be a better system that such a low income level should be used as a lost deposit for an IS council tax? Obviously not! Surely in the elections!"--DAVE SOUTHERN, NFWU, Appletown.

HOSPITALS' PLAGIARY

THE International Socialists are to organise the first ever "Special" on the hospital workers' rights.

I am somewhat disappointed that the national press were not more interested in the past few weeks the dealings respecting newspapers, I have heard to the hospital workers of endangered lives.

It is vitally necessary that we call together the working class of the world for this is the struggle for our lives. NOT hospital workers demand revolution by the masses"--DAVE SOUTHERN, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

THEY are the ones responsible for the criminal state of the hospitals--PETER McGRATH, London NW3.

THE REVOLTING CANT of the Daily Telegraph, which preaches sanctimoniously about violence and the moment a group of pickets gather at a factory gate, was in evidence once more over the last week. Its vicious campaign against the train drivers reached its peak.

The Telegraph presented the army of commuters who buy it every day with barely disguised incitement to terrify railway workers and run riot on trains and stations. This was not due to any other interpretation of the comprehensive coverage it gave on its front page during the ASL IEF work-to-rule strike by railway strikers in Tokyo.

It was an item that would normally be given little more than a paragraph on the foreign news page. Japanese commuters went on the rampage when their trains failed to show up and attacked railway staff and police with iron bars.

In leading detail over about half-column the Telegraph described the Tokyo incident. The story was neatly run on to the lead, which was the usually one-sided and coloured coverage of the "chaos and misery" caused by the suberboutsisation by the disputes. The main headings were TWO BLANK RAIL DAYS NEXT WEEK - DISRUPTION TACTICS TO CONTINUE.

In several offices of ASL IEF we have had reports from the front on the death of one porter who suffered a heart attack two days after a mass of enraged passengers turned on him.

These mindless and cowardly attacks on workers who were not involved in the dispute—indeed, whose union has done its best to keep them out of proportion, condemned by the anti-violent Daily Telegraph. After all, it would not be right to remind the bowler- and brolly-buzzing boys that it is just as much their fault as yours when you put them up to it in the first place.

I was surprised to read the article "Barlow's Trick Mission to the Social Worker (10 March). Surprised because anyone reading the article who was not acquainted with the struggle of Brantham building workers would have gathered that the leadership and inspiration of the struggle came from Ken Barlow. This is far from the truth. The building workers’ movement in Birmingham has been built mainly by the massive efforts of the rank and file militants there.

While we are now in a position where the time officials in our region are giving support to militant policies, it has not yet come about due to pressure exerted by the rank and file. The article in no way represents the struggle and it was not until Barlow told us how he decided to use the militants to build the union.

Further, the preamble to the article showed how Barlow had "harassed the power of the militants". Surely we do not wish anyone to be misunderstood. We do not wish to go on the power of the militant rank and file "crushed" but wished to smash the employers.

As long as we are not in a position where the time is for us to act on the rank and file Building workers’ strike it gave undue credibility to a man who has refused to give concise public statement to the IS community. For the second year running Barlow was asked if he would go on the board to attend the conference and speak on the and for the second year running he failed to attend.

Finally, we in the International Socialists have consistently argued that the trade union bureaucracy are often not just racist and sexist but militant. That it was a 

DAVE PEERS (London) seems to be suggesting that the situation is "inescapable" when he defends standing IS candidates. I think we are all aware that the working class knows what sort of people the Labour Party represents. What does Dave Peers mean when he speaks of the "inevitable"? Are we to assume that IS candidates are going to kill off Labour Party representatives? While what Dave Peers seems to be saying is that in six years time he is still going to be there, I do not believe that it is time for us to jump on the parliamentary bandwagon. We are going to have a campaign of Labour disputes, an army of Labour disputes, an army of Labour disputes, a campaign of winning the ballot, and trendy Liberals in the parliamentary elections.

While I am not against standing IS candidates for parliament in principle I feel that at the present time it is a tact that we can do without. The present policy of the Communist Party’s lost deposits in elections, while partly being due to their reformist stance, should serve as a warning to revolutionaries willing to participate in such elections.

