Living standards take a Tory battering

PRICES 70% UP

PROFITS SOAR

by Paul Foot

LORD POLWARTH, the newly-appointed overlord for the booming North Sea oil industry, is up to his neck in investments in North Sea oil.

Following startling revelations in this week's Glasgow News, a community paper in Scotland, and the mp for Aberdeen North, has written to the Prime Minister asking whether it is proper for a government minister - Lord Polwarth is the £750,000/year Minister of State at the Scottish Office - to hold substantial interests in the industry which he is supervising in the public interest.

Glasgow News reveals that according to the latest records of the register's department of the Bank of Scotland (of which Lord Polwarth is a former governor) Lord Polwarth owns:

- On his own account: 11,100 shares in Atlantic Assets Trust, British Assets Trust and Second British Assets Trust.
- Together with his brother, an Edinburgh chartered surveyor called Francis Hepburn-Scott, and others, a further £2,000,000 shares in the three trusts. The value of all these shares is £40,000.

Exploit

These trusts are part of a huge accountancy and banking group which has set up a chain of companies to exploit the rich oil market.

British Assets, for example, owns 15 per cent of Caledonian Offshore Ltd, Atlantic Assets owns half of the Mount St Bernard Trust, which in turn owns Oshorn Investment Ltd, the Cromarty Farm Development Company, Norderlord and Peterhead and Fraserburgh Estates.

In one way and another, these companies form the bulk of the Scottish interests which are seeking to reap the booty from onshore and offshore dealings in North Sea oil.

One of the subsidiaries, Norderlord, is said to have bought up 40,000 acres of land on the Shetland Islands which can now be sold off at record prices.

Lord Polwarth was appointed in response to heavy pressure from Scotland about the exploitation of North Sea oil by a handful of accountants, bankers and speculators. It is now clear that Polwarth himself is one of them.

AFTER FIVE MONTHS of total wage freeze, prices in April rose by a staggering 1.9 per cent—the second-highest rate in recent inflationary history. Prices were 9.2 per cent higher than in April last year.

Working-class families will not be able to make up for this huge rise through wage increases. The government's regulations under Phase Two of the present policy restrict rises to about 8 per cent—substantially less than the annual increase in prices.

And further sharp increases are on the way.

The Tories' Prices Commission has approved rises for margarine, cooking fat, breakfast cereals, synthetic fibres from which clothing is made and steel manufactured goods.

Most working-class families have been much harder hit than the official price index indicates. Essential items have risen in price far more than luxuries that are bought in the main by the better-off sections.

In the period from June 1970—when the Tories came to power—to March this year before the most recent rises, this was how just a few essentials had risen:

- Food 33 per cent.
- House rent 25 per cent.
- Rates 25 per cent.
- Gas 25 per cent.
- Electric 50 per cent.
- Rent 50 per cent.
- Cheese 75 per cent.
- Fruit 59 per cent.

Such figures show just how dubious is the Tory claim that wages and pensions have kept ahead of prices. Both have increased by an average of 35 per cent in the last 2½ years.

STANDSTILL

Some workers have been able to force increases in their purchasing power through militant action, but most sections have been left behind.

The figure of the lie to the Tories' attempt to blame wages for price increases. If they were true, wage price should be a standstill after five months of wage freezing.

And figures also disproved the other government claim that price increases are due to the rising cost of food from abroad.

Home-produced food rose in price by 46.1 per cent between June 1970 and February this year—for more than imported food.

It is the giant company food and big farmers who have benefited from these increases.

For example, Unilever is among the firms given permission to hike up its prices. Last year Unilever reported record profits—14 per cent up on the year before. The Prices Commission is now that it should continue to make such record profits.

ORGANISE

Backed by government policies, it is not surprising that profits in general have risen by 15.4 per cent in the last year, twice as fast as wages are allowed to rise.

This is the real meaning of Phase Two and it makes even more plausible the growing attempts by the unions to reach a pay deal with the Tories.

With living standards of working people and the reality of the duty of the unions to organise to smash the freeze—not to coddle it up to its architects.
Coal bosses out to muzzle Group against steel

LAWYERS for the National Union of Mineworkers will prepare next week to bring to trial claims for damages for pneumoconiosis—lung disease—from four Durham men, William Robson, Robert McKercher, Ralph Davison and David Prior.

The actions are the fourth the NUM has agreed to use as test cases in the battle to get the National Coal Board to pay up for runied lungs and badly injured miners obtained from exposure to dust at work.

The normal legal timetable would suggest that the cases should actually come to court within 12 months of being set down. A judge would then try the issue of whether the NCB is negligent and whether the men's claims are sound.

But the National Coal Board is determined if possible to escape responsibility to pay compensation to officials who will do everything in their power to engineer a definitive victory for the miners' claims are 'out of time'.

At the moment 3500 miners or ex-miners have issued writs claiming damages from the board for pneumoconiosis.

And there are an estimated 47,000 other men who claim suffering from the disease.

It is true that many of the men who have lodged claims have been suffering from some disability for a considerable length of time. But union lawyers insist that they did not know until very recently that they had any basis for a claim for damages.

Defeat

The law on suing an employer for damages for negligence insists that actions be brought within a limit of three years of contracting a disease. And an action could not reasonably be expected to discover the existence of the cause of injury or that he had grounds for an action for damages— that the action was started within 12 months of being set down while a reasonable action could reasonably be expected to make that discovery.

What NCB lawyers are attempting to use is the 'out of time' issue (whether the miners' claims are in time) decided quite separately from the actual claim of damages and neglegence.

And the Board hopes to defeat as many actions as possible on the purely technical grounds that the plaintiffs could reasonably have been expected to bring claims long before now.

And the miners are not the only people who are now taking action in motion divide equally those who are current members of the NUM and those who have served it. The latter include ex-members and now members of other unions. The NUM has organized a concerted

THERE is a story that in the last century the British Foreign Office in La Paz so annoyed the Bolivian government that they argued a ‘spontaneous demonstration’ against him. The demonstration was to march on the city and attack the foreign office. The Foreign Office, furious at this assault on the city, demanded that no person attack the foreign office. Unfortunately, the Admiralty had to inform the Foreign Secretary that there were no official reports of a spontaneous demonstration against him.

But now, the NUM has organized a concerted present exicted state of the British navy.

Now just as the 19th century disputed with Bolivia had nothing to do with the interests of working people in Britain, the Liberal government of the day no more represented their interests than the Tory government representsours-so today, the NUM is fighting with our battle exicted the British government simply in the interests of a particularly stubborn minority of workers. By contrast, the NUM is fighting simply in the interests of all workers.

Next to our Federation, there is not a single organization in the country that can deal with the problem of nationalization, only the NUM.

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Codswallop and greed of the fish warriors

by Duncan Hallas

There are plenty of enterprising shoal of fish men in the country who have been much talked about in the past few years. They have been seen to be the new breed of fisherman who are taking over from the traditional fishermen who have been working in the same place for generations.

Mr. Owen's speech was seen as a call to arms and to the fishmen to stand up for their rights. It was a call to the fishermen to work together to protect their jobs and their way of life.

Defend

"Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater," was Mr. Owen's cry. In the middle of his speech he made one slight mistake and disarmed some of his listeners. He said that if the Government was to introduce any measures it would only be to deal with the problem. And that was what a large number of people had been waiting for: a statement of the Government's policy on fishing in the country.

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Labour goes back to being a mouse

SHOCKED by their ability to roar like lions—albeit a rather shaky lion—and even mention such words as ‘nationalisation’ and ‘socialism’, Labour Party leaders rapidly turned tail last week and reverted to squeaking like mice.

When members of the party executive and the shadow cabinet met last week they were almost unanimously to drop from the party’s draft manifesto for the elections of the ‘abolition of the Tories’. Harold Wilson, backed by multi-millionaire city man Harold Lever and Tony Crosland, the apostle of the ‘mixed economy’, argued for the preservation of some of the 25 firms for ‘fear of alienating public opinion’ before the next election.

The public opinion they had in mind clearly included the victims of the Tories and the many thousands made redundant by monopolies like ICI and GEC who benefitted so generously from Labour grants when it was last in office.

**Corrupt**

But Wilson and co had some strange supporters. Also arguing against the proposal were the Tribune MPs, led by spokesman Ian Mikardo. Tribune is in favour of extensive nationalisation—except when it comes to naming names.

Labour’s pusilanimity comes at a time when the corrupt, anti-social and profit-and-lose-bred attitude of big business has never been clearer.

Yet in the week when the Lorneo scandal was at its height, the Labour leaders gulped nervously and tip-toed back from the edge of actually committing themselves to a battle with the small minority who hold the country to ransom.

Wilson won the day by offering as an alternative a Labour ‘pledge’ to hold a full scale investigation into the workings of the Stock Exchange when the party is returned to power. The giveaway clause here was that Wilson spoke of such an investigation going ‘as high as a Royal Commission’.

Royal Commissions notoriously take years, if not decades, to reach any conclusions. Even if Labour honoured such a pledge—and it is not renowned either for its honour or its willingness to stand up to the City—it would be likely to lose office long before the commission was concluded.

