As health workers battle on, TUC must be told:

**Hunt’s HEAT’S NEW CHAIN**

The more the union leaders crawl to Heath the harder he kicks them in the teeth. Vic Feather and company were back at Downing Street yet again on Monday, begging Heath to set up a special inquiry into the hospital workers’ case.

Mr John Cousins of the Transport Workers’ Union aptly summed up the result of the meeting: ‘I don’t know why we bothered to come.’ For once

**SW Political Correspondent**

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**The MONEY continues to flow for the IS Printshop Fund. But in the last week it has been slowing down a bit, so readers should make a bit more effort so that we can reach our target.**

**Last week we collected £203.32.**

**BRITISH GAS WORKERS on strike:**

**A proposal came from one reader: “I am a reader of IS and a supporter, but not a member of IS. To help the worthy workers, will you consider that all readers/supporters send one or more books of either Coop or Green Shield stamps (full of course).”**

**Mr Richard Astor, IS’s national treasurer, has an issue.**

**Rescue workers on their way underground in a vain attempt to find the trapped men.**

**Open letter to Liaison Committee page 3**

**Clay Cross councillors call for support**

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EARLY ON WEDNESDAY MORNING last week miners working the Flockton seam on Face South 9B at Lofthouse Colliery near Wakefield, Yorkshire, were suddenly overwhelmed by a torrent of water which burst out of the coal-face in front of them.

Everyone knows what happened. Lofthouse Colliery was described upon a hundred of press men, photographers and television crews who spread the lurid details of the tragedy across the pages of the newspapers and across the television screens.

Many wondered at the geotechnical disaster of this size. His main interest in the miners is centred around cutting their standard of living by freezing their claims.

All were unanimous in declaring it to be a tragic accident. A tragedy it certainly was, but the sense of tragedy is only heightened by the fact that the accident was avoidable.

The failure of the Coal Board to take adequate precautions at Lofthouse caused an unforgettable tragedy when the mountain of colliery waste engulfed the village school. A similar failure at Lofthouse Colliery caused the death of the seven trapped miners.

The Coal Board was a little more interested in safeguarding the lives of the miners instead of pushing production ever upward the “accident” at Lofthouse would never have happened.

Face South 9B was not due to be worked for very much longer. Coal Board officials knew that it was moving dangerous. With the link of the shaft and the headgear of an old colliery that had been closed in 1936.

STANDARD
A new face—South 9C—was being prepared, but since it was not yet ready to start production, the Coal Board, with creditable neglect for the safety and lives of the miners, decided to continue working 9B until the new face was ready.

This shocking irresponsibility, they did not even carry out the standard safety procedure of stopping hole-boring forward into the face. This should be done wherever it is known that old workings exist.

This precaution was not taken because the Colliery Board say that the old workings were thought to be some 34 feet above the Flockton seam. This is the highest point in the shaft and in the headgear of an old colliery that had been closed in 1936.

RECKLESS
Over of centimeters of the North Yorkshire area of the coalfield has probably been mined more intensively than any other area in the country. There are only 7000 km of cleaned production workings, very few locations directly above the miners and the headgear of the old Lofthouse Colliery which was closed in 1850. The NCB claims that it has no underground workings at Low Leatherslip, although the Abandoned Mines Catalogue states that it has the man-made topography of a firm of mining engineers and surveyors in Wakefield.

A spokesman for the firm, Fensall, Green and Bates, said that they were unable to lay up the pipes on the plans. It said that they would have handed them over to the Coal Board, but would probably have kept a copy for themselves.

Even if the plans do still exist they are probably legally inaccurate. It was not until the Mines Act 1911 that colliery owners were expected to keep accurate records of their workings.

Deliberate falsification of plans took place right up until the nationalisation of the industry. The map of the North Yorkshire area was produced by the topographical survey of the Department of Mines in 1966. It is estimated that the various discrepancies would cause border to one another.

It was almost a standard practice of the miners owning its extensions to work their own extensions beyond their own boundaries in order to poach their neighbour’s colliery, and they would then falsely claim their own to conceal crime from the Crime was not unknown for them to “block up” with coal and rubble when the landlord’s surveyor shows up on the scene.

The inestimable greed of the old coal owners may account for the extent and duration of their own workers, but it is also true of a disproportionate number of workers in the industry in general.

Another corollary statement by Coal Board officials, they only knew of the location of the old colliery in its area, but they had not even investigated the course of the shaft.

Map of the disaster area, showing the fault leading to the coal face

The number of faces at South 9B was 593 hit out in the fault the day before this one. They had been in the region of 34 feet above the Flockton seam.

The most charitable thing that can be said of the Coal Board is that they were guilty of criminal negligence. They knew that there were old workings in the area, but they are saying that they assumed that the old workings were as far above the Flockton seam as they had been before the first second shaft was sounded.

The logic of the Coal Board is that they were not working the area at all when the shaft was 34 feet above the Flockton seam.

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How ITT tried to beat Allende

by Chris Harman

Richard Holm, head of the CIA, in an attempt to prevent the election of Salvador Allende to the Chilean presidency two years ago.

Holm is himself a former head of the CIA. William Merriam, one of the company’s vice-presidents, in turn described how another top CIA man, William Broue, ‘approved plans to sabotage the election of President Allende’. Broue, who was head of the CIA in 1954, was operated in the Western hemisphere and sat in at top-level meetings of Nixon’s National Security Council. It is clear that a group of US businessmen in the hope of securing Allende’s economic concessions to ITT had offered to contribute a million dollars towards ensuring the success of this plan.

A later witness from ITT, Edward Gerity, contradicted his (below) directed and denied unconfidently that ITT had offered support to the CIA proposals. But he admitted the existence of a ‘five-point CIA plan to crash Allende’. The whole process ‘through a slowdown or cancellation of credits in banks, closing down advertising, and company directors, pressure on Chilean politicians. For his part, Allende placed his trust in his own people, his cabinet, and, if necessary, his army.

Secret

The aim of the CIA was for the American business community to have more influence in Chile. Millions of Chilean workers and students joined the middle classes who would then blame their resulting poverty on the shift to the left and support efforts to change their government.

Now we bring about this state of affairs a section of the US business community, and not the most powerful companies. So claims that the CIA’s ex-secretary can refer to the head of the CIA’s undercover operations in Chile, ‘as our man in the CIA’.

The US has built up a machine capable of influencing people, who are less like the world, including giving a helping hand to the wing Labour politicians in Britain. The latest report from the CIA’s ITT, and it was in anyway exceptional. The signs are that the CIA and company directors take such activities for granted. The only difference this time was that a chain of accidents broke the case of ITT.

The evidence coming before the sub-committee shows that the business community is powerful and well organised forces capable of resisting pro-working class reforms. Depression will come, and that big business will stop short of nothing to achieve its goals.

BRIEFING

AT THE height of the struggle in Italy over the national industrial agreement, the engineering unions have reached a tentative agreement with public sector employees which is a partial defeat for the working-class movement.

The engineering workers’ main demand was for a single grading system union manual and white collar workers. The agreement concede a small single system, that creates new divisions among the grades, hitting white collar workers in particular. This is bound to be rejected in many factories, but is equally certain to be imposed by the unions if the final details are agreed with the public employees federation.

Given the high level of militancy of the engineering workers, who have in recent industrial action over the past five months with strikes, mass meetings and demonstrations all over Italy, the agreement is a serious betrayal by the union leaders. It is a serious struggle of other engineering workers at a time when the employers and the state are stepping up repression against pickets and militant workers.

DURING last month’s student strikes in Athens, groups of the Communist Party, one in Milan and one in Naples. The Communist Party and the Italian Young Communist League was to campaign to put forward the slogan ‘to equal, if not greater, on the challenges of the struggle’. The CP and the PCI went on, they could be the ‘instruments of the students’ and the ‘guardian of his liberty’ in short, like the Earl of Shaftesbury.

Immigrant workers in several major French towns have been in hunger strikes during the past year, and the second-class rights offered to migrant workers by the French government which gives them more closely to the subjects of their native homes and of the police, in several towns the hunger strikes have been accompanied by mass strikes and demonstrations supported by French workers’ movement.

Little has appeared in the establishment press about the events surrounding the Athens Law School occupation. The main issue was the right to strike, which had been abolished for airport workers in 1962. At the time the main victim of the strikes in the Athens-dominated CTC (Center radical union) was a worker from the steelworks in Corinth willing to put up with this restriction. The remarkable effect of the strike was the behaviour of the other unions, in particular the Communist Party who supported the strikers and who effectively invited support to the strike and which effectively supported if not if not indeed militarily, the strikers.