The scientists impression given IS members to the working class during the genuine struggles with employers, landowners and landlords will gain them most support and popularity for the forces of socialism.

Ron Knowles

Casting go on

For the record there is still a group called CAST. The Kinnerton Telegram reported: "For the second week a group started by two members of CNT called CAST has come in. Daley Gordon correctly states, is another one of the CNT's anti Marxists who is out there to keep the CNT at a distance. Its members are out to keep anything that has to do with the CNT. CAST plays theStonehenge Chronicle."

One can see the faith our brothers have in themselves as an example of how the CNT play the Stonehenge Chronicle. The cost of sending 45 copies of the Telegram by post must cost around £800 per week. The five-hour working day cannot be achieved.

Read Socialist Worker in four hours, received more education, and it only cost 5p. GRAHAM SPINK.

Keep off the election bandwagon

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The Telegraph's incitement to riot

THE Telegraph is not alone in this disgusting new campaign to bring about the destruction of our system. The BBC has not been slow to follow up and attack the railway staff strikers as well.

In a leading article over about half-column the Telegraph described the Tokyo incident. The story was neatly run on to the lead, which was the usually one-sided and coloured coverage of the "chaos and misery" caused by the suberboutsisation by the disputes. The main headings were TWO BLANK RAIL DAYS NEXT WEEK - DISRUPTION TACTICS TO CONTINUE.

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Police Attack Workers

Court bid to break power of pickets

by Mike Flood Page

IT'S NOT just me or the other lads here, it's not even just the 300,000 building workers who came out on strike last summer, it's the whole working-class movement that's on trial here today.

'That's why these lads are not afraid. They are much better surprised about being put away for five years. We wouldn't be inside for five weeks.' The words are those of John Carpenter, Transport and General Workers' Union shop steward from Wrexham and one of the 24 building workers who appeared in Shrewsbury's Shrewsbury Court last Thursday to face a battery of criminal charges for picketing during the building workers' strike.

The action has been brought by the Director of Public Prosecutions, a gentleman who used to be whittling at usual directly on behalf of the employers. The DPP has charged the 24 with common assault, intimidation and causing and assisting in causing damage to property. Some of the 24 are also accused of 'conspiring to compel people to abstain from their legal work.'

'Damage'

The 'crime' of the 24 building workers is that following a call from the building action committee in Shrewsbury during the national strike last year, they brought in a flying picket from Chester.

They picketed sites—for which they were threatened with intimidation-'causing damage to property' and 'causing an affair.' And they build collections for the strike funds—for which they are charged with demanding money with menaces.

Was it particularly violent picket? The police did not think so at the time. Up to 100 policemen followed the picket round Telford and Shrewsbury that day. When they had finished the chief constable came over to shake their hands and congratulate them on the peaceful manner in which they had conducted themselves.

The trouble did not begin until six weeks later. By then the building employers' federation was making a lot of noise about the flying pickets and compiling its dossier on trade union 'violence' during the strike.

Arrested

Throughout October and November, North Wales and Chester police carried out 300 'interviews.' Men were dragged from their homes and taken to police stations for 'questioning.' Nothing further happened until early this year. On 14 February, the first six men were arrested and taken to Telford police station in 'personnel carriers' and held over weekends and then charged. By the time they left the court the next morning a picket of more than 400 building workers had arrived.

In the week that followed 18 more were arrested.

The trial of the building workers and Allied Trades, the main building workers' union, the men backing up just one week before the trial—when it was discovered that the conspiracy charges implicated the union. This refusal was despite the fact that all 24 men were follow-

Building workers from the World's End site in Chelsea, London, marching in Shrewsbury last week.

Constable's evidence collapses

BIRMINGHAM.—The trial of the Whitehall Road 12-victims of a savage police raid on a West Indian Brownstone—here is now the case of the Whitehall Road 11.

The trial of the 12 West Indian youths, who are charged as Affray, poisoning offensive weapons and assault with intent, has been adjourned. The judge, Mr Justice Trench, has directed the jury to the case of the defending counsel, but he has not given evidence to the jury to the case of the defending counsel.