Fittingly enough, the Labour meeting took place in a brand new London hotel—The Churchill—which is the opening edifice to the new Heath capitalism and to the hollowness of Labour’s pledges. In the Churchill, all is plastic, even the ‘leather’ chairs and the fake books in the library, where the Labour leaders met.

**SW Political Correspondent**

**Big builders face big trial on Offshore**

SEVEN building workers were committed for trial at a special sitting of Shrewsbury Court on Friday charged with intimidation, damage to property, fighting and making an affray.

The seven men will be back in the same court on Friday 15 June when, along with 19 others, they will be committed for trial on further charges. And among their colleagues on that day will be several like Kenneth Black, one of the seven, who are being charged with conspiracy to intimidate ‘hump’ workers to abstain from work.

**OFFENSIVE**

This massive prosecution—six more have been committed for trials at Shrewsbury and elsewhere—is part of a highly-organised offensive against trade unionism being pushed through by the powerful building employers.

The workers are being brought by the Director of Public Prosecutions, but are also being represented by the building employers, in particular the director of the Society of Master Architects.

By the beginning of last August the building workers of North Wales had decided to short down every ‘hump’—non-union—site in their region. At that time they were receiving invitations from less organised areas to send in their flying pickets.

**INTIMIDATION**

They went in strength to Telford where McGrue’s have the plans for the new development chewed up with the lump. And after the police had told them they could not block the site, the police congratulated them on their behaviour and escorted them to other sites. Five months later the same police arrested them on trumped up charges of criminal damage and damage to property.

The three other pickets and the solidarity demonstration through the town sent a message that the police were the first to attack. The police acted as a massive blow to the workers as they tried to gain entry to the site that initially they refused entry to the police.

After the short hearing, with its short consultation, the seven went out and joined the rally outside. They

Shrewsbury solidarity march—with large police contingent—marching through the town on Friday, Picture: John Rea

then led the march through a town that respected the thorough, if not tax having, presence of the demonstrators. This century the first was one of stinging attacks on the police that came up in court.

All the rally, speaker after speaker drew attention to the new tactics, the extension of ‘workers’ rights that the Shrewsbury prosecution embodied. With the Industrial Relations Act inoperable, the employers and the forces behind them were picking out of existence with

**Socialist Worker**

**WE TALK**

"ONLY the accident of a boardroom row has enabled the public to see just a corner of the Tory free-for-all jungle... That is how much of the worker is a man hungry for fame, for business. Many of these $130,000 compensation for giving up a job?"

That is how Harold Wilson saw Lorneo and making some very good points, just as he used to make good points about Tory gussemmore and the ‘old boy network’ before he became Prime Minister himself.

The Lorneo case exposes yet again the swindle of ‘incomes policy’ under capitalism. The lavish fees for the ‘right’ people, the tax evasion, the free houses, free holidays and free cars are not on offer to the rich and poor and the rich. ‘Incomes policy’ does not apply to people like Duncan Sandys, ‘Tinny’ Howland (personal fortune of $12 million) or any of the rich profitiers who finance the Tory Party and provide suitable boardroom sincerities for ex-cabinet ministers at exorbitant salaries. That is capitalism in action. ‘Incomes policy’ is for you and me, not for them.

Even the published figures for the official salaries of company chairman and directors give a glimpse of the ‘real state’. Take the case of Sir Kenneth Heath, chairman of Hill, Samuel. He gets ‘only’ $65,000 a year—$10,000 a year less than men like Sir Eric Drake of British Airways ($83,049) or Mr W Emment of Automotive Products ($50,261). So to help out with the housekeeping, Sir Kenneth, according to Labour Research, also has ‘15 directorships, including three on Beecham Group, Times Newspapers, United Drapery Stores, Eagle Star Insurance and British European Airways of which he is a board chairman.

We are not told what ‘exorbitant fees’ Sir Keith gets from his 15 ‘part-time sidelines’ but no doubt they keep the wolf from the door.

**Same swindle**

What other perks by way of company houses, company planes, company cars, ‘entertainment’ allowances, free holidays and free cars are being offered to these people and their like get is something that only comes out in the rare cases when the thieves fall out and take to the panther to court. But it is right to get this a ‘Tory free-for-all? What is specifically Tory about it?

Didn’t exactly the same system exist when the Labour Party was in power? And when the people Wilson is now denouncing the same people he previously told us were ‘serving the nation well’? And for all his denunciations of Heath’s ‘incomes policy’ fraud, is it not the case that the Wilson government introduced exactly the same kind of swindle?

It would be pleasing to believe that Wilson has seen the light and become a socialist and that the Labour Party has recently changed. It would also be pleasant if silk purses could be made from sow’s ears—it is just as good to have any rate, irrespective of his background, if his government is not too worried about our Labour leaders.

Looking for a good man to run the International Monetary Fund, that is to enforce the policies of capitalist ‘sound finance’ on any government that might be tempted to ‘waste’ money on ‘extravagant’ warfare schemes, they are reported to have approached Mr Roy Jenkins and then, when he turned it down, Mr James Callaghan.

Not having a private line to the IMF-World Bank circles, we are unable to confirm the truth of these rumours. We are able, however, to testify to the eminent suitability of either candidate. It is not necessary to comment on Jenkins. Jim Callaghan was the man who operated Wilson’s ‘squeeze and freeze’ policy in the interests of British capitalism. No doubt he is eager to do some things in the interest of Wilsonism.

If ‘dismal Jim’ does get the job he will be paid £12,000 a year (about £230 a week). He will not have to pay tax on any of it. The salary is tax free. The perks have not been revealed but they will be up to the usual standard.

When Wilson becomes Prime Minister again he must face serious problems and the way to solve them is to stop this..."
by Mike Balfour
ONE PERSON was killed and more than 40 injured in Milan when a hand grenade was thrown into a dense crowd attending a memorial service for a police inspector assassinated a year ago.

A young man arrested immediately claimed he was a member of an anarchist group and the bomb was to avenge a fellow-anarchist who died in 1969 while being interrogated by the Milan police.

But evidence which has emerged since the attack is giving rise to growing involvement in the hand grenade attacks.

According to reports, the arrested man had lived in Israel for part of last year and the hand grenade was one of those used by the Israeli army. He had been discharged from the army for mental reasons.

In 1969, the police found a book published by a body called the Red Brigade which gave details of how to build hand grenades.

The 1969 explosion, in a Milan bank, killed 16 people, and was the signature of the first counter-terrorist group by the police and employers against the left. It came at the end of the 'hot autumn' when the police went on strike and won important concessions from the employers. Among those who had been involved were Giancarlo Pinelli and Pietro Valpreda.

The explosion took place after his arrest, Pinelli fell from a window of the police headquarters and was killed.

Meanwhile, after mass pressure was arrested, some fascists were arrested and convicted of conspiring to cause the bank explosion.

Calabrese himself was assassinated in mysterious circumstances it was rumoured he had been disposed of because he knew too much. As in 1969, the accurate finger was pointed at the anarchists.

Yet 1973 has seen the fascists in Italy build a large network. The police have been forced to form a new force to counter their activities.

The campaign involves the use of bombings and beatings to try to cause anarchists to disband.

Last month a 42-year-old anarchist was talking in a public place and was shot dead by police in a Milan street.

His confession in court revealed that the gang had been busy trying to place explosives on the Turin-Milan express for years.

"And they are to increase tension," he said, "to make people afraid... to fear for a strong state in which communists and socialists would have no say."

Black South African workers keep up strike movement

by W Enda

STRIKES by African workers in South Africa for higher wages are far from over.

African workers have struck at a Johannesburg rope factory, an announcement of a wave of strikes by black workers, many of whom are on starvation wages. The workers are demanding a rise of 31p an hour, and have ignored threats of dismissal if they do not return to work immediately. At least 40 police are on duty.

Mr Anthony Barber, Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer, is a former director of British Steel.

The South African government is trying to keep these strikes under control, but at first the workers might set off a further wave of strikes in the enormous Johannesburg industrial complex, similar to that which swept Natal two months ago.

At Vereeniging, 50 miles south of Johannesburg, four militant African unions have been sacked after workers walked out for higher wages as members of the Transport and Allied Workers' Union. African unions with negotiating rights are illegal.

A bus company management ordered the four militants to the "Labour Department," a police court.

A former Mineworker's Union of South Africa, the organization of the union in the gold mines, was threatened with loss of the pass that gives them the right to work in the area if he persisted—this means, for a black man, going to South Africa to a Bantustan or reserve.

Another of the four was beaten up and threatened with the same fate as the Indian militant Ahmed Timol, who was thrown out of a police station window a year ago. The bus company concerned is a subsidiary of British Electricity.

Back in Britain, the parliament select committee on discrimination in work place, a series of investigations in British-run firms in South Africa has been hearing the successful attempts of the big companies to whitewash the scandalously low wages they pay black workers.

Slavery

Lord Stokes of British Leyland, warning that the 24-hour strike over starvation wages had cost African workers $16000 a day, said the working conditions of black South Africans were like those of the slaves on the southern states of the United States. He was made a Duke by the Queen.

"I think it is an unfair and unwarantable attack on the rest of South Africa, we are making a big contribution to the welfare of the white people of South Africa."

Come off it, Stokes. It's the $1.4 million profit you've made this year alone from the exploitation of black workers, who are forbidden even trade union rights, that you're really pride of.