ATHENS LAW SCHOOL OCCUPIED

The decisive action by more than 2000 students who occupied the Athens Law School building last Tuesday broke the apparently peaceful atmosphere of the cooling-off period which the Greek junta had imposed by locking them out. It shows clearly that the students are determined to push forward as a movement and challenge the political power of the junta.

What the government meant by ‘cooling off’ was revealed by the way it acted, after consulting with the university authorities. It wanted a breathing space to make more streets, mopping up the repressive machine, and to come to an agreement with the university authorities who had been assured by previous police handling.

The government wanted to co-ordinate its own action with that of the university.

This was clearly seen from the big meeting Papadopoulos held with university authorities and the government-appointed student council. Apart from the fact that Papadopoulos was partly under pressure into student demand, the main theme of the meeting was the consolidation of the student ferment within the university, political and the university authorities in other words, getting the professors to police the students.

But the students refused this manoeuvre. After a series of small demonstrations and a sit-in at Patras University the authorities threw off their peaceful mask. When the mass occupation of the Law School followed, the police and army was called in.

Three things are now clear. First, the student movement is neither going to be wiped out by police repression nor terrorised out of existence. Second, the inability of the university authorities to contain the struggle within the campus reflecting the fact that it is becoming more political, a challenge to the junta and the industrial power that is behind them. Thirdly, any attempt to limit the struggle to a fight for academic freedom is new.

Given this situation the need for solidarity abroad becomes a necessity and a duty of all revolutionaries.
The bakers' dozen increases

ON 21 March the Ministry of Agriculture announced a series of price rises in bakery products, such as rolls, buns, sweeties, sandwiches and domestic flour. The rises were announced in all the newspapers. This meant that the bakers thought they couldn't get away with the increases without the government's consent.

This is not always the case. If the bakers (or any other manufacturers) think they can get away with price increases, they may make a deal with the government to keep the whole thing secret.

On 2 March, for instance, Mr M F Zimmerman, director of the National Association of Master Bakers, Confectioners and Caterers sent a circular to all his members.

The circular was marked 'strictly confidential' and not to be communicated to anyone without prior express approval of the director of the association.

It reported: 'The National Association has negotiated and concluded agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in respect of increases of prices of flour confectionery products which incorporate dried fruit and/or apples. The increase, said the circular, would be a pence per pound, and would apply only to smaller bakers.

'It is not in the best interests of the industry, the government or the public interest to highlight these justifiable price increases which are designed to keep the price of bread at the level which it should be.'

The government is not opposed to the unbearability of price increases. The Association will be making no reference to the Ministry's agreement in its journal. Nothing will be said in the document to the national or trade press.

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Why did the government choose not to make an announcement about the price increases?

The government may have chosen not to make an announcement about the price increases because it wanted to avoid the appearance of price gouging or profiteering. By not making an announcement, the government was able to keep the price increases secret and avoid any potential backlash from consumers.

What was the rationale behind the price increases?

The price increases were likely driven by the cost of raw materials, such as flour and dried fruit, which had increased significantly. The bakers may have been unable to absorb these costs without passing them on to consumers in the form of higher prices. The government may have been aware of this and chose not to make an announcement to prevent any potential criticism or regulatory action.
IN THIS world of spaceships and synthetic fibres the ability to move from place to place is not a luxury but a necessity.

Yet with all the resources of a technological revolution behind us we are incapable of satisfying that need as far as the great mass of mankind is concerned.

A handful of men can reach the moon, a staggering 240,000 miles away at a staggering cost, and answer back within minutes of their scheduled time. A few hundred people will even be able to cross the Atlantic to New York in about three hours—at a cost to the taxpayers of £100 million.

Yet we are unable to move our suburban commuters two miles across our cities in an efficient and reliable manner.

Why is this so? Surely it should be children's play to arrange a domestic transport system, child's play compared to the time, research and effort put into Concorde and the moonshots.

So it would be if we had our priorities right! If we had public transport as a socially necessary service and not as a money-spinning racket.

Nationalisation of the bus industry has brought the continual spiral of service cuts and fare increases which the Tories first warned of when they opposed it so firmly in 1947. Not that they were at all interested in service to the public any more than the major private bus companies. Bisigfied electric Traction, when it formed an Oxford-Passenger Protection Association to put out propaganda in defence of the private ownership of transport.

What worried them were the state’s new powers of compulsory purchase, which seemed to threaten profits and property rights. The Conservative Party repealed those powers in 1953 and since then has invested over £80 million in half the shares in the profitable state-owned bus building companies. The Tories have also relaxed restrictions on public service vehicles to enable them to promote private, private services.

Growth

Unlike rail and shipping, passenger transport has never been de-nationalised because the industry has failed to attract major investment since the 1930s. Money is available for invest in advertising and super- sonic aircraft, but not for buses.

During the whole 25-year period during which the state gradually acquired ownership of the vast majority of buses in this country, private motoring became one of the most important growth sectors of the British economy.

The astronomical costs involved in road construction for the private car, in accidents and pollution, and in lost time through congestion matter little to the investor owning the industry as the industry which uses his money can provide a profit for him. And the big profits are poured into producing luxuries for the richer half. Passenger transport, for example.

Poorer people living in country districts need to be able to reach the neighbouring towns to shop, but because they cannot afford to use the buses regularly, demand for country buses has fallen. Villagers have been forced to buy their cars at some time if they cannot afford them.

On the other hand city services running through down-town areas and used by working people offer subsidised services to residential areas which carry fewer passengers.

The First Minister of Transport, introducing his nationalisation bill in 1947, said he was only half way to reversing this tendency. 'Capital must go where it is most needed and where it will best serve our national resources," he said. It is the same from the parliamentary debate on this issue that the plan was for passenger transport subsidised by the taxpayer and servicing British industry—which was, in the main, to stay in private hands while the drive to profits.

Compensation

Immediately after the war, passenger transport on the roads was monopolised by two firms—Thomas Tilling and British Electric Traction. Wasteful running costs resulted in the most important growth sector of the main road railway companies in the 1940s, and over £1 billion was spent on the railways in the period.

So in nationalising the services the Labour government was only attempting to change the ownership. The government first approached the transport unions and transport holding companies. But the transport unions and transport holding companies would not part with their shares until they were assured that

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**THE MAN FROM ROBBEN ISLAND**

*The George Peake Story: Part 2*

George Peace, revolutionary leader who was imprisoned in South Africa, was arrested in 1952. After a further period in prison, he escaped a second time in a Cape Town prison on 15 April 1954. He was given several years hard labour, for attempting to start an armed movement against apartheid. His escape and subsequent recapture initiated the introduction of the Sabotage Act, which stipulated a sentence of death. George tried to escape this sentence in Botswana but was arrested and brought back to Cape Town.

**THUGS**

Then came the long, terrifying wait for the sentence. When it was delivered there was astonishment in court: four years’ hard labour, with two years suspended.

In South African terms, it was a lenient sentence, so lenient that George received another beating from Roeland Street warders who were incensed by the judge's softness. They cheered up a little when they learnt of George's destination—the prison camp on Robben Island where he would have the grim distinction of being the first political prisoner.

Using his skills as a building worker, George was put to work constructing a maximum security section on the island and was then promptly locked inside his own handcuffs.

The prison commander took a dislike to me. He said building work was too easy and hard me to the stone quarry.

The prisoners had to break out two cubic yards of bare rock a day with hammers and chisels. Then we had to break the lumps into small pieces and tip them into the sea.

Black warders on the island were fairly sympathetic to George and readily established links with his family and comrades through one of the warders. The Congress movement sent messages of his by letter and gave him food from the canteen and gave him money and other prisoners. By the time the first six months of his sentence had passed he had been joined by a further 100 political prisoners.

The authorities were worried by the fraternisation between prisoners and the black warders who were replaced by specially recruited white guards. They were real thugs.

**Buried**

George produced a notebook and the officer skimmed through the pages. His manner changed violently and he flung the notebook down.

"You are a liability," the officer told him. He went on to say that George had introduced the Congress paper to the prison and he was writing the same. "You must be upgraded," the officer told him. George spent the next two and a half years in solitary confinement, where he suffered anguish from the untreated arthritis in his painful, twisted limbs.