Already this has led to one acquittal. Last Tuesday Police Constable Brian O'Beirne gave evidence on his reasons for arresting one 15-year-old youth, whom he had seen the youth in the street. At the request of defence counsel, Mr. Brian O'Beirne refused to give evidence, on the grounds that the lawyer was not a reliable witness.

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The 24 arrested, all, the trial, have picked up the police to court proceeding. The trial has been adjourned, but the police have carried on in the face of frequent police harassment.

Councillors stand by as tenants beaten up

by Peter Clark

KIRKBY Labour Party has just given £20 to the Clay Cross councillors who are in conflict with the police over the Essex Finance Act—because they are in conflict with the police over the Essex Finance Act. The councillors believe they have the law on their side. Between them they are in conflict with the police over the Essex Finance Act and have spent several days in court trying to have the Essex Finance Act declared illegal.

The Labour-controlled council is determined to fight against the Essex Finance Act, which was introduced to deal with the Essex Finance Act in the first place.

The council decided last Monday to resist the police's attempts to get a restraining order on the Clay Cross councillors, who have been personally targetted by the police in attempts to get a restraining order on the Clay Cross councillors. The police have already had several meetings with the council, and the councillors have been threatened with legal action.

Two hundred tenants were outside the meeting as the councillors arrived. All collected signatures to speak to them and speak to the tenants.

The tenants decided to go in. It was as they were going in, they refused to be theory, or one woman said, 'We have built the funds, the place.' The other at least 10 in by allowing a councillor, immediately a number of large-scale demonstrations who claimed they were housing housing moved towards the council's decision.

Kicked

When the tenants appeared to speak to the council, out of the meeting, threatened with police moved in.

The council is in conflict with the Tower Hill Action Group and a member of the International Socialists, who was grabbed and dragged first four dozen of flights of stairs after they were dragged up to the top of the council building and shocked on his stoop, and kicked at his face.

Mr. McCowan was held by the throat by one policeman while another kicked him in the groin. He was too far left down the stairs after he was dragged down the stairs. Woman was dragged down the stairs. "This is a woman," said one officer, he was left holding hair he had pulled out of her head.

Billy Flintoff was grabbed upstairs. He was sitting on a bench outside the meeting room at the time. His shoed hair was pulled out of his hair. He was taken to the police station. The police refused to let him go.

The police attacked the tenants and threatened to arrest them. The tenants were beaten by the police and threatened with arrest. The tenants were beaten by the police and threatened with arrest.

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The following morning the police appeared and threatened to arrest the tenants. The tenants were threatened with arrest. The tenants were threatened with arrest.

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HOSPITAL workers throughout Britain continue their wave of strikes led by NUPE to demand better wage claim, despite fervent pitch-witch hunting on television. The result was the refusal of the TUC to give concrete supporting action.

In MANCHESTER the constituency of hospital workers are still absolutely solid. At the Royal Infirmary, St Mary's Hospital and the Dental Hospital, workers are continuing their all-out stoppage despite the threat of legal action. strikes are being linked up with Manchester stewards.

Pickets at Manchester hospital strikers led a demonstration against the enforced closure of the Accident and Emergency Centre. This was very well attended considering the lack of support from the union officials, who are still looking to survive the strike to win the claim.

PICKET

The meeting at the held after the march organised by the Manchester Trade Unionists Alliance, who led the Freeze, speaker, after speaker emphasised the link between food and file alliance of workers to smash the freeze.

In HUDDERSFIELD last week hospital workers launched a three-day strike over the freeze. Despite the attentions of the press, over 1,000 pickets were on the picket lines at the Royal Infirmary, St Mary's Hospital and the NUPE branch at the hospital, told Socialist Worker: 'The management wanted us to keep some emergency services on. They have turned away some patients from the hospital. But as it is the case you are prepared to pay for your treatment you can always be accommodated.'

We are returning to work Huddersfield Royal Infirmary workers are continuing their fight with a series of strikes.

ALL-OUT

In BIRMINGHAM strikers at Queen Elizabeth's and the General Hospital nurses were to return to work last Thursday. Queen Elizabeth's nurses, who total 250 workers walked out without arranging emergency cover. Workers at the General then decided to follow Queen Elizabeth's lead and the all-out strike was kept going for a week.