Slavery

Campaign increases to legalise abortion

by Richard Kirkwood

IN THE past week a major campaign has developed in France against the restrictive abortion laws. Big demonstrations have been calling for an end to the laws.

The most important was in Grenoble, where Dr Alain Martin, a lawyer, has been giving lectures on contraception to doctors in Grenoble who have publicly declared they are ready to do anything to help women.

It is happening all over France.

In Bordeaux campaigns have built up a panel of doctors who will carry out abortions.

Victims

France's laws on abortion and contraception make virtually all abortions illegal, except in cases of rape, the life of the mother is in danger, or the foetus is severely deformed or likely to be a psychiatric patient.

These laws were passed in 1923 when the military authorities were keen to build up the population after the First World War. The laws have been used to put women in jail for working in factories, for making contraceptives, and for advertising or distributing information on contraceptives.

The campaign is a clearly political one. The Movement for Freedom of Abortion and Contraception, which was formed last month, fights for the legalisation of abortion and contraception.

It is supported by family planning groups as well as by the Socialist Party, the CPF, France's left-wing party, and the PSU left socialists, La Ruche Ouvrière (Workers' Nest) and other revolutionary groups.

Discontent

The Communist Party and the big left-wing, the CUT—which it controls—have been less clear on where they stand and are not part of the movement so far.

This movement is another sign of the widespread discontent which has appeared in France in the past two months. Although government terrorism has succeeded in cooling the high-school revolt and although the unions have slapped the strike on the workers and the government, it is clear that many French people are deeply discontented on a wide range of issues.

The situation in St Etienne is still going on nearly two months after the mine workers' strike began. The workers are throwing stones at other large factories.

The strike of black workers in South Africa has been attacked by the whites, who are worried about the unrest it is causing. The unrest may spread to other countries.
Giggling lordship and the white man's burden...

LABOUR peer Henry David Leonard (Earl) Newton, known as "Newton" (sic), is worried about the situation in Rhodesia. He informs the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs of the high level of tension in the country. Lord Newton atkinson has announced the deputation of Lord Tennant to Kushangwe. It is the first time such a high level of delegation has been sent to the territory.

Lord Newton, who has been preparing for the conference, is concerned about the situation in the country, which he considers to be a matter of deep concern. He is keen to see a solution to the problem, and he has been working closely with the Rhodesian authorities to try to find a way forward.

Commitment

At a press conference after the meeting with Lady Blixten, Lord Newton welcomed the decision of the Foreign Office to send a high-level delegation to Kushangwe. He referred to the meeting with Lady Blixten, who is the wife of the former Tory MP, to discuss the situation in the country. He also referred to the meeting with the chairman of the Sudanese Leopards Trust, a mining company with vast interests in Southern Africa, who had expressed interest in the country.

In conclusion, Lord Newton stressed the importance of a solution to the problem, and he called on all parties to work together to find a way forward.

Oxford and the money bags

GRAHAM'S ORANGE SQUASH

REMEMBER this picture which I printed last December of talented young Glasgow lads inside forward Graham Frye. Frye was having a hard run of things. Back in the day, he had a red card against Rangers, and the crowd were居高临下地对待 him.

The treatment of Frye coincided remarkably with his engagement to a Catholic girl. Rangers persist in their refusal to field a Catholic player, and although Frye himself is a Protestant, his engagement to a Catholic girl was regarded by Rangers as an intolerable betrayal.

So Rangers suggested a transfer. But Frye did not want a transfer. He wanted to play for Rangers. Frye was promptly dropped from the Rangers first team, and has not played since November 21. On May 5, Frye's resistance finally broke. Rangers Orange team manager John Wallace told the press: "Graham wants to stay in our first team and he feels that to get this far was a great achievement." So Graham Frye is on the transfer list.

At about 1am on the morning of 11 May, a crowd of drunk onions fled from an antacid Oxford party thumbled into the quad, picked up two of the best sculptures, carried them across a small bridge, and dropped them.

John Milne tells me that the damage to his sculptures is about £400. Mr Milne said he had had an apology from the college, and from one of the students. The students, apparently, have agreed to pay for the damage.

The matter rests there, Mr Geoffrey Warwode, the principal of Oxford. "I have explained," he said. "The club will be put right."

None of the newspapers that published short reports of the incident mentioned the names of the students involved. The ring leaders, I can reveal, were David Gilmour, from Balliol College, a former chairman of the University Conservative Association, and his younger brother, who is an undergraduate at Merton. The brothers Gilmour will have no trouble paying for the damage since their father, Ian Gilmour, is one of the richest men in the country. He is also Conservative MP for Central Norfolk and Minister of State for Defence, where he handles contracts for equipment, such as the recent £250 million contract with the government of Saudi Arabia. Mr Gilmour, who inherited about £500,000 when his father died, is a former editor of The Spectator.

The impotability of Oxford justice can be assessed by comparing the case of the Gilmour hoardings with that of Simon Jeffell and Alex Callinicos, who were 'comprised' in June 1971 of writing in a magazine on a site wall in Balliol College a few unscientific remarks about the Prime Minister, Edward Heath.

Not only did the two students have to pay for the damage, which was assessed, rather highly, at £2500, but they were also 'sent down' for a year by the provost.

Neither Simon Jeffell nor Alex Callinicos was related to a Conservative Minister.
Rebellious noises on Rupert's Sunny ranch

WHEN RUPERT MURDOCH recently paid a visit to his native Australia, he stunned the staff of one of his newspapers with the words: "What goes on here? Is it only the police on this paper?"

The silence was so long that Murdoch didn't wait for the answer, but whisked it back to England to throw a £16,000 stinging for Sun newspaper executives and friends of his country estate near Epping.

The paper's 200-acre farm may have been locked with their daily teams but back at the Bauermeister Street ranch, where the times of the World and Sun readers here just helped Murdoch knock up a group profit of more than $8 million for 1972, the grunts of discontent are getting louder.

Murdoch's response to any reasonable demand to end the poverty. This particular comedy routine started last year, when the Sun journalism, patiently waiting for the new paper to get firmly on its feet before promising to catch up with sales and increases paid by other popular national, caused the management with the $5 million profit made in 1971 and suggested that a few more peanuts might come their way.

"Profit?" asked George Viles, until recently Murdoch's number one henchman. "Five million isn't profit—merely a reasonable return on his capital."

Mr Viles has just been removed from the negotiations table because, he felt, he had lost too many battles against the Sun's financial demands last year. "You should be grateful to me for giving you the opportunity to run a $5 million newspaper," he says. "I have had to stand by and watch men and women who have managed by printing machinery, because Murdoch is too mean to pay for normal safety precautions, the old town of Epping begins to sound like a war zone.

Every morning, 2000 print workers have accidents at the Sun and News of the World offices. One man is badly crushed in an accident last month that took him to the hospital. In addition to this, 300 building workers employed on the Sun and World have been injured in the last five years. Now, Murdoch has the chance of tearing out the Sun and the News of the World. The police have been warned. If they don't refuse to print his papers he will show them the necessary safety measures must be taken.

Leonard Hill

THE SECRET SPY: ANOTHER 'UGLY FACE'

"Courage, the less you persuade some poor damn fool, To go to your meeting and act like a fool. But you can always tell a story, boys that's a fact. He's got a yellow streak running down his back."

Taking Union, American Folk Song, 1840

ONE of the more ugly faces of capitalism is becoming more and more visible. While America is rocked by the Watergate scandal, in Britain and Ireland we are beginning to see more and more evidence of espionage and corruption that goes under the guise of 'law and order'.

In Belfast a deserter has been blackmailed by the army into being a double agent and consequently shot. In Dublin the little-known case is revealing British government espionage and provocation in the South.

Dossiers compiled on militant building workers by the building trades employers have been used in the Shrewsbury 'conspiracy trial' and against the Birmingham anti-terror demonstrators.

The Midland Cold Store (Vestey) Company employed spies during last year's dock dispute. Within a week of the victimisation of the deputy engineers' convener at the Chrysler Stove plant in Coventry, the company had produced a dossier of evidence against him going back over five years of alleged 'disruptions'.

In addition to employers' activities, the Special Branch build files on members of socialist organisations. Socialist Worker has documented a large number of cases where Irish militants in Britain and Ireland have had their homes raided for information.

Black militants have received the same treatment. Evidence given in the Stoke Newington Eight trial showed something of the extent of Special Branch investigation and framing of left-wing spies.

This kind of secret police information is used by the Home Office for immediate political purposes. In Harold Wilson's personal record of the last Labour government he proudly boasted that during the miners' strike in 1966 he had extensive secret information on the militants, or what he called the 'tightly-knit, militant group of men who were running the dispute.'

In a recent case, this year, the Guardian reported the extensive use of detective agencies in Britain today which compile information on individuals at the request of businesses and large firms. Numerous reports indicate a vast increase in phone tapping.

A few years ago Fenner Brockway, MP, gave evidence in parliament that the Secret Service was having a very close and regular liaison with the organisation of secret 'spiral breaking' police spies charged with the formation of special 'spiral breaking' police spies charged with the organisation of the policing of the youth and the snatching of citizens. The young people of the ruling class in return has been elected toidges has been engaged to help police biological, and a large scale on the bigger scale of the revolutionaries years from 1910-1976. During the First World War and the years immediately after, Home Office records show that the state and large numbers of informers and spies, particularly in the engineering industry.