The date of his release was 3 September 1965. On 2 September, as a homecoming present, the government slapped an extended banning order and a house arrest on him. The house arrest restricted him to his home from six in the evening until seven in the morning and he was not allowed to go beyond one square mile of his house at any time. I was barred from all industrial areas and from meeting more than one person at a time, except for two relatives and a doctor—and he was not to be a communist.

My whole family was under house arrest and I was not to report to the police twice a day.

When the initial shock of this imprisonment wore off, George attempted once again to escape from the prison, but he was captured. But after three years of house arrest he began to question the point of this twilight existence.

He opened a store in an effort to earn a living, but it flopped because of the terrible black pollution in the area. We ended up giving most of the goods away.

Breaks, unable to operate politically, harasses and intimidates them 24 hours a day by the security police, George decided that his only revolutionary lay elsewhere—if only temporarily.

He bought a passport for...
refused. The alternative, an exit permit, meant permanent exile. The authorities were only too happy to supply such a permit.

Beautiful

George was granted a British passport because his father had been born in Britain. Now, with a foreign passport and an exit permit, he was 'free' to go. Because of the detention order, he was forced to say goodbye to his friends one at a time.

And police harassment continued right to the decks where his family were due to board ship for Britain.

The police officer who had watched and stood on me for years opened every one of my cases at the customs, throwing everything on to the floor. I just managed to scramble on board ship in the nick of time.

weighed down with cramped clothes.

"White South Africans have a saying that the most beautiful sight in the world when you return home is Table Mountain coming up over the horizon."

Man, I can tell you the most beautiful sight in my whole life was seeing Table Mountain disappear below the horizon!"

FOOTNOTE: In Britain George Peaks went back to the building trade and is now a shop steward on a hospital site in West London. He quickly tired of the "dull's Tour" nature of white politics and looked around for a real organisation to join. One look at the Morning Star convinced him the Communist Party was not the answer.

He was impressed by Socialists Worker and its intervention on the working class. Disgusted by the "lump" and the lack of fight by building union officials, he worked with 3 builders and then joined IS in 1972. Two of his daughters have joined IS. George is a worker active in the current struggle.

The recent strikes by black workers in Natal against the grinding poverty of their existence—some earn less than £4 a week—have exposed the total lack of political leadership and the lack of knowledge amongst the workers not only in Natal but in the whole of South Africa. With the best large multi-racial black communities have their main trading links with South Africa.

There is no socialism in the black national movements in Africa. Black leaders like Fawaz and others have overthrown the anti-colonial movement. The ANC and the Portuguese colonies fell then in South Africa with the best large multi-racial black communities have their main trading links with South Africa.

All their revolutionary rhetoric masks this. It is a vain hope of the South Africans that there can be any change in the socialist relation in Africa.

Tories' law still nobbling unions

The Industrial Relations Act has disposed of the last of the unions that the employers succeeded in defeating the last time. The considerable victory for militant defiance in the Lancashire case was passed over in embarrassed silence by the Tory press.

But, if anything, the workings of the Act have speeded the decline of the unions. Not only have the unions been at a loss as to how to meet the new law, but the members have at least begun to understand what it means. And when they have, they are sure to act. The unions are not going to yield so easily to the Tories' pressure.

The Act makes it illegal for any person to hand out a leaflet or make a speech at a meeting of a trade union. This, of course, is a direct assault on the freedom of the unions to operate.

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Unemployment, low wages, illegal jailings continue

THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS for the future of Northern Ireland, published in the White Paper last week, have been greeted with enthusiasm by the press and politicians in London and Dublin. The Labour Party leadership has given them its blessing and so have speakers for the Catholic middle class in Belfast.

The most vehement opposition has come from those traditionally most in favour of British rule in Ireland—extreme Loyalist politicians like William Craig and Ian Paisley. Yet the White Paper is a quite explicit scheme for keeping British control over Northern Ireland. And it offers nothing to the vast majority of those who have been opposed to British rule in the past.

The White Paper insists that the "vital interests of British sovereignty" must be "safeguarded". This is why the whole of Ulster is not being given to the Irish Republic. It is why the British government is going to keep control of the existing Irish Free State. And it is why the British government is going to keep control of the existing Irish Free State. The main argument used by the Labour Party in its support of the White Paper is that "the people of Northern Ireland can be trusted to govern themselves.

The Labour Party, which is the main political party in Britain, has been opposed to the White Paper. But it has done nothing to stop it. The main opposition has come from those who fear that the White Paper will lead to a war between the Irish and the British. The Labour Party has been silent on this issue. It has been silent on the issue of the Irish Republic. It has been silent on the issue of the Irish Republic. The Labour Party has been silent on the issue of the Irish Republic.

Arouse fear

The novelty in the White Paper is that for the first time in the 500 year history of Ireland a major plan to divide and conquer the republic is going forward. The White Paper is a clear example of how the British government is going to keep control of the existing Irish Free State. The main argument used by the Labour Party in its support of the White Paper is that "the people of Northern Ireland can be trusted to govern themselves."

The Labour Party, which is the main political party in Britain, has been opposed to the White Paper. But it has done nothing to stop it. The main opposition has come from those who fear that the White Paper will lead to a war between the Irish and the British. The Labour Party has been silent on this issue. It has been silent on the issue of the Irish Republic. It has been silent on the issue of the Irish Republic. The Labour Party has been silent on the issue of the Irish Republic.

White Paper spells out harassment by troops will continue

White Paper spells out harassment by troops will continue

Craig squirmed out political form it takes

Usually the impression is given that Britain 'subsidises' Northern Ireland with immense sums of money that raise the living standards of the people.

Certainly, sums of money do flow from the British government to Northern Ireland. Last year, for instance, something like £64 million from Britain was paid out as national insurance and social security payments in Northern Ireland. But these sums are very small compared with what the British ruling class gets out of the province. The main industries of Northern Ireland are owned by the same one per cent of the British population who own most of industry in this country. It is estimated that their investments in the Six Counties amount to anything up to £700 million.

Benefit employers

The profits they get amount to about £500 million. In other words, they get about seven times as much back as is given to Northern Ireland's workers as 'subsidies'.

And that is not the end of the matter. The workers pay rents, rates and taxes. As in Britain, the overwhelming majority of the cost ends up in the pockets of money lenders based on the City of London. And the taxes contribute towards government services that benefit the employers. For instance, any British firm that invests in Northern Ireland gets a grant from the Northern Ireland authorities, paid for out of taxes, towards at least a third of the cost.

Again, £50 million of Northern Ireland's taxes go towards 'law and order'—that is towards the upkeep of the police, prisons, concentration camps and the rest that protect middle England.

Even each small sum is added to it becomes clear that the workers of Northern Ireland pay out in taxes alone sums to the owners of British business as big as they get back in 'subsidies'.

British big business cannot in any way solve the basic problems facing Northern Ireland workers. It will only invest there if it is promised profits bigger than anywhere else in Europe.

In other words, although the White Paper would not admit as much, under existing property relations there is little hope that the conditions of the workers in Northern Ireland will improve.

Complete end

It is for this reason that the concessions to the Catholic middle class contained in the White Paper will in no way solve the problems of Catholic workers.

But it is also for this same reason that the attempts to restore the old form of British rule by the Loyalist organisations offer no way forward to Protestant workers. In either case, unemployment, stumps and low wages will continue.

The only real way forward for workers of either religion is by uniting with workers in the rest of Ireland to take industry out of the hands of its present owners and organising production for the benefit of the whole population. But that means a complete end to British control over Northern Ireland.

That is why socialists in Britain must reject completely all the propaganda in favour of the White Paper. We must continue to demand the withdrawal of British troops and to defend those members of the IRA and others who are fighting in the streets of Northern Ireland to drive the troops out.

Chris Harman

Ignore

EVEN WHEN that strategy proved to be a complete failure, NORTHERN SOCIALISTS continued to campaign for their own interests. They won the right to a representative real political party as the one representative national conference called by NORTHERN SOCIALISTS last year led to the election of the Socialists' delegates to the conference. The election of the delegates meant a victory for the Northern Socialists. They were successful in winning a big majority for rent strikes backed up by industrial action, despite platform opposition.

The NORTHERN SOCIALISTS ignored the warning and refused to campaign on the conference policy. Currently, their strategy is to campaign for lower rent rises by tenant appeals against rent increases.

As a result of the absence of a united strategy and the lack of an appeal, the tenants' movement lost last October did not meet the first increases, with a unified strategy. Only 15 had campaigned for rent strikes backed by industrial action, but despite a major effort we were not able to win over the tenants into action.