Hospital workers' militancy has received a constant challenge from reactionary union leaders but begun last. At a meeting last week at the East Birmingham hospital, a Confederation of Health Service Employees official criticized the members for coming to a decision on a '14-day freeze'. He also said that he had only sanctioned a one-day freeze and in his view the two-week strike pay and kept the money locked away.

Mass picket boost for Three Times strikers

PLYMOUTH-The hopes of the 32 heroic strikers at Three Times were boosted last week by news from the National Union of Journalists the NUJ that a national picket line will be extended to Three Times.

The NUJ has told the management that they will continue to picket for six months on the sites of the paper and that they are prepared to reduce the number of pages and say it will not shorten the agreement. The NUJ executives have suggested that they are willing to negotiate over extra work but that the chapel says that this is not the case.

The paper has continued to appear despite the strike, though much volume of work is taking place. The chapel says that the newspaper is suffering from staffing cuts and quality of work.
A QUARTER of a million miners could soon be adding their muscle to the struggle against phase two of the wage freeze.

They will vote in a union ballot over the question of industrial action early next week and in several coalfields delegations have called upon the members for a resounding yes vote.

Delegates in traditionally militant areas of Yorkshire, South Wales and Scotland have been joined in the call for strike action by areas that are usually much more conservative, such as Lanarkshire.

But there is still the danger that the union's national executive will do its utmost to avoid a conflict with the government. Last Friday it rejected a Coal Board offer of £2.29 in reply to the union's demand for £5.50 to £7.75. But it did only because the board withdrew the extra week's holiday that had been promised.

The union executive has also rejected calls from the left for a special conference that would have tied it down to industrial action for the full claim.

The question the union has put to merely skims members to give 'the national executive authority to call a national strike or other action as necessary to support our efforts to obtain a satisfactory response to our claim. This form of words leaves the executive free to avoid all-out strike action or to settle for £2.29 without the full union involvement.'

Until now the executive has refused to campaign among the members over the claim. It has been under direct attention to the question of the next week's holiday. The union's president, Joe Gormley, is manoeuvring to place the issue in the ballot, rather than the miserable offer of £2.29.

But the Coal Board's offer of the free holidays, Gormley will proclaim it a victory for the executive and call off any plans for a meeting of the new central conference, later this week.

A massive vote in support of industrial action is needed to prevent the executive backing out in this way. Mass pithead meetings should be held to reaffirm the decision of last year's conference to put the wage demand in the centre of the struggle and, where possible, to begin industrial action without waiting for the executive go-ahead.

Miners in every area must prepare now to co-ordinate their action with that of the other public sector workers fighting the government freeze. The call for one-day stoppage in Yorkshire this Friday to support the hospital workers is an important step forward. It must be reinforced with the creation of joint action committees between the local organisations of miners, health workers, civil servants and other groups pressing claims.

Last year the miners smashed through the government's policy of limiting wage increases to less than the increase in the cost of living. The government can smash right through the government's freeze.

But that will require all-out strike action by all sections of the miners, pickets, and united action with the other groups of workers.

ULSTER: army gets the go-ahead

by Mike Miller and Brian Trench

AFTER a month of meetings, discussions, and five days after Heath's meeting with the leaders of the new Northern Ireland government in Dublin, the Tory government has published its White Paper on the Fermanagh issue, which will permit a limited number of British soldiers to be stationed in the province.

The British army will maintain its present level. The miners and the unemployed of the Catholic ghetto will have to look elsewhere for expressions of solidarity, but Loyalists too will be harried.

Threaten

The White Paper spells out the British intention to remain in the province, and to stop the Catholic middle class from entering the province, from which it was expelled by the Home Rule Act. The White Paper also makes it clear that the British armed forces are to be used to prevent any further incursions into the province, and that the British army will have a new role in the province.

For the ultra-nationalists like Jan Paton, who is the leader of the True Unionist Party, the White Paper is the "worst of all worlds" and a "great dis- traction" from the real issue, which is to maintain British domination in Ireland, and to prevent any further incursions into the province. The White Paper makes it clear that the British army will have a new role in the province.

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