A Daily Herald correspondent from Sheffield wrote of 'a vast system of espionage' in the workshops, "paralleled only by the spying at the time of the Chartist troubles. It is certainly no accident that the prominent shop stewards of the First World War became the unemployed leaders of the 1920s."

CONSPIRACY

Many of the police agents at this time were men who had criminal records, which the police used against them to force them to continue their work. In 1972 a spy called Alex Gordon tried to implicate socialists in a conspiracy to assassinate the Prime Minister.

Gordon later confessed that "government agents had a hold over me which made it absolutely impossible for me to break away from them."

In the 1920s and 1930s police spies were sent in to investigate the Unemployed Workers Movement and Commandant Paddy members were frequently arrested and harassed.

The present widespread increased use of detective and police agents, paid by private companies, is a direct threat to the right of working people to organise to defend their interests.

The experience of the early years is that workers have gained in the long struggle since the Combined Offices have been established.

The tremendous display of solidarity of the working class was a clear signal to release the Pentonville Five. The police do not want to defend working class interests.

The lesson of history is that only the collective strength and solidarity of workers in struggle will make the spotters and spies of little use to the ruling class when it has its back to the wall.

Special article by Alastair Hatchett.
he’s reshuffling the board of USSR Ltd.

MR LEONID BREZHEV visited West Germany last week on his first sales trip as chairman of the new company. The announcement was made in Moscow this spring. It was the first time a senior Russian executive had traveled to the West since the war, and next month, if all goes well, Mr Brezhnev will follow it up by a trip to the United States.

USSR Ltd has made it clear in recent months that nothing must stand in the way of Soviet-Western investment deals which it hopes to negotiate with its former rivals in the West.

There is no doubt that the policy switch in Moscow is one of the most important changes that has been made since the war. The days are gone of Nikita Khrushchev, who argued that by itself Russia would outstrip the United States economically within a matter of years.

Russia has now decided that its plans to share with Washington the joint policing of the world can best be cemented by mutual and interlocking economic deals.

Strategy

Russia has huge oil, natural gas, and copper deposits in Siberia which is prepared to let American, German, and Japanese firms exploit. In exchange it wants to buy advanced technology and consumer goods, and has made access to American grain and common market butter when Russian supplies run short—which is becoming almost an annual affair.

Moscow may also want to import agricultural equipment from North America to help in fighting the kind of capital to labour ratios which have brought high rates of food production in the United States from eight million to 30 million tons of potatoes per year. These agreements have also been written into the urban sprawl and unemployment of the American industrial north.

Mr Brezhnev’s new strategy of business at all costs with the West has produced some interesting changes at the top in Moscow. Although as party general secretary, he has now clearly won the personal supremacy over his colleagues for which he has skillfully been striving for years (the recent Politburo resolution paid tribute to his ‘great personal contribution’), he has widened his policy-making group to include the Defence Minister Andrei Grechko, the Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and the head of the KGB, Yuri Andropov.

The newly enlarged Politburo which Brezhnev has now created is a kind of ‘corporate management’, with all the major government departments in the country’s top policy-making body.

Brezhnev has sacked two of his critics.

One, Gennadi Voronov, is an old Khrushchev appointee. The other, a far more dangerous man, is Pyotr Shremst, the former party secretary of the Ukraine. He is known to have opposed the whole Brezhnev doctrine of joint deals with the West. It is quite possible that some of the other Politburo members, in particular Marshal Gromyko, may also have some doubts about it.

What is not absolutely clear is their reasoning. But it seems probable that they criticized Brezhnev from what might be called a ‘captive’ position. They were afraid that too much contact with the West might lead to some sort of ‘contamination’ of their closed and repressed regime.

Unlike

Russian citizens might wonder why it was necessary to have such tight censorship and a virtual ban on contacts with the West when Russian military men were running about all over Russia. They might wonder why defence establishment need be so vast.

It seems highly unlikely that Brezhnev’s critics would have taken a ‘left’ position. Why pawn Russian raw materials and hence the Russian economy even more to the interests of the Western-controlled world market than it has already been?

Why let the tentacles of the multinational corporations spread even further into Russia, and take advantage of its low-wage economy? Why let the United States, still reeling from defeat in Vietnam, reap the benefits of new patterns of investment in Eastern Europe and Russia?

It is too long a time since any kind took place in the Russian Politburo to expect it to be going on now.

Peter Hitchcock

...and the workers pay the price

THE BACKGROUND to the changes in the Russian leadership and to Brezhnev’s series of trips to the West lies in the failures of the Russian economy in recent years.

Last year Russia’s economic growth was the slowest for 10 years and the official figure of 4 per cent less than that of most of the advanced western countries. There was a serious shortfall in the agricultural harvest, leading to the hoarding of massive amounts of grain in the West at the enormous cost of 2,000 million dollars.

But there was also important falling in industry. When the recent five-year plan started in 1970 it was claimed, for the first time since Stalin took full power in the 1920s, that goods used to increase living standards would get priority over goods used to build up industry, and thus further.

This, said the Russian leaders, would be the test for the plan. But last year’s rate of increase of consumer goods grew a third less than planned, and this year’s targets were changed to give heavy industry priority over consumer goods.

That means that Russian workers, already suffering from food shortages, will not get the increased living standards they were expecting. Yet their present living standards are by no means high. It has been estimated that they are about half those of workers in Western Europe and a third of US workers.

The Russian leaders periodically promise

massive improvements in living standards to the population—and then just as regularly fail to deliver. The reason is that although they claim that the Russian economy is ‘planned’, in reality they are just as incapable of acting in the interests of the man of workers as are the capitalists of the West.

They regard their chief priority as being one of building up armaments in competition with the Americans and the Chinese. In order to have the industrial basis for arms production, they sacrifice the manufacture of consumer goods to the manufacture of means of production.

Luxury lives

Just as the Ford Motor Company tells its workers, year in year out, that they cannot have a reasonable wage increase because of the need to stay competitive as against General Motors, so the Russian leaders tell workers that increases in living standards must wait.

Of course, the Russian leaders themselves do not suffer; they earn up to a hundred times more than the workers, live in luxury flats, have country villas and patronise special shops where they can buy high quality luxury goods that most workers have never even seen.

But the chickens are beginning to come home to roost for the Russian rulers. The low living standards of the mass of the population are beginning to have a detrimental effect on production.

Because wages are so low, workers show little interest in their work. They are not allowed, officially, to go on strike, but they can express their frustrations in other ways by just refusing to take care over what they turn out.

Reports in the government paper Izvestia say that wage-tariffs have been extended to the poor quality production of parts is as high as 30 per cent in the Russian motor vehicle industry and that, in Pravia, the party paper, has complained that all too often, when vehicles are sent into a garage for repair, mechanics merely change all the components for which they have spare parts, rather than try and find out what is wrong.

The overall result is that the level of productivity in Russia is far below that in the West. The Russian leaders might be able to come to terms with this problem in the long term if they raised living standards. But they cannot afford to because of the arms race with America and China.

Their only alternative is to try to increase productivity by still bigger investments in industry. But if the arms bill is not going to be cut (and the Russian leaders refuse to consider this seriously), that means holding down wages. That is what seems to be happening at present.

But the men in the Kremlin cannot be too happy about this state of affairs. They know that when Polish workers pushed for a 10 to 15 per cent wage increase at the end of 1970 there were general strikes in key industrial centres and street fighting.

Force had to be used to smash up demonstrations in Lithuania, and of the USSR itself, last year, and there have been reports of strikes in the Ukraine and in the West.

The removal of Shelest may also indicate that the regional barons who rule over the different component nations of the USSR are beginning to get restive, perhaps because they each want a bigger share of the sugar bag.

Brezhnev hopes that increased trade with the West will provide an answer to these problems. He may also hope that arms deals agreements will enable him to maintain his grip over Eastern Europe and continue to threaten the Chinese without the arms bills rising too much.

But it is doubtful if he can deal with the fundamental problems of the Russian economy. These arise because a small and privileged group rules Russia and competes with ruling classes elsewhere in the world by exploiting the workers to build up a new, uncompetitive economy.

Only when the Russian workers over-run the Kremlin and take the wealth of the country for their own needs will the problems of the economy begin to be removed.
LONRHO THE REAL FACE OF CAPITALISM

DURING the Lonrho court case, the eight directors who sought to remove their chief executive, Mr Roland ‘Tiny’ Rowland, made it clear that they had never doubted Mr Rowland’s ‘speculative ability’. It is a key phrase. For in all the talk about the dramatic rise of Lonrho under Mr Rowland’s management during the 1960s—from a small-time ranching company worth a quarter of a million to a massive multinational with assets worth more than £200 million—not much attention has been paid to the secret which more than anything else won for Mr Rowland his enormous fortune. Mr Rowland was among the first to understand that the rapid rate of political independence for black African states could be used as a ‘wind of change’, a time for men with ‘speculative ability’ every bit as much as the days of old-fashioned imperialism. Rowland was quick to distinguish between political and economic independence. He noticed that the new African nationalistic regimes for all their anti-colonial talk, were willing if not anxious to co-operate with capitalists.