On 1 October several hundred thousands of tenants did refuse to pay their £1 rent rise. In most cases they are moving into more crowded conditions, but despite a major effort we were not able to win over the tenants into action. If they were the biggest rent strike in the history of council housing, they were not widespread enough to be spread over the whole area. An enormous area was left untouched, more than two million homes.

The crucial factor was the tenants' confidence in their ability to defeat the Tories on their own. Lack of real organisation and commitment to a united strategy are the main reasons why the lack of a united strategy and the lack of a united strategy are the main reasons why the tenants' movement has not been able to spread. A united strategy is needed to bring together the forces of the Socialists, the tenants' movement, the tenants' movement, the tenants' movement, the tenants' movement and the tenants' movement.

But the outlook is far from gloomy. There are strong possibilities...
RENTS: ROUND 2

Union support vital for battle on the estates

The fight goes on: tenants marching in Bolton against threat of eviction with (left) is member Tony Boyle of Towerhill tenants in Kirkby speaking.

STRATEGY FOR VICTORY

1. Mobilise for industrial action now. To give the tenants the feeling of solidarity we must make sure they have real pledges of backing by local shop stewards committees. Flying squads of workers prepared to stop evictions must be set up in every factory and workplace and estates.

2. National rent strike action needed. To be successful this time the rent strikes must be built on as wide a scale as possible. A national strategy is needed. This needs a national rent action conference, as called for by the North West Tenants Conference.

3. Build the tenants’ movement by strengthening tenants’ organisations where they exist and by building action committees where they don’t. Such committees must keep tenants informed and show the connections with the freeze.

4. Prepare for total rent strikes now. The only way to defeat the increases is by a mass rent and rate strike that hits directly at the Tories. Areas that have been on total rent strikes since October are holding out much better than areas that just withheld the increase.

Special rents roundup written by HUGH KERR

does for the development of the battle against rent increases this year.

First, 5% million tenants will get their ‘Fair Rent’ assessment this year. Although some of the provisional assessments under Labour councils were fairly low they will be raised substantially when they go before the Rent Assessment Board on 10 June.

Figures from the New Town Development Corporations, which are government agencies, suggest a 5% average 5% per cent rise in this year’s assessments. At this rate, the plan to double council house rents by 1976 will be achieved.

Second, every tenant will get another rent increase of 5% a week with no more than a million will receive them on 28 April and a further four million on 1 October.

Third, there will be massive rates increases as well. As a result of inflation and revaluation, the average council tenant faces rises of between 30% and 60% a week in rates.

The revaluation of properties in many areas is also biased against council tenants. In Harlow New Town in Essex, the domestic rate for houses has been revalued 2.7 times while the industrial and commercial properties rate has gone up by only 2.3 times.

Burden

This means that the council tenants pay a bigger proportion of the rates burden as well as increases due to inflation.

The practical effect can be seen in Harlow where the average council tenant will pay 35p a week more in rates after 1 April while Johnson Matthey, a big billion firm in the town with record profits of £6.5 million last year, will pay £3000 a year less in rates because of revaluation.

Three massive rate rises, on top of rent increases, could produce a new anger among tenants that might prove explosive.

Finally, and most importantly, the rent and rate rises come slap in the middle of the wage freeze.

Rents and rates are not covered by the freeze. So if your £1 plus 4 per cent comes to £1.80, knock off 50p for tax, 50p for rent increase, 30p rate rise and you are left with 50p a week to cover all the other price rises.

In other words, this amounts to effective wage cuts for most workers. And that is precisely the Tory plan. Rent and rate increases are part of the overall strategy to cut wages and shift the money saved to profits.

Forced

Faced with this prospect many council tenants will be forced to fight. There is no other way. There is no hope of buying a house now since house prices rose 47 per cent nationally last year and 70 per cent in the south east.

Even if you are receiving a rebate now you will get a rent rise in October, for by then rebates will be based on ‘Fair Rents’ and not the present rent.

The tenants’ struggle will be one of the most important battles against the Tory wage freeze this year. Last week’s conference of the International Socialists decided to mobilise its forces to rebuild the tenants’ movement to fight the increases all the way.

If a section of workers can defeat the freeze they will give a tremendous boost not only to all trade unionists but to the tenants’ movement as well.

International Socialism 56

The March issue of International Socialism journal takes a critical look at the state of the left as the working class prepares for a major confrontation with the government and analyses the experience of recent key struggles. Articles include: John Charlton: The Miners Jules Townsend: The Tenants’ Struggle Hugh Kerr: The Tenants’ Struggle Richard Kirkwood: France 1936 Martin Shaw: Student revolutionaries Reg Groves: The crisis of 1931. Plus Notes of the Month and book reviews International Socialism Journal, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

Annual subscription £2.10 112 issued
CANNON TO THE RIGHT OF THEM

This is a biography of Sir Leslie Cannon, president of the Electrical Trades Union from 1963 until his death in 1970. It is written by his widow and a former industrial editor of The Guardian, and deals in detail with his successful struggle to wrest control of the union from the Communist Party leadership of Hazell and Foulkes. In the course of their narrative, the authors raise more interesting questions than they answer. The crucial issue is who were the faceless men, the sinister hidden forces that helped Canindo to triumph?

Obviously, Woodrow Wyatt helped, and so did the capitalist press, with its "red scare" campaign. But how much finance came from organisations like the Anti-Comme: and the American CIA? This we do not know.

Even so, interesting evidence is scattered throughout the book. It tells us that once Leonard broke with the Communist Party he lost his job at the ETU-sponsored Fisher College. Then, he conducted a six-month campaign against the Party leadership.

This exhausted the Cannon family’s savings by the beginning of 1953 (page 150). Yet Sir Leslie remained undaunted. He got a £16 a week job at Hawker-Siddeley at Kingston (page 198).

Sometimes, or other, with these slender means, and not qualifying for legal aid, he instigated proceedings against Hazell and Co. He secured the service of one of the most eminent legal brains—Gerald Gardiner, later Lord Chancellor—and a mammoth case roused. It lasted for 42 days.

UNCLEAR

But after all this, one intriguing question remains unanswered. Why did Cannon get the money from to mount such a costly legal challenge?

The authors do not tell us. Perhaps, they say, "It came from Hazell’s pockets?" What do we know, however, is that in 1961 he had bought good toys to his tools and bad bought how is not revealed—a new car, a creme-coloured Ford Consul (page 231). Although it is unclear whether he was in gainful employment or not, the following year Cannon bought a holiday cottage in Devon (page 236). Of course, after 1963, when he became ETU president, greater affluence changed his lifestyle for ever.

His two sons were sent to private-education boarding schools (page 236). The family moved from Cheshunt—a house Olgas Cannon described as "an ordinary little suburb"—to the more exclusive residential area of Dorking (page 283). The lowly electricians emerged as a noble knight.

This is a far cry from Wigan in the depression years, the period during which Leslie Cannon grew up. The fourth of a family of seven—his mother prematurely weakened by 17 pregnancies—he knew hardship and poverty from birth. His father, a miner, was unemployed for a long time before eventually getting work as a colliery-attendant.

Experience of the inhumanity of social conditions, and the politics. In 1939, at the age of 19, he joined the Communist Party. This was a particularly bad time to be a new recruit: mental agility and a lack of principles were required to follow the gyrations of the party line.

At Moscow’s bidding, the Communist Party supported the war, then opposed it, and finally ended up supporting it again. Like an obedient parrot, Cannon blurted out whatever he was told to say. Right from the outset, he became an apparatus man, selected by his King Street houses.

RUTHLESS

In 1943-4, when the Party was in its ultra-patriotic mood, industrial discontent swept through Britain. Workers demanded tools in protest. They objected to the way Churchill’s government permitted prices and profits to rise while it jumped wages.

But initiatives, headed up by those devoted to steel and-employment under state regulations, discovered the Communist Party acting as a fifth column within the working-class movement, striving to gain compliance with capitalist industrial discipline.

Among the Party members, Cannon was one of the most ruthless and vicious. Significantly, it was at this time that he acquired his first experience of skulking on his fellow men. For whether Cannon received a post in the ETU executive.

This biography, unfortunately, fails to mention these activities. Equally important, it does not deal with Leslie Cannon, the man behind the ETU leadership after 1945.

How he can quote from his speeches where he talked of澜 nee speech on Stalin? Why is this not more explored in the ballot-rigging in the Wigan Branch of the ETU? Did the biographers ever hear that he was an outspoken supporter of the purge, both of the British Communist Party and in Europe, between 1945 and 1949?