Wealth

He watched in wonder as the old imperial capitalists, terrif- iced by the rising tide of nationalism, lost confidence in their ability to run their enterprises and put them on the market cheap. It is true that Rowland started in Rhodesia and South Africa, but Lonrho is made up of the first Lonrho companies in London and Rhodesia. That Lonrho has 32 subsidiaries in Rhodesia. And that a big bulk of Rowland’s personal wealth, not to mention that he has built up his personal wealth, has been shipped out of Rhodesia into the Bahamas. It is also true that Lonrho has substantial interests in South Africa, including platinum and copper mines, one of which led to the arrest and trial for fraud of five Lonrho directors in 1971 and 1972. (So great was the ‘influence’ of Lonrho in South Africa that the trial did not go on.) But the real basis for the company’s enormous wealth is in black Africa. As independence swept Africa, Mr Rowland concentrated on buying cheap the enterprises of the old imperialists, on negotiating cheap franchises for agricultural and mining interests and on obtaining cheap licences for the distribution of new consumer durables, notably motor cars. His guns were not to contribute to the wealth of the continent but to buy up the enterprises or the mineral wealth that already existed. It was crude plunder but it was not described as such. Everywhere Rowland relied on minimum publicity and wherever possible he bought up the press. The recent support for Rowland in Zambia, for instance, is not unconnected with Lonrho’s ownership of the Times of Zambia. Everywhere, too, Rowland made sensitive ‘political’ appointments to industrial jobs. In Kenya, the grandson-in-law of President Kenya is a Lonrho manager. In the Ivory Coast, the managing director of a Lonrho sub- subsidiary is a nephew of President Houphouet-Boigny, and one of the black directors of Lonrho, Mr Gil Olympio, is the son of the late President of Togo.

Report by Paul Foot

In another case, Lonrho was assisted by the Royal Family. In September 1969, Princess Alexandra and her husband, Angus Ogilvy, a Lonrho director, visited Swaziland to represent the Royal Family at the first anniversary of Swaziland’s independence. It is most unusual for a member of a Royal Family to attend the first anniversary of an independent country, especially in so small a country. Soon after the visit, Lonrho won important concessions for mining asbestos in the Hlondock area of Swaziland.

Moved

All mineral rights in Swaziland are vested in the King, Sobhuza II, with whom Princess Alexandra and her consort stayed during their colourful state visit.

Further north, Lonrho moved into the big time. In the latter half of the 1960s, Lonrho absorbed a massive bulk of business in black Africa’s most populated country—Nigeria.

The highly profitable Liverpool-based shipping and trading combine, John Holt, was bought for a mere £8 million. Other Lonrho purchases included the West Africa Drug company, David Whitehead, a textile firm, the Tweedaleh United Collieries and Witbank Consolidated Gold mines.

Ready cash was always available from Malawi, one of the first countries penetrated by Lonrho. Lonrho owns all the railways in Malawi, and made a lot of money by constructing the biggest railway bridge to the Mozambique government—an action which was greeted with universal displeasure by several Malawi civil servants, on the grounds that the ownership of the bridge was crucial development.

The great men were prompt. Malawi’s Prime Minister is now co-operating with Banda in Go. the fruit in the future to Lonrho, who in his 50 subsidiaries into every area of life.

Dea

The same is true of the Malawian government.

International Socialism 58

The May issue of International Socialism features an important and controversial article by Tony Cliff on Lenin on the Revolutionary Party. This is an article that will be quoted and argued about for a long time. Other features include:

Crisis in Steel: Rob Clay and Nick Howard

The Communist Party and the Left: Steve Jefferys

Gaulin and After: Ian Birchall

Memoirs of a Revolutionary Part V: Reg Groves

Reforming the Labour Party: Duncan Halliday

Keeping Sudan

DUNCAN SANDYS stayed on the Asanti board, and before long he and Tiny Rowland had become close colleagues. In 1971, the two men were to combine to effect what was perhaps the greatest business coup in Lonrho’s history.

It involved the making of a counter-revolution in the Sudan.

For some months before the summer of 1971, Rowland and other Lonrho directors had been casting greedy eyes on the Sudan, and its new government led by President Nnamry.

Nnamry had boasted when taking power of his socialist friends and socialist ideas, but in the course of his sweeping nationalisation proposals he had not touched the many enterprises of Mr Khalil Omar, who was financial adviser to Nnamry and Lonrho’s man in the Sudan. Omar had built up his huge fortune on partnership with a former Finance Minister in Kuwait, and was one of the first businessmen in Africa to see the potential in Africa for feudal oil money from the Parene Gulf. (Qatar’s Gulf is called Gulf International.)

In June, 1971, a team from Lonrho, including Rowland, flew to the Sudan to negotiate the massive £10 million deal whereby Lonrho and Omar would become the sole purchasing agents for the Sudan in Britain, and the Sudanese government would hand Lonrho a big sugar concession into the bargain.

Jeopardy

On 10 July, a team from the Sudanese government, including the Defence Minister, flew to London to finalise the deal with the Foreign Office. At the talks, Lonrho was represented by Mr Duncan Sandys. The deal was signed and the Sudanese team left on 18 July for a short business trip in Baghdad. On that day, however, enterprise was put under review by ministers in cabinet.

At once, Khalil was arrested and flown back to Cairo, where he is now on trial for treason. Nnamry was deposed, and the whole enterprise was scrapped. The deal was never signed.
Lothro bought up existing firms... it was crude plunder

AT THE CONFERENCE of the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff last week, the executive council succeeded in getting its decision to "proscribe"—ben the International Socialists endorsed.

The union's general secretary, Roy Grantham, rose to the heights of his analytical and oratorical powers when he made the keynote speech urging delegates to support the ban.
"The union will take action," he said, "in accordance with the democratic traditions of the union, to see that this decision is enforced.

"Since the decision was taken it has been followed up by the executive council and the decision will be enforced by the executive council.

"The decision will be enforced by the executive council and the decision will be enforced by the executive council.

FEATHER: acknowledged master known.

"The union has made it clear that it will not tolerate any violation of the decision greased out by the executive council.

"The executive council will take action to enforce the decision.

The executive council will take action to enforce the decision.

Mr R S Amegashie, the General Manager of Mines, who behaved throughout as though he were an employee of Lothro, warned the miners not to make unjustifiable demands.

Mr Amegashie assured the miners that if they continued to make unjustifiable demands, Lothro would take action against them.

Mr Amegashie added that Lothro had made it clear that it would not tolerate any violation of the decision.

The union has made it clear that it will not tolerate any violation of the decision.

The union has made it clear that it will not tolerate any violation of the decision.

Another recent decision of the APEX executive proves that this is so. Following their deliberations, the APEX executive decided to end the propaganda war with the government of Uganda.

Laurie Flynn

Preparing for Power

J.T. Murphy

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

Price: £1 plus £1p postage.

PLUTO PRESS, Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1 8LB.
NOTHING could be better illustrated the need to build a revolutionary workers' party than the reaction of the generals of the trade union movement confronted with phase two of the Tory wage freeze.

Their response did not even match that of the grand old Duke of York. They remained safely at the bottom of the hill or climbed half way up while informing their troops that it was up to them whether or not they climbed to the top.

Nor were the union leaders able to hide behind the disingenuous apathy of the rank and file, their traditional excuse, particularly of the country trade union leaders, of the height of the opposition to phase two, close on a million workers, most of them low paid and without militant traditions, were prepared to do battle with the government.

The union leaders had a unique chance to harness the tremendous energies unleashed in those struggles to the task of building a united movement that could have smashed the wage freeze and brought down the Tories. Instead, they allowed each section to do battle on its own. Where groups of workers were already fighting, the union leaders went through the motions of leadership only to “down tools” at the first opportunity.

Clearly, the union leaders, whether of the right, centre or left, became increasingly divorced from the rank and file as they rose up the union hierarchy.

Union leaders have, under capitalism, reached positions of special privilege, a privilege based on their continued control of the union machine.

As they rise up the union ladder, they succumb more and more to the bureaucratic mentality which values above all else the organization and financial viability of the union machine. Since this machine is their power base, protecting it becomes more important than building up the fighting strength of the rank and file.

Sabotage

Naturally, there are differences between union leaders.

Right-wing leaders such as Frank Chappie write scurrilous articles in the Sunday Express denouncing the ‘red wreckers’. For them, the struggle is but a sing song on the ladder leading to the House of Lords and a directorship of the Bank of England.

‘Centre’ leaders such as Vic Feather voice opinion to state control at the expense of the union movement, but will only support the struggles of the masses when absolutely forced, and then only to sabotage them.

As for the ‘left’ leaders such as Hugh Scanlon and Jack Jones, they are in fact using their positions, no matter how low on the ladder, to serve the capitalist class.

Unlike the ‘centre’ leaders, the ‘left’ leaders see themselves as acting on behalf of their members rather than mobilizing them to act for them.

They have a basic lack of faith in the rank and file which is rooted, at a deeper level, in a fear of their members’ hidden strength. This strength, once allowed to develop, could blossom into a movement for grass-roots control of the unions.

The alternative lead necessary to defeat the state-employer offensive and launch a counter-attack leading to the definitive defeat of the Tories unless socialist militants throughout industry unite to build a revolutionary party...

Now is the time for all good men and women to come to the aid of the party...

A series by Sabby Sagall


THE PEOPLE of the North Islington district of London could be forgiven for not recognizing their homely territory as portrayed in this new novel. Special Somewhere in the mass of confused and confusing parts and places the trendy illustrators lies the district between Hornsey Rise and the Archway Road in a tragic drama of the dispossessed.

The survey and case studies whistle the reader with a mass of statistical information, and if you can manage to plough through it, a picture of human cruelty is revealed.

Certainly no one who has spent any time in the area can dispute the more obvious points John Rowland has re-discovered. It is true that the area has been stripped of many basic human needs—commercial, educational, health facilities for old, young and all ages, jobs worth doing and space and places for play.

It is true too that the cards are stacked against anyone born and bred in such an area—in the words of one, it is a “prison of the people”.

It has long been recognised that you could come from the area of getting a more interesting job or decent accommodation are only slightly better than nil.

What is not so generally known is the total number of cases by this kind of activity, but the general problem can be reduced only with a change in the whole. This means a radical change in the political make-up of the local government of the municipality.

The survey attempts to explain the area as the product of government, of street names and council houses, but it comes to an end in complete despair.

The reader is left with the impression that the whole area is an “iron bar” to the majority of the population, and that the task of transforming the situation is a difficult one.

JANET DRUKER

Socialists lit the fuse


THIS book traces briefly some of the main lines of political and intellectual thought of the Social Democratic movement from the end of the 19th century, Calderbank and Ross’s highly critical study of Calderbank and Ross’s socialist movement.

It mentions Henry George, the radical American who fought for a universal right to the city and Robert Blatchford, the author of The State. The last few chapters of the book are devoted to the ideas of socialists with widely different views such as Constance Markievicz, who died of pneumonia and exhaustion following the execution of her brother Edward Carpenter, who combined opposition to exploitation with a lifelong fight for free personal relationships and ending the oppression of women and homosexuals in his book Love’s Coming of Age and True Minorities, and on the Lords’ public and clothing workers, whom was a West Riding founder and socialist still remembers as ‘a lovely man’. Sometimes he touches on the upper-middle class which contributed...

BOOKWORM’S EYE VIEW

WILLIAM MORRIS

The world of the no chance people

It is hardly surprising then that what are described as “middle-class aspirations” are so often in evidence. The marked contrast between the life of those who, by reason of their own circumstances, have been able to escape the conditions of the masses, and the life of the masses, is most apparent. The difference is not only in the way of living, but in the way of thinking.

The confusion presented by this book is followed by some equally confused conclusions concerning the solution to the problem of social decay. John Rowland advocates the de-specialization of specialism and the “folk work” or community mentality.

He is convinced that all of these is the solution to the problems of society. But what will be the solution to the problems? What will be the result of this confusion? How can it be reversed?

Certainly no solution to the problem must begin with grass-roots organization, but it is difficult to understand the self-help groups creating the bureaucratic nature of the Greater London Council, or the prefacing of private landlords, that are growing success.

Where life is based on production for profit, rather than the satisfaction of human need, we can expect to see the same shortcomings and social dislocation as the association of this book, but also the great mass of these private landlords, the speculator and the money- lenders.

It seems that the socialists, in particular cases by this kind of activity, but the general problem can be reduced only with a change in the whole. This means a radical change in the political make-up of the local government of the municipality. It involves the transformation of all of the wealth of the area, for the benefit of its inhabitants.

JANET DRUKER

WILLIAM MORRIS

The no chance people

towards the making of radical working class civilisation. He has studied the lives of men who straggled with his sister Rachel to the Commune and the lives of Rachel’s friend’s in the Whitin master, and the lives of men who lived in the Communist movement, and the life of a working-class family in the town. The book describes a culture that we cannot only be grasped.

Stanley Pearson has a wonderful understanding of the people who were for the working class. He is a very hardy for anyone who wants to find out about the late 20th to mid-19th century socialist movement.

The book is a great day about the way he writes. He is very easy to read and is a pleasure to inhabit his pages.

It is not remissly remarked sadly that “some people call themselves socialists” and that they are false and really “realistic” socialist opinions hang round. They haven’t got it inside them. The remarks could be extended to some historians in fact.

Stanley Pearson’s subject is not inside him.

Anybody who wants to find out about this period should dig out Edward Thompson’s icon of the Romanticism of Revolutionary, and read his History of the Working Class in the Lebour Market edited by Alan Briggs. That book contains the material that they are by a historian who has his socialist opinions.

SHEILA TURNER

BOOKWORM’S EYE VIEW

15 BOOKS has acquired 25 copies of the following titles at VERY BOUNDERY, by C.L.R. James, the dis-

The book, now out of print, is a fasci-

gating analysis of the dynamic role of cricket in the West Indies as one expression of the international movement of the British working class. The hero of the story is the manager of the West Indies cricket team.

There are many brilliant pen portraits of cricket luminaries like Sir Donald Bradman, Enfield Constantine and Frank Worrell. It also contains a may report by the Editor of the Times, the two books Louis Tugend and Les Heron, 15 Books is offering this limited collection at £30 a copy (plus 1s 6d postage and packing). Only one copy per person. THE BOOKWORM’S EYE VIEW

GREAT—I’VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE AN ARCHITECT!...

DON’T DESPAIR LAD—WILL GET

YOU A JOB—TROUBLE IN A GREY AREA

[ILLUSTRATION]

[ILLUSTRATION]

[ILLUSTRATION]

[ILLUSTRATION]

PROFESSOR’S DAUGHTER (Panther, 40s) is an American Liberal who starts his political life digging dirt for a friend to see if he has any chance of being a possible Democratic candidate for the 1974 elections. This novel promises little—the opening scene is a job interview in a drug store—and but delivers a lot. The novel is a story of two young workers, one of whom is the union leader who is being targeted for death, the other of whom is the drug user who is a target for a police operation.

The title is in the weak sense of “拣拾” or “exploiting” the events that open the professor’s eyes, the sale of drug stories. The book is limited in scope and is therefore just simply by including a lending cover.

The job interview for which the hero has just applied is a good line for those who are interested in individual discrimination.
A Street named Coronation

ONE fact arising from your recent letters is that you expect me to watch television as well as write about it.

I’d better confess that this aspect of the job is the most difficult one. When I took on this column, I don’t think I really thought about it, but I only want to watch what I think I’m going to like and don’t seem to be interested in what’s on. But I’ve finally been forced to admit the need for a muscular criticism and I’m trying to get to work on it.

One thing I’ve learned is that you can’t watch the whole program without rejecting all the stuff on the kitchenette to keep it calm.

Are you still with me?

It’s a bit easy for us to get involved with such a small number of people, but we can’t help it, especially when we have a few more people on our side.

A friend is very interested in helping to get a new native talent from the Orient into television. She wants to be involved in the negotiation, but I believe that this will become the future of broadcasting.

A street named Coronation is a place that is a lot more familiar to the ordinary person than to the average television audience.

There are more than a million people who have never heard of Coronation Street, but they do know what a street named Coronation is.

Pro-empire

There is more than an element of snobbery about those who are used to living in a community of rich and powerful people, and that is the idea of a street named Coronation.

A street named Coronation is a place where the rich and powerful can be surrounded by people who are not interested in politics or in the problems of the working class.

Anti-union

This has become harder to enm...
IT HAS not taken the establishment long to build up Tom Jackson and the Union of Post Office Workers as Frank Chapple's foremost allies in the fight to commit the trade union movement to open collaboration with Michael Foot and to mass militancy inside the union, this is nothing new. We have seen it too many times before. The UPW was one of the first of the unions to accept the necessity of ballots. The executive's patriotic cry of 'We accept under protest' was not intended for the ballot box or members.

In the latest issue of The Post, the union's journal, there were calls for ballots ten years ago we tried strike action and ballots for the procedures laid down. The UPW is pressing on its members to get justice for the members he says.

The propositions the executive have put up for this week's annual conference bear evidences yet again of the right-wing wing of the union.

**PROTECTED**

At present the union rules are revered every three years. At this year's conference the UPW has proposed that this be altered to once every five years. The union is also proposing that most of the union's officers be elected in the same way so that 'they will not become available for financing strikes, lock-outs and industrial action.

And in a report to the conference on the union's 'facilities for trade union representatives' it is clear that the intention is to continue the process of centralising union organisation to the detriment of rank and file activity.

Branches have little or no authority in the UPW. But in some of the bigger branches, activists have carved out for the membership some freedom and rank and file participation.

This report is intended to put a stop to this situation. It is designed to concentrate what authority it left to branches on the hands of the branch secretary. Credentials are to be introduced for the first time. And the nasty twist is that they have to be signed by the local Post Office Manager.

The common tactic for militants in the UPW is to criticise Tom Jackson. It is debatable whether they have ever been swallowed or whether Jackson is more to blame.

Jackson is in a position more dependent on his membership than the opinion makers in the union–national movement. He is then quick to speak and act in this manner.