Indeed, unswerving loyalty to Stalinism won Cannon the appointment at Fisher. Hatty Pottk, who had a high opinion of Cannon, saw him as the man to lead the counter-offensive against Trotskyism within the ETU.

This had arisen because some union branches, particularly in the London area, had been hearing lectures like those in Kentwood, who tried to get them to question the basic tenets of Stalinism. ETU activists attending the college would be "put right", it is said, to understand the power of an intelligent way Cannon explained the Party were compelled to resort to various devices to obtain "expenses".

The British tradition was you wore a cloth cap to negotiate with a top-hat—fine as a rugged ex-
The Abominable Doctor Midweek

NEVER tell an editor you don’t know what to write about. ‘Have a look at Midweek,’ he suggested.

Hastening back from the Palace Cinema at Bellingham and an engagement with the novelist Gordon Williams, the film had made it to the arthouse with minutes to spare.

Ludovico Kennedy introduced his one- man show and before the show started we were right there with Roy Jenkins, shown crocheting the public, which is dividing the nation, Harold’s Heritage, that didn’t go down too well. As they say ‘he’s always on about nothing.’

Feeling a little better from my friend and Eric Heffer, with Harman sitting on his hip, he presented us with another quiz. ‘Do you know the Labour Party? I always watch it.’

Phone

Phoney

It was all a bit tentative, of course. Lipset was paid by the teacher to the fact that the kids had written out a rough script before performing the technical equipment, and Leigh offered as a background of experience in the theatre as a way of trying to test his social political. Personally, he hopes Leigh will grow out of this, but as far as the kids are concerned it’s clear that they’ve got the message.

RELIGION/TELEVISION

THE CLOCKWORK MIRACLES

Nigel Fountain on THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

EDDIE STRIDE comes from a working-class background and lives in the Spitalfields district of London. Much of his life has been marked with the attempt to rehabilitation of the method that he has developed and his involvement in the Aldegate area of the East End. He is the vicar of Christ Church, Spitalfields.

He is also one of the prime movers behind what is called, ‘The Clockwork Church,’ which was formed in 1971. Eddie Stride was active in the Esoteric Theosophical Society, and has written books on such subjects as telepathy and politics. Books like The Ascension of Cepheus, a metaphysical treatise, which he says is a ‘philosophical’ and religious work, has influenced many people who have been totally damaged by the system.

Eddie Stride’s study is packed with books, including Rosicrucian and Gnostic literature, as well as the works of Martin Brando’s cinematic sex-sick.

CHRONIC

Socialists are right, but it isn’t quite as simple as that, Eddie Stride believes in what he’s doing.

‘Socialists believe in subverting the system through the trade unions and the state. That’s ridiculous, you can’t change the system. The only way to change the system is to change the people, to change the individual before you can change the society. You can’t change the system from the bottom up, you can only change the system from the top down.’

Until that day Eddie Stride and the Festival of Light believe themselves with what they regard as the crucial problem of the day—what Stride refers to as ‘apostasy’ in the media. The word springs from his lips as naturally as socialism from Karl Marx. For the Festival of Light, just as for Andy Warhol, sex is what makes the world go round. But the wrong way.

The weapon to eliminate ‘apostasy’ is rather crude. Apart from depictions to local cinemas showing the usual ‘Daneish’ housewives/ dentists'/skid-rocks the attacks also take in Clockwork Orange and of course East End in Paris.

‘Nobody in Clockwork Orange showed any sign of having any virtue in them at all,’ said Stride. ‘I’ve never met a social worker like the one in that film. I am convinced it is an evil film, and that it has encouraged mugging and violence among the immature.’

The idea that art can exist itself with ‘evil’ (whatever that is) without being evil itself is an illusion. The Festival of Light doesn’t buy paid-up membership. It operates on the basis of local groups, churches, which he sees as one of the routes to the chronic alcohoolism of Spitalfields.

But there is a crucial difference. Capitalists are there to be reformed into the model advertiser and employees dying not clean goods for a clean society. ‘I believe that this democratic socialism is in essence the better condition the man can have until that day, which I don’t think is far away, when God will take us back to his garden.’

Phoney

Leo Bryan, who is one of the leading lights at the festival, once said that he had no idea what to write about. He was writing a play about a man who was a total failure. ‘But you can’t just write something about a man who is a total failure. You have to make him interesting.’

Phoney

They’re no longer prepared to accept that they’re mindless morons just because they can’t pass O levels in Dickens.

The message is ‘you don’t have to be literate to understand what television’s all about.’

Literacy, as far as television is concerned, is nothing more than a time-warp passport to membership of the cultural elite. ‘It’s literate and the whole phonetic parcel of the traditional culture of a privileged class which is used to keep you absolute idiocy off the box.’

And that’s why the whole myth of a literary culture is maintained. ‘If you want to find out what you don’t have to have a Master’s Degree in Classics to understand the new techniques of communication you never know what might happen.’

Like ordinary people might get the confidence to think they know as well as the Gomorrians of the BNC what ought and ought not to be transmitted. And even how to transmit it.

You might get a system in which we all commeciate with each other.

And God knows where that might lead.

There’s a lot of equipment about in the universities and technical colleges, most of it underestimates. It might not be a bad idea to start asking for a chance to learn more about it. It can’t be all that hard. Kids don’t have to have a brain to understand what they say they can hardly and read.

Tom Clarke

Pessimism

Shouts are raised that the Festival has saddened on. Eddie Stride is still going to the movies, writing letters, reading film reviews. The Festival will doubtless continue to prosper, and Malcolm Muggeridge will continue to pray with all his heart that it may be the beginning of a continuing process of moral and spiritual regeneration.

In April 1940 George Orwell wrote of Muggeridge’s book, The Thirties, that it is the book of Ecclesiastes with the partial interpolations left out... It is the Christian pessimism, but with this important difference, that in the Christian scheme of things the Kingdom of Heaven is there to restore the balance... ‘Mr. Muggeridge, needless to say, refuses this consolation. He gives no more evidence of believing in God than of trusting in Man. Nothing can change the ultimate and dispassionate judgement of the arts in our time.”

Orwell would be amazed to find that God has made it to Muggeridge through the Festival. When they got organised, indentured wallowing and God, what may you want?”

WHAT WE STAND FOR

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 one of its organisations.

We believe in independent trade union action for the elimination of capitalism and its replacement by a classless society with production for use and not for profit.

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

Capitalism is international, the giant firms have investments throughout the world and own no allegiances except to themselves and the economic power of the United States. In Europe, the Common Market has been formed for the sole purpose of increasing the trade and profits of these multi-national firms.

The international position of capital can only be overcome by international action by the working class.

A single socialist state cannot independently survive unless workers of other states also come to its aid and extend the socialist revolution.

In addition to building a revolutionary socialist organisation in this country we believe in the necessity for building a world revolutionary socialist party to defend the international interests of either Washington or Moscow. To this end we have close relations with a number of other socialist organisations throughout the world.

We believe in the necessity to unite socialist theory with the day-to-day struggles of working people and to support all genuine demands that tend to improve the position and self-confidence of the working class.

We fight:

For rank and file control of the trade Unions and the regular election of all full-time officials.

Against secret negotiations. We believe that all settlements should be agreed to or rejected by mass meetings.

For 100 per cent trade unionism and the defence of shop stewards.

Against anti-trade union laws and any curtail on the right to strike, whether the regime is 'official' or 'unofficial'.

For equal pay and a better deal for young workers.

Against productivity pay and other brutal measures against trade union activity and shop stewards. Comrades both in the plant and in the Committee have been on the receiving end of these measures.

For a minimum wage of at least £276 a week.

Against unemployment, redundancy and lay offs. We support the demand for unemployment insurance.

For shorter hours.

For all workers in struggle. We seek to build militant groups within industry.

Against racialism and political victimisation of black workers.

Against all forms of exploitation.

For the right of organised people and all organised groups to organise in their own defence.

For a peaceful, economic and political equality for women.

Against all nuclear weapons and military alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

Against secret diplomacy.

Against all forms of imperialism. We unconditionally give support to all movements with all genuine national liberation movements.

For the nationalisation of the land, banks and major industries without compensations and under workers control.

We are opposed to all ruling class policies and organisations. We work to build an international workers' party in Britain and in the rest of the world and support the unity of all revolutionary groups.

The struggle for socialism is the central struggle of our time. Workers' power and control based on human solidarity, on the increasing of men's power over nature, in the abolition of the power of man over man, is certainly not just a socialist idea, it is a socialist act.