He realises the unwillingness of the TUC to lead a fight against the Tories and played quite a part in making sure that the TUC stayed that way. It must be remembered that he once tabled a motion seeking to increase the authority of the TUC Jackson, another Harold Wilson, is a supreme opportunist who follows trends and abandons any principle than use his undoubted influence to give a lead.

A lead is urgently needed in the democratic trade unions. The TUC is an empty room...
NEED FOR YOUTH MOVEMENT

YOUR REPORT on the conference of the National Union of School Students (12 May) quite rightly points out the limitations of the NUSS and the need for a more effective political organisation for school students. But it failed to point out the need to build Rebel groups to fight for not only a militant struggle in schools, but also, more importantly, a revolutionary socialist youth movement which can integrate school students with young workers, apprentices, and unemployed young people. Rebel nationalism has only a small number of active groups at the moment and it is vital that we get the support of all socialists and most importantly that of militant trade unionists in our efforts to build a strong fighting movement.

It is also important that Socialist Worker gives more coverage to the struggles of young people and encourages support from its readers for the various local Rebel groups. ANDY MAKIN, AMANDA FOAKES, MIKE BROWN, TIM QUEMINET, York Rebel Group.

THE STORY of Nobby fiddling while Rome was burning is being repeated by the TUC. Instead of Nobby we have the TUC. Instead of fiddling we have talking with the Tories and burning Rome is our wage packets going up in the smoke of rising prices.

The TUC talks with the Tories are an act of open class collaboration, an act of open confrontation with rank and file trade unionists by getting the TUC to freeze some form of incomes policy on the instruction of the Tories.

The TUC wants some sort of concessions from the Tories, but the only result will be open confrontation with the employing class.

But this government's strategy, as was so clearly shown during its election and boost productivity to increase profits and government, is the Tory way, and economic expansion doesn't look as though it can last long. So the trade union leaders are unlikely to return from the 'corridors of power' even with full backing from the working class.

In the meantime we are meant to sit down and watch the ensuing drama of Dawe Street meetings on television during the summer and autumn months as our standard living declines even further.

Instead the TUC ought to go where the trade unionists are, where they are badly needed writ large a militant campaign among rank and file trade unionists to set up their own wages, to smash the freeze and force the Tories out.

As a first step the TUC must campaign in our own branches against TUC collaboration, the Tories and the undisguised. No talks with the TUC. JULES TOWNSEND, Southampton.

Women

AS a non-Radical Feminist who was at the Women's Workshop, I would like to put on record my account (19 May) of their investigation.

1. They complained because there was no crockery in the evening. This means that the Private Member's Bill which seeks to ban this isn't fit and dangerous. I don't know how the Private Member's Bill's, which seeks to ban this isn't fit and dangerous.

2. They found it amusing that some of the speakers lacked any analysis which was informed by the realities of the work. I would also like to add that I found it amusing that some of the speakers lacked any analysis which was informed by the realities of the work.

3. They felt that the approach of some of the speakers lacked any analysis which was informed by the realities of the work. I would also like to add that I found it amusing that some of the speakers lacked any analysis which was informed by the realities of the work.

4. They said that they wanted time to discuss the problems of the work. I would also like to add that I found it amusing that some of the speakers lacked any analysis which was informed by the realities of the work.

5. They felt that the approach of some of the speakers lacked any analysis which was informed by the realities of the work. I would also like to add that I found it amusing that some of the speakers lacked any analysis which was informed by the realities of the work.

Smeared

A TOWN COUNCIL colleague of mine has been the subject of an article Headed Emergency in the Labour Ward (1 April). I cannot see why you would claim that 'my political attitudes were not stable.'

Let's hear from you, Socialist Worker wants to hear from readers—your likes and dislikes with the papers, ideas, comments on the multi-sectioned problem of looking after working people. Letters must arrive first post Monday. Handwritten letters must be legible and with names in capitals to avoid confusion.

I have carried out every decision of the strike, which gives the policy of the party on this issue was election. The strike was organised and no go to the main campaign, I actually organised the town council meetings and I am not against them. The council meetings are not in the best interest of the community and I am not against them. The council meetings are not in the best interest of the community.

After 1 years' service I considered this totally unfair and instead of waiting for the next nomination meeting which was, as he said, he appealed, as it is my right, to the council. They investigated the situation, but because the Town Council had made errors that were not in the best interest of the community and I am not against them. They investigated the situation, but because the Town Council had made errors that were not in the best interest of the community and I am not against them.

I am not sure that I supplied news material to the Evening News during their strike and a smear to print it in the way I say it to the town council. When the strike began I was on holiday in Majorca. When I was trying to finish my first novel the strike set me Father of the Evening newspaper. I appeal to you to see me at the town council to tell me that I am not against them. I appeal to you to see me at the town council to tell me that I am not against them.

I answered at once 'No, of course not' and at no time did I take a line of copy from the Evening News despite the renewed requests of those producing a paper. This fact could have been readily verified.

I asked what part-time for me that on the previous occasion when I was earlier in the Evening News had telephoned and asked me to please have a copy of the Evening News. I was unable to provide this. This girl used, on a previous occasion when I was earlier in the Evening News, a few years ago and very recently, I sent to her an envelope with the words 'Please return this envelope to Edinburgh Freight Branch to which I belong and need for guides.'

She was told by him that the strike was not in her interest, and that the Evening News had not been informed about it and that it was a matter for the town council. I would need to arrange for this to be done so if she is.

Only rank and file can defeat the Lump

YOUR article on the lump in the building industry (12 May) was a fine piece of journalism.

I naturally hope that Eric Hoffer, the Private Member's Bill which seeks to ban this isn't fit and dangerous but new building will be shown how effective parliamentary action is welcomed. Legislation in itself will not stop love- ly paralyzing sub-contractors. One man who has undertaken football jobs for me since the end of the war is going to the game and she asked him to provide for all day long. I have established for myself as a full time journalist and one of quite a few who have been asked to cover sports work on Saturday afternoons. He works for other papers at times as well as me and he sent the paper a paragraph about paying the subscriptions of Labour Party members—MAGNUS WILLIAMSON, Edinburgh.

TWO STRIKES on the same moment illustrate graphically the hypocrisy of British business's claim that it can't pay wages above the Tories' freeze levels.

At the Nu-Swift factory in Huddersfield, 75 women office workers are on strike for an increase in their desirior £13 a week, which is £5 below the wage other firms pay. Such a generous wages policy on behalf of the management has ensured a prosperous time for Nu-Swift over the years.

Workers lucky enough to buy shares in Nu-Swift Industries back in 1960, when they were sold to a select few in the City for an equivalent of 1 Ip each, will have seen their investment more than treble in value and will have received well over 11p a share in dividends over the years. It is understood they haven't worked quite so hard for this money as the workers at Nu-Swift.

In 1963 Nu-Swift Swift was worth £289,019. In 1972, it made pre-tax profits of £736,413. The profit per worker in 1963 was £252, in 1972 £1132.

Of these profits the workers received £100,449 as a special bonus in 1972. It is specialty remitted in the report and accounts as a charge against profits—just so the shareholders can see how much they are sacrificing.

This £1,000,000 shared between 650 workers compares with the £11,872 of directors' fees to be divided between 10 directors during this year. The directors voted themselves a rise during that year: an average of £1,700 each, or £34 a week. It is not known whether these rises were paid in to a bank in the Cayman Islands.

Bonus

But in looking after themselves and their workers so generously the directors have forgotten their shareholders. In October the shareholder normally would have received a dividend.

In 1972 it was to be 1.87p a share. The directors discovered that if the dividend was paid in January they would have 'wasting the company's tax liability' and so, postponing for this night incontinence, they gave their shareholders a bonus of an extra £75,000 by way of compensation.

This was particularly good for those shareholders, who had paid more than £1 million in the company.

The George Cohen 600 Group, a large engineering company which died of the same disease, was paid £1 million in 1973. That's around £250 a year for each of the group of £300 for the directors.

In 1973 these 940 workers employed throughout the world, paid £1,015,000 and a dividend £1,35 million. If the £1.5 million of deprecate is added back, that means a profit of £5.48 p made per worker of neatly £630.

Unfortunately 1972 was a bad year: profits fall to the dwindling low level of £1.1 million. So did the UK labour force—from 9076 to 8425.

The redundancies, which cost the company £375,000 made it a bit hard to sell off some surplus property for a profit of £1.592 mil-

T H Rogmorton
Rent strike tenants vote to defy court

By Tony Boyle

KIREGYA, Uganda—Rent strike tenants voted to defy a court order yesterday which tried to end their three-month-old rent strikes. The tenants, 3,000 in Kiregya, a small town in northern Uganda, disrupted court proceedings and hurled abuse at judges and police who arrived to try to evict them.

Local police said 500 police officers had been deployed to deal with the court case, which went ahead despite the widespread boycott of court proceedings.

The judge in the court case said the tenants had been ordered to vacate the buildings by April 1, and that the court would dispose of any appeal against the order tomorrow.

However, the tenants, who have said they will continue their rent strike until their demands are met, disagreed with the judge’s decision.

At the court, the judge was forced to suspend the proceedings after the tenants, who were dressed in black, refused to co-operate.

The judge threatened to issue a new order to evict the tenants if they refused to comply with the existing order. However, the tenants said they would continue their rent strike unless their demands were met.