Wages are just earning talk. More than a century ago Karl Marx wrote: 'The philosophers have merely interpreted the world. The point is to change it.' If you want to help us change the world and build socialism, join us.

THERE ARE BRANCHES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS

SCOTLAND
Albert Dock, Edinburgh
Brighton, Dundee
Glasgow, Kirkcaldy
Glasgow, Stirling
Glasgow, Strathclyde
Greenock, Stirling
INNOMA SURREY
North Finchley, London
Bracknell, Reading
Bolton, Manchester
Brighton, Hove
Brighton, Hove
Cambridge, Cambridge
Dartford, Kent
Doncaster, South Yorkshire
Ealing, London
Gillingham, Kent
Gravesend, Kent
Grosvenor, London
Halifax, West Yorkshire
Hull, East Riding
Inverness, Highland
Inverness, Highland
Leeds, Yorkshire
Liverpool, Merseyside
Manchester, Manchester
Midlands, Midlands
Newcastle, Tyne and Wear
Nottingham, Nottingham
Oxford, Oxford
Peterborough, Northampton
Plymouth, Plymouth
Reading, Berkshire
Southend, Essex
York, Yorkshire

WALLS AND SOUTH WEST

Bristol, South West
Brighton, South East
Lancashire, Merseyside
Manchester, Northwest
North East
South East

SUBURBAN AND EAST

Brighton, East Sussex
Cambridge, Cambridge
Chichester, West Sussex
Chorley, Lancashire
Colchester, Essex
Harlow, Essex
Haslemere, West Sussex
Hull, East Riding
Hull, East Riding
Leicester, Leicestershire
Lincoln, Lincolnshire
Liverpool, Merseyside
Newcastle, Tyne and Wear
Nottingham, Nottingham
Oxford, Oxford
Peterborough, Northampton
Portsmouth, Hampshire
Southend, Essex
York, Yorkshire

GREAT LONDON

Bexleyheath, Kent
Bolton, Manchester
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
Croydon, South London
Dagenham, Essex
Harlow, Essex
Hull, East Riding
Leicester, Leicestershire
Lincoln, Lincolnshire
Liverpool, Merseyside
Newcastle, Tyne and Wear
Nottingham, Nottingham
Oxford, Oxford
Peterborough, Northampton
Portsmouth, Hampshire
Southend, Essex
York, Yorkshire

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT FINE TUBES?

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT FINE TUBES?

DEAR BROTHER SCANLAN

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT FINE TUBES?

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WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT FINE TUBES?
I have been reading Socialist Worker for only a few weeks, but as a worker in the gas industry, I have been impressed by your coverage of the gas leak and the workers’ strike. I certainly intend to take the paper regularly and sell other copies to my workmates because as we get stronger the more we need a newspaper to tell us the truth and organise the resistance.

I feel that many of your readers know that the lads in the gas industry are bitterly disappointed in the so-called leaders of the GMWU. Nearly everybody I have spoken to feels that with clear guidance and a bit more effort we could have won our full claim.

Instead of which we have a sell-out strategy in the same industry. I thought that when Cooper and Hayday were replaced by Bennett and Edwards the union could look forward to a new era. But I am afraid it is a repeat of the historic same.

At the last delegate meeting of the West Midlands shop stewards in the gas industry, more than 73 per cent of those present were pressing for stronger action by the union. But the leaders of the GMWU and some of its members upheld the decision on strike for eight weeks, the union leaders called for a ballot. After the middle of the strike a battle you don’t sit your troops down to discuss whether it is worth fighting after all.

I was very happy of the ballot coming out in favour of for stronger action because of the influence of the press and the political situation. We have a chance if the union leaders called for another ballot to look at the country persuading the gas men that to stand up for themselves is a matter of the gutter press, and to keep the fight up. Instead the GMWU leadership starts to use the “.Keg” as a screen to cover up their retreat.

Socialism is the political way for not only to our own members but to the workers in all ranks of our class civil servants and all other trade unionists. If socialism is to have a fighting chance for a decent life, Socialism Work must keep the press up and show what opinions are.

WEST MIDLANDS GAS SHOP STewARDS’ (name and address supplied.)

CHRIS HARMAN wrote in “Two faced wall on Bomb terror” (17 March) that “many Labour and Labour supporters are not against violence” and used the expression “violence of mass movements.”

This is incorrect. Force (not violence) is the only way to revolutionize the capitalist society pregnant with the new. Violence is a necessary step in the struggle to characterize the use of armed struggle within the masses (in the army, etc.) to hold back the tide of capitalism towards a classless, harmonious social order—HUGO DEWAR, London SW1.

IRELAND: MIND WHAT YOU SAY

IF the International Socialists are serious about building a revolutionary socialist alternative to the present capitalist controlled system then it should treat the volatile situation in Northern Ireland with extreme caution. Your expression of opinion should be constantly reviewed with respect for the people involved.

In an area such as Birmingham, which has a large number of Irish immigrants and people of Irish descent, there already exists among them well-defined opinions of the nature and cause of the problems.

Also many working-class people have some kind of bond to the Irish Army in Northern Ireland, and although I agree that the army should not be there, it is hardly the fault of the ordinary soldier that he is there. The newly recruited soldier is not knowingly an agent of British imperialism.

It is very possible that some support for IRA has already been alienated by rash statements on Ireland and that much good work on the industrial front could also be put in jeopardy.

BILL CAMPBELL, Waltham.

Dockworker: we run it ourselves

WE WOULD LIKE to correct a reference you made in the 24 March edition of Socialist Worker to the Dockworkers’ strike of 1976 when reporting on the International Socialist Organisation (ISO). We were not part of the dockers’ strike and do not belong to the ISO.

When reporting on the IS conference you mentioned that “rank and file workers” had been involved in the strike. We were not part of the dockers’ strike of 1976. Our material is written by registered port workers and not dockers. Dockworkers are only the ones who decide on final content of the FEN.

The Dockworker editorial board, London E12.

JIM HIGGS, IS national secretary, comments: The Socialist Worker report did not give false impression of the relationship between 1976 dock and rail strikes. IS does not control these publications. Our trade union members are actively involved in their publication and often debate which IS members put them on the ground. As a Trotskyist, I was often involved in the IS and am today a member of the British Rail workers’ union.

Panel

I WOULD LIKE to draw readers’ attention to the fact that there are now new IS-regulated BBC Radio 4 programmes. Members on this panel are asked to listen and to comment on them.

If readers have time to spare they should listen to the IS Regulated BBC Radio 4 programmes. It would be a pity to let the panel get used to the BBC’s new monopolists—GORDON GARNER, NANC.

‘Justice’

ANGELA WEIR’s letter about the Stowe (17 March) should not call all revolutions of any country in any period as they may be in it themselves. These five people are in 10 years purely for conspiracy, that is, after 50 years of talking about acts of state, not actually committing them.

Whoever we believe these people actually had any part in bombings or their planning is largely irrelevant. The fact is that they are not seen as being inextricably linked with terrorism. Propagated by revolutionaries such as thequier, imprisonment sets a precedent whereby anyone engaged in discussion or activities against the state can be charged and sentenced equally as viciously. It is our duty as revolutionaries to support wholeheartedly the campaign of release of the Stowe Newlyn 5, and their appeal against British justice which we know is justice for the ruling-class—KITTY WILLIAMS, Falmouth.

POLLUTION AND MIGRATION

LIKE Maryvn Hughes (17 March) I too am unable to understand the Socialist Worker’s ‘What to Stand For’ and would question whether it is in part essentially international or socialist. You appear to ignore the fact that the earth is but a finite planet, so that the politicians’ promises of continuous growth are simply as physically impossible. In particular, all known deposits of gas, petroleum, coal and copper and aluminium look like being exhausted by the year 2000.

This raises the question of how these resources should be distributed. Surely to an International Socialist the answer must be ‘First according to his needs’, giving priority to those needs essential for survival in the Third World and those needs created by others in the First World for public relations and for colour television and deep freezes.

Another question of necessity for revolutionary change, but surely the fact that wars have been started to improve the standard of living of their members makes part of the system, in which case the only hope for mankind lies with the Third World.—ANTHONY COLLINS, Exeter.

I FEEL that Maryvn Hughes is being unjust to the Third World. It is true that, at some future time, certain conditions may arise that will move the mass of people from one country to another, but they will be a natural consequence of world events involved. However, at the present time, immigration is being used as a tactic of the ruling class to divide the workers from the workers and the workers from the peasants.

The problem of maximum solidarity with immigrants and would-be immigrants is not a last that will be exposed in their unjustified opposition to all immigrants, whatever their country of origin and nationality, and necessary.

One way to solve this problem is to get the International Socialist Organisation, however, deserves closer consideration. This is an example of the necessity for movement of people from one country to another, but it should be, deeply concerned, but, to the best of our ability, be able to meet the situation. In short, no clear analysis of the problem of immigration has been put forward.

Until one believes that all that exists is for the good, that all the world’s workers are well treated, and that no rational justification for assuming that all is well is that the world is better off.

Indeed all human progress has been the result of the help of the miserable and the poor, and so it is necessary to put forward a solution of the problem of immigration as well as the problem of colonialism.

On the other hand, knowledge could well be lethal.

MIGRATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL issues should not be dismissed as complications, but should be given a rational discussion within a socialist framework—JOHN RUSHTON HUBBARD, New York city, U.S.A.

I AGREE with Maryvn Hughes’ remarks about the need for socialists to take seriously the problems of colonialism. That it requires socialists to take seriously the problems of colonialism. That it requires an understanding of the various social, economic and political factors that underlie the problems. It is not enough to adopt a simplistic view of the world’s problems or to assume that all is well.

For these reasons, I endorse Maryvn Hughes’ call for a rational discussion of the problems of immigration, colonialism, and other issues within a socialist framework—W. MANN, London SW11.

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I THINK Maryvn Hughes has some force in her remarks about the Third World. It is true that some workers will migrate to accept a period of initial hardship. The key point, however, is that this migration is a result of the problems of the Third World and the capitalist system. It is not simply the case that workers migrate to escape from the problems of the Third World.

It is clear that the problems of the Third World are largely created by the capitalist system, and that the migration of workers is a result of these problems. This is the basic premise of all social relations.—JOHN C FRANCE, Epping.
LONDON: 20,000 teachers on strike marched on Wednesday last week in the latest phase of NUT action to secure a £300 London allowance. It was the teachers' march ever—noisy, militant, determined. London office workers waved support from their windows. Pickets on the St Thomas's Hospital building site exchanged cheers and encouragement with the teachers.

But members of the NUT national executive seem to have regarded the march and one-day strike as the end of mass action over the claim. For them it was a final gesture before the government's freeze legislation clamps down and militancy is switched off. That is not, however, how London teachers see it. All 11 associations of the union in Inner London have passed motions for an extended strike. So have many of the associations in the outlying extra-metropolitan area.

During this week, selective one-day strikes the local associations had carried through are no longer 'approved' by the executive, as such, for a ballot on a full-scale solidarity strike by teachers not officially called out, and the organizing of joint committees, leaflets, marches and meetings with other public sector workers. But the officers of the Inner London Teachers Association have been almost as aggressive as the national executive. One week they approved extended lunchtime action; the next they had changed their minds. They have consistently refused to revive the London Action Committee, which successfully steered strikes in 1969-70. But they want to counter this lack of action from the union's official leaders, 500 teachers crossed into the Conway Hall after the demonstration for a meeting called by the Inner London Teachers Association. They passed a resolution calling for an extended strike to get the London claim and the teachers' national claim, which would have to be blunted by two-thirds under phase two of the freeze.

Disruption

A committee of representatives was formed from five of the local associations to form a lookalike strike action and to try to get official support. Earlier events in the salaries struggle were recalled when it was announced that there are three London militants, Eric Porter, Fred Scott and David Whitely, are now to be called before the disciplinary committee of the union. They are charged with 'disruption' at a mass meeting called by the union four weeks ago in the Central Hall, Westminster.

The union's wish to give voice to the frustrations of the vast majority of the meeting at not being allowed to discuss a resolution for more militant action, moved by the London Central Committee. The executive tried to stifle the feelings of the rank and file, so reducing the meeting to chaos.

Now the executive is arbitrarily picking on three individuals to blame for the hostility to its own stance of almost the whole meeting.

Some of the teachers on Wednesday's march—the biggest ever by London teachers

NEWPORT, South Wales: Workers at the Compton Parkinson Ltd, struck immediately last week in reaction to management threats to lay off the night shift off permanently. Compton B, Ashton was described as a clear threat to trade union organization in the factory. With support from the two remaining shops, the company was able to keep its factory open. However, the unofficial strike continued, with at least six members on the production line at all times. Ashton had been a result of a series of disputes, with management refusing to negotiate over pay and conditions.

The strikers have also put a black on all goods that the factory makes, and South Wales dockers blocked goods. It is reported that the factory is at risk of closure.

Reform's intransigence is determined to show that it is not just a talking shop but can lead events to struggle. The combine, at Newport this has become the trade in the local Transport Workers Union officials has given no support. It is reported that a source of support to Ashton, 4 Addison Street, Newport, Monmouthshire.

Challenge to closed shop

MAIDSTONE: Workers at the Tilings Stevens factory, part of the Chyder group, have been on strike for a week after an attempt by a Tory County Council to close the factory.

Mr Longworth left the engineering union at the end of last year, yet for 12 months the union locally did nothing. Only when Chyder workers blacked products from the Maidstone factory to the closed shop was it possible to lay up the factory.

Workers in the factory were given an offer from Longworth to pay a sum equal to his union savings to a charity, but with indifferent waste the union representatives and management got together and entered into what management called a "satisfactory solution". No details of the settlement have been revealed, but Longworth is still in the factory.

Chyder stewards throughout the country should demand that such deals be made public, and the union members.

CLAY CROSS DROPS COUNTY COUNCILLOR

CLAY CROSS—Bill Lander, a Derbyshire County Council Councillor for 12 years, was asked to resign from his post as the Clay Cross County Council seat in 1978. This was due to the failure of both the Housing Finance Act and an earlier decision on the Housing Finance Act, and no wonder he has been in favour of implementing it.

Replacing him is Clive Cross, a Democrat who had been deeply involved in the country's finances and the government. But Lander isn't going quietly. He's standing in 'Labour Representation', (He was the chairman of the Clay Cross Labour Club on Thursday.)

Clay Cross makes it possible for a Residents' Association (Foy) candidate to stand in. This happens if it is unrepresented by the government as a party to the Clay Cross County Council.

SAFEBRIDGE International Standards organized a successful public meeting against the freeze and the cuts last Thursday. Speakers were power supplier Wally Presston and Clay Cross councillor David Skinner.

Wally Presston attacked the Tories for being political gangsters, robbing the working class and condemning the country to a new decade of depression and unemployment. He called on the government to reverse its cuts and to start ploughing back what the country is giving. Skinner, the Clay Cross councillor, also spoke at the meeting. He was joined by Molly Basset, the Clay Cross Labour Club, in support of a national day of action, and the Clay Cross Labour Club.

A motion of full support for the demonstration at Clay Cross on 14 April was carried unanimously.

Marchers back hospital action

PETERSBOURGH: 200 trade unionists marched through the town last Saturday to show their solidarity with local hospital workers and to protest against the freeze. Speakers at a meeting afterward drew attention to the disparity between the enormous profits recently announced by many firms and the plight of low-paid workers, who are merely seeking a living wage. Tom, district secretary of the engineering union (AUEW), said those who feared for the welfare of hospital patients to blame the government's "callousness in the hospital dispute, not the workers' action. He also called for a further march against the freeze on May Day.

Bill Weaver, the local hospital branch secretary of NUR, repeated the local branch's decision not to strike on humanitarian grounds and expressed disappointment at the low turn-out on the march of local trade unionists.

Phone 01 739 2639

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Engineers support hospital marchers

SHEFFIELD—More than 4000 engineers marched through the city on Friday afternoon in support of the hospital workers. Apart from hospital workers themselves, there was a tremendous response from Sheffield's engineering sector, including workers from BARDLOW, Firth Brown, Bohn Hoovers, GEI and River Don steelworks. Demonstrations were also held in Barnsley, Houghton and the surrounding areas.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, South Yorkshire NUPE organizer, told Socialist Worker: 'The Trades Council is backing the hospital workers as the weak link. Our morale may fall if the rest of the workers don't fight with us. Today's demonstration shows the way.'

Last week hospital workers picketed the Yeadon Hospital in the Miners' Union for solidarity action. Success at Yeadon for hospital workers is essential, the NUPE leaders said. The NUPE had a similar demonstration in Barnsley. Trevor Brown, Houghton miller and member of the Barnsley Socialists, commented: 'It's about time the NCB came to the support of the hospital workers. For too long we've let them fight the Trades alone.'