The tenants, who are demanding lower rents and better living conditions, have said they will not move until their demands are met.

But, as one of the strikers put it: "We are not going to be destroyed by the court. We will continue to fight for our rights."

The court order was the latest in a series of rent strikes in Uganda, where tenants are fighting for better living conditions and lower rents.

The tenants said they would continue their rent strike until their demands are met.

The court order was lifted after the judge was forced to suspend the proceedings after the tenants refused to co-operate.

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Jackson 'red scare' to keep the militants muzzled

Student grants stay low

DOUGLAS, Isle of Man: A vicious attack on militants in the Post Office union was launched by general secretary Tom Jackson last Friday. Jackson, clearly rattled by the growing strength of critics of the UPW leadership, alleged that members of the Communist Party and the International Socialists and the Socialist Labour League were trying to 'shut down' the union.

He was speaking at the rules revision conference which preceded the normal annual conference. His attack, which astonished delegates, came during a debate on an amendment to union restructure that sought to give delegates the right to reply to debates instead of the executive.

This small extension of democracy was too much for the executive and Jackson jumped in with a tirade of abuse and distortion on the role of the three political organisations named. 'These groups have got nothing for this union, he said. 'We, the normal, ordinary members of the union are the ones who are going to keep this union unbroken and used for political purposes.'

Tom Jackson went on: 'At the Communist Party had held a secret meeting' to discuss the conference and that the members of the SLL were working 'too closely together in the UPW. The amendment, to the rules, he said, would help the three organisations to extend their grip on the union.

Instead of a 'safe and sensible' platform reply to conference debates, Jackson claimed, delegates would be open to persuasion by representatives of the Party, IS and the SLL. The implication in this remark is that executive members are incapable of persuading anyone.

One delegate angrily interrupted Jackson's speech to protest at these allegations and smears against the delegates' and several other delegates condemned his remarks.

Jackson was able to whip up enough conference to ensure the defeat of the amendment by 2,925 votes to 567.

But his red scare tactics fell flat and shortly afterwards the conference carried two similar amendments to rule which extended delegates rights of reply and restricted the platform's power.

Conference background: page 12

‘GET BACK’

by SW Reporter

NOTTINGHAM: 35 Pakistani and Indian workers on strike for three weeks at the lace firm of E Jaffe were told by Transport Union official Reg Harris on Monday to get back to work.

Mr Harris told them that if they returned to work they would take the victimisation question to arbitration in two weeks' time.

Refused to make the strike official because the workers had not given a week's notice to management. The workers pointed out that as there was no fixed procedure in the firm it was not necessary to give notice of strike action. If management wanted such notice then they would have to recognise the union and reach a proper agreement.

They then demanded the strikers by claiming that Jaffe does not recognise 'the union because the management “spoke” to shop stewards.

On Sunday 200 workers attended a meeting in support of the Jaffe strikers. They came from Great Stroud, British Celanese, Mansfield Holley and Harwood Cash (Mansfield). £50 was collected for the strike fund and all the speakers attacked the role of the TGWU.

Walk-out over sacking

HULL: Members of TASS, the technical and supervisory section of the engineering department of a local engineering firm in Hull, have walked out over the sacking of a junior engineer.

Davidson Brennan, of Uxbridge, said his job was potentially another Loftushe, where seven men were killed recently, it was important to demand rank and file solidarity, but he emphasised that every miner should be his own safety inspector.

Several new demands were made, including the demand for payment for all sick pay, and an end to the management’s refusal to meet the miners on the issue.

BIRMINGHAM: Many of the city centre building袭击es were closed on Friday as 600 building workers joined a 'kill the lump' demonstration through the city centre.

After the march a meeting was addressed by Ken Howes, UCATT official, who stressed that only building workers kill the lump or the employer will use the lump to kill their organisations on the sites. Pete Carter, chairman of the local shop stewards committee, and that building workers were the only ones who would be paid, and that every working day a building worker is killed. He said that the National Exhibition Centre site in the city would be considered, and if the lump was used there would be a policy of compulsory arbitration.

Rank and file miners’ militancy strong as ever

A CLOSER look refuted suspicions that the miners had lost their militancy. Tony Cliff, of the IS executive, told the second annual conference of the Colliery, the miners' rank and file paper, in Droncaster last weekend.

Cliff said the union leaders, both right and left, have been saying for a year that the miners had agreed to change the timing of the mining. If the miners had agreed, February, had to call mass meetings and a walk-out from the pits, and a strike for an extra week's holiday. Under such conditions, he argued, a 37 per cent vote for industrial action was proof of fantastic militancy.

After phase three the Tories would push for the productivity deals, he said. The Mineworkers' executive was already working on the introduction of 24-hour production. Another demur would be put to them. To achieve this the NCB needed active NUM help. So the building of a strong rank and file organisation was the top priority.

Several speakers felt that Cliff was too soft on the miners, that the miners should be more active. That men like Dale were hamstringing the miners' leaders, that the miners should not be put off. The alternative to the miners' militancy were the miners' leaders.

The conference accepted a proposal to organise the miners' leaders and discussed at length the question of militancy. The miners' leadership argued that the Colliery should fight for an industrial action, but the miners could not do anything with the miners.

The miners' leaders continued to be to the miners' militancy. The miners' leaders considered that after the miners' militancy were the miners' leaders.

Billy Hyde, of Lady Widow, suggested giving away old copies at new pits to protect interest, while John O'Nan, of Houghton, wanted more Colliery groups. John Sillitoe, of Caterpillar, reported that the Nottinghamhills Colliery group, which meets regularly and produces a local bulletin. Similar groups are being set up in North Staffordshire and Kent.
British Steel make straight the way of the lord.

by Paul Elliott, AUEW shop steward Lackenby steelworks.

TEESIDE.—For months the British Steel Corporation has been refusing to meet union demands and clean up the fifth conditions in its new Basic Oxygen steel plant at Lackenby. Management, forced to the bargaining table by a series of industrial actions, then broke all the promises it made to the strike committee in the case of the round of shop stewards to negotiate at shop floor level.

But as soon as the news hit that BSC chairman and chief hatchet man, Lord Melchett, was to visit the plant-management ensured an elaborate clean-up. This emergency measure was to ensure that Melchett’s next visit would not be directed by the Fifth that daily destroys steel worker health.

In the past two years the craft unions, the engineers, electricians and boiler makers, have been beset by internal conflict and weakness. It has been their efforts to clean up the shop floor. But in all the years of our 10 years of struggle they have not been able to achieve this statement in that the workforce is more aware of its rights and has the backing of the trade union movement.

400 march in support of the Belfast 10

FOUR HUNDRED people, many of them from London branches of the International Socialists, marched from Clapham Common to Bermondsey last Sunday to protest against the imprisonment and treatment of the ‘Belfast 10’, who were arrested on the evening of the bomb explosions at the Old Bailey and elsewhere in London.

The marchers gathered outside the prison and shouted encouragement to the prisoners, some of whom waved articles of clothing from the prison windows.

belFAST.—Leaders of the Boilermakers Society have been trying to settle a dispute at the Harland and Wolff shipyard that has led to the striking of 2500 steelworkers.

Last week representatives from Belfast met the union’s executive on Tyneside, but major disagreements still persist.

The men have been locked out for several weeks after banning overtime since February. They were protesting at the non-payment of a £3 bonus promised in return for massive increases in productivity.

But Dun McGarvey, union president, has been suggesting that the men should accept the management’s offer of £1 plus 4 per cent on basic plus overtime and return to work to negotiate a bonus scheme.

Sandy Scott, senior shop steward, said that there could be a return to work before a negotiated settlement.

The dispute was brought to a head and strike action amounted to the payment of bonuses.

Wednesday, as McGarvey and a negotiating team, including four Belfast stewards, was again meeting management, the Boilermakers’ Association of Workers brought out the deep-seated anxieties of the trade union and the terms of the agreement with the management.

They organised a march from the yard to Stornoway to protest against the Tyneside administration’s disregard for the workers and the wasting of precious time while building factories all over republican areas.

The truth is that the government’s £35 million grant for developing the shipyard is being dished out to private contractors.

Certainly, Catholic workers, who are virtually excluded from the yard, and face twofold average unemployment level up to 450, have a better claim than the yard workers.

The last executive of the Boilermakers Society refused to comment on the Loyalist march.

This week extreme-right-wing Vanguard leader Bill Craig admitted that Loyalist had always been the "political wing of Vanguard on the factory floor".

As a government minister, Craig was well known for his anti-Catholic policies.

So long as shipyard workers look to men like Craig and the leaders of Loyalist we can never overcome our poor economic position.

McGarvey stays silent over oil-rig job dispute

TEESIDE.—John Lang, the building firm, have provoked a dispute by break shop-floor resistance in the expanding oil industry.

Two hundred welders at Lang’s new offshore pipeline company in Greenock are in the second week of an unofficial strike which has left off the firm’s 1500 workers and stopped all work on the first oil to be in Britain for 48.

The welders have been trying to negotiate conditions and redundancy payments since September. They have told Lang that if extra pay is given to crews working 28 days a month they will return to work. Their offer has been rejected.

Rank and file attack union’s soft line on pay talks

Sublimes.

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