The leadership of the largest union in the civil service, the 200,000-strong Civil and Public Service Association, has suspended in the fight against the freeze.

It has told its branches that there will be no further industrial action after a 'last flag' stoppage which was to be held yesterday. The leadership has also refused to accept the government's 'substantially improved' offer of a 5.75% increase for 1973; although the stoppage was on one day, the branch services were lost last October and are planned to be restored.

For a long time the union leaders did their best to avoid taking any industrial action at all. Railies were held throughout the country at which the National Union of Railwaymen succeeded in stopping all work on 10 January for 24 hours. The other main branch of the CNL, the Railways and Tramways Union, which is not a member of the Trades Council, also held a one-day stoppage of all its members on 27 January, when the National Union of Railwaymen and the NUR were hit by a major strike on 30 January.

By the time the leadership called for the second strike, the NUR had already broken out in Glasgow, Manchester and other militant areas. The Trades Council of the NUPT has been unable to get any assistance from the Trades Council of the NUPT, which is the only union in the Civil Service that is officially recognized as a union.

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Bosss' double-dealing sparks off strike

MANCHESTER—Workers at Gardners food factory in Eccles who are out on strike are calling for the support of the Trades Council.

The issue at stake is the Manchester Piccnic Agreement, which allows the right of any striking worker to seek a job on the picket line after the 24-hour period. The workers say that they are being made to feel that they are being exploited by the employers, who are offering them low wages and poor conditions.

Previously the heads of the college, who are normally reluctant to speak about their own affairs, have been accused of being incompetent and obstructive. They are accused of having failed to consult the workers on the issues at hand, and of making it difficult for the union to take action. They are also accused of having failed to consult the workers on the issues at hand, and of making it difficult for the union to take action.

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SUNDERLAND—The dispute at Coles Cranes is over after 12 weeks of bitter fighting—a partial victory of the union—busting activities of millionaire William de Viger—better-known in the factories as 'Bill the Butler'.

De Viger, who had previously said he would never come to the North East to talk to the workers, was forced last week to start discussions with the stewards and full-time union officials.

At the meeting he conceded the four points put forward by the strikers. He has agreed that all management notices cancelling customs, agreements or work practices will be rescinded that all previous agreements will be agreed to. There will be meaningful discussions with the union over working practices, for the workers, and that there will be no victimization.

Punty Wake, engineering union convenor, said: ‘It was good to see that arrogant, self-centred man crawl to the people who are the backbone of his business.’

The proposals for a return to work were put to a meeting of strikers after a victory march through Sunderland, supported by the trades council and other workers. The recommendations put by the strikers were accepted, and the dispute is over.

The popular local full-time official for the engineering union, Jack Axon, told the meeting: ‘The trade union movement has won a major victory. We have helped to educate a whole generation of Coles Cranes for showing that people like ourselves can stand up to the unions and get away with it. Things will never be the same again in the future. Spurred by your actions other groups of workers will now prove de Viger treating them like dirt.

But there was a note of caution in the jubilation. de Viger has a long record of winning with united action, and the outcome will be subject to negotiation. Workers and stewards are warned that in all such cases management tries to resume attacks.

MANCHESTER—More hospitals have joined the struggle. Workers at Park and Davyhulme came out for 24 hours last week and are coming again on Monday. Stockport Infirmary and Stepping Hill Hospital workers also came out for 24 hours, joining laundry staff who have been out for three weeks. Stepping Hill workers are angry at attempts to drive laundry through pickets and at Stockport hospital workers threatened an indefinite walk-out if police arrested any pickets.

Police harassment at United Manchester Hospitals at the beginning of last week was defended by picketing inside the gates on hospital property. The strikes are as solid as ever, despite attacks in the area.

Porters and domestics at Ladywell are still out and at Hope Hospital cooks have joined drivers on indefinite stoppages.

NUPE pickets at Hope have just received £4 strike pay after four weeks on strike and feeling against the officials is high. Strikers throughout Greater Manchester are getting together to co-ordinate the fight this week, as all attempts to push off the picket line into effective co-ordination have failed.

COVENTRY—31 hospital consultants and ward sisters go on strike this week. One claimed: ‘The lives of the Coventry people are in peril. You can say that categorically.’

For all the air-swarmeding in the press, union members in four main hospitals have come out, seizing emergency services going off, but mounting strikes and 13 hours shifts. Stepping Hill workers, to the shock of the local community, are on strike, and a group of workers at the Royal London, nurses who belong to NUPE, refused to carry out duties which involved bathing.

Meanwhile, the consultants were given a taste of their own medicine by NUPE officer Alan Greenwood. Our members are getting fed up with these scapegoats. We are standing firm,’ he said. NUPE members at the Manchester Royal Infirmary are on strike today. NUPE members at the Manchester Royal Infirmary are on strike today.

There is a need to march in support of the hospital workers in Coventry on Friday this week, and at least some caravans are expected to come out in support.

LONDON—50 shop stewards from a dozen London hospitals met last Friday to plan co-ordinated action. They agreed to set up a hard-fight fund for London strikers.

The Flying Picket, a blacksheet pro- trade union committee at St George’s Hospital, Hyde Park, is to be used to send pickets informed of activities at other hospitals. A campaign is to be launched to ensure that the union leadership follows the ballot decision for all out strike action.

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

Unemployment in Canal side.

Three BLACK ACQUITTALS

BERMINGHAM—Three of the remaining 11 defendants in the infamous Whittall Black ‘Trial’ were yesterday found not guilty. The case follows a brutal raid by the local police on the Droitwich Canal-side workers’ Indian party on Boxing Day last year.

Five of the eight who were found guilty of affray and being an affray and possessing offensive weapons, received prison or penal servitude sentences ranging from one year to 18 months. The three got suspended sentences.

All those found not guilty were younger men—most brutally beaten by the police. They were not charged because they had no knowledge of what their mates were doing, and had not helped complaints about the plight of the young. They were convicted of their complaint against the police.

Defence lawyers said there would be an appeal.

PICKET LINES

NORTH WALSHAM, Norfolk—Workers from the Crosb Farmhouse factory have now been occupying a farm house in Stony croft Lane near nearby Southwell for more than three weeks, preventing Eigipham Council from evicting their workmates Eric Amos and his family.

Shop stewards from the factory, when asked to employ a walker, have made clear that they will stay there, despite police threats, until the council provides Eric and his family with a decent house. Eigipham Council still seems determined to turn a man, his wife, two young boys and a four- year-old baby out on to the streets.

Eric’s friends are to be £2.50 per hour area. He has to work with a broken bone in his knee. His wife was in hospital with high blood pressure and his daughter died after four years of illness with asthma.

The titled gaunt who pick Eigipham Council chambers are determined to prevent the prompt action of his workmates from being split up and without a home.

SOUTH LONDON—The liquidator for the British Printing Company, Ltd, has issued a high court writ against Bill Freeman, chairman of the joint company pension fund (the largest of the four pension funds of the company), for possession of the company shares, and to disgorge any unauthorised funds. The case is to be heard in the Chancery Division.

Bill Freeman told Socialist Worker that the joint chapels had agreed that he should not attend the court. As workers involved in the strike, he opposed efforts to split the workers and will be opposed equally to any efforts to split the workers and be opposed equally to any efforts to split the workers in courts that are run for the benefit of the capitalist system. We will not support any management move to split the workers and will stand by our colleagues and not be divided by our comrades.

In any case the workers are confident that the management has shown clearly that they want to make a deal in order to avoid the strike. They are determined to stick to their demands and will not be intimidated by the police.

The announcement came at 2am on Wednesday at the council meeting, where the Mayor had advised earlier in the evening at meetings of the public that if the workers who had broken into an upsurge of protest at the council's official action. The workers involved in the strike have the support of the local community.

The workers have been hit by a wave of arrests and trials. Some have been expelled by the police, others have been threatened with jail. The workers are determined to fight back and will not be intimidated by the police. They are determined to win the strike and will not be intimidated by the police.

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BUILDING BOSSES NATIVE CANALS OVER MULTI-MILLION-POUND SITE

CHELSEA—the five victories over the multi-million pound builders’ war has continued with the workers’ victory being reinstated, only to face a further attack.

A meeting of the Tory-controlled Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council in east London yesterday heard a letter from Cllr Lamb, chairman of the council, to the contactors that the workers should be reinstated and to the council that they should be reinstated.

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