I HOPE," said Lord Lampton last Friday, "to be able to pick up the threads of a normal life." Asked by his interviewer what he regarded as a 'normal life' the Lord replied: 'I have various business interests, and, of course, the running of my vineyards.

It appears that Lord Lampton's business interests are always with him: even when he is in bed with prostitute Norma Levy. 'He told me what he did', said Norma to the Sunday People. 'He also spoke about his property, and shares I should buy. But I had money invested in something else and I did not buy... They did go up in value, however.'

Now Lord Lampton must leave Norma for normal life: nursing a huge coal-mining and 40,000 acres of farmland.

Now Lord Lampton must return to another normal life in his comfortable country house in Wiltshire and perhaps even a seat on the board of his family firm, British & Commonwealth Shipping.

They will join other former Tory ministers engaged in a 'normal life' in and around the City of London. Duncan Sandys, once Minister of almost everything, is trying to scratch a normal life as chairman of Lomtho's £800 m. bank.

In the excitement about Lampton's and Jellicoe's sexual escapades, few noticed the Sunday Times' revelation that Sandys was offered his famous £15,000 'compensation' by Lomtho because he successfully persuaded the South African government to drop substantial fraud charges against Lomtho directors. Even fewer noticed that one of the men appointed by the government to undertake a 'full and frank' inquiry into the affairs of Lomtho was Mr Denzil Garrett, a senior partner in accountants Touquand Youngs. Touquand Youngs are the sole accountants for Ashtani Goddles, Lomtho's most profitable subsidiary.

Happy about oil man

Another government appointee, Lord Polwarth, is staying at his post as Minister of State for Scotland in charge of everything to do with the Scottish oil industry in spite of recent revelations that he owns a substantial block of shares in several trusts which have big stakes in Scottish oil development. The Prime Minister, Edward Heath, is happy about Polwarth's participation in government because, he says, the shares do not bear directly on Lord Polwarth's work as a minister.

The same applies, presumably, to Mr Geoffrey Rippon, who is the Minister of the Environment, and who, according to the most recent (1971) returns, owns 11,642 shares in Drake & Cubitt Ltd, master builders. Last August, Rippon's holding was increased by a further 266 shares.

Mr Rippon does not think anyone apart from Lampton and Jellicoe was involved in the call-girl scandal. He told the Daily Telegraph last week that the whole affair was "very sad". 'Like the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the leader of the Liberal Party, all MPs, The Times, the Daily Express, the Daily Mirror and Robin Day, he has nothing but sympathy for the Earl caught with their trousers down.

If a chap wants a whore, clamber these dignitaries, why shouldn't he have one? After all, what are whores for?

Not a peep of protest can be heard from the anti-porn merchant, Lord Longford, one of whose closest friends is Lord Lampton. Not a splutter of indignation from Mary Whitehouse or Malcolm Muggeridge or the Festival of Light.

These people and organisations know perfectly well that prostitution—the subordination of women to the needs of cash—is an indispensable part of the social system which they support.

People are bought and sold on the factory floor so that shareholders of the Lampton and Jellicoe breed can grow rich and indulge themselves, among other things, by buying and selling prostitutes.

Shares and whores, in short, are both essential to the lives of an entire class whose other main preoccupation is telling hospital workers, miners and engineers to restrain their wage demands in the national interest.

The answer from the workers is coming back loud and clear: Get Out, go to the Gomian Islands, and take your 'Christian civilization' with you.

Police probe revealed top Tories: p 2

Fishy profits & crocodile tears

The SHELLING of the trawler Ereverton by an Icelandic naval vessel last weekend was greeted with a wave of indignation in the press. Politicians and trawler owners hastened to express alarm about the safety of the crew.

But the indignation and alarms were shallow. Working on trawlers has always been one of the most dangerous jobs. Between 1960 and 1966, 223 men were killed in the fishing industry.

But until now there have been no expressions of horror in the press, no outraged statements from trawler owners, no official complaints. Meanwhile their profits have soared.

Now, however, the Icelandic government is threatening a portion of the profits. Popular pressure is forcing it to try and preserve Iceland's only natural resources.

Iceland's government fears that if it takes no action the foreign trawlers will do to the cod what they did to the herring—destroy 93 per cent of the stock in a mere five years.

Profits are more important than the lives of fishermen or the welfare of the inhabitants of Iceland to our press and politicians, Labour or Tory. That is why they have now turned on the crocodile tears and sent the British navy to impose the will of the fishing monopolies off Iceland.

LORD LAMPTON and Edward Heath seen together in happier times. Heath may be dismayed by the revelations of Lampton's expensive sexual hobbies, but they had worked together in pursuing practices far more degrading and scandalous than £50 stations with prostitutes.

Together they berated 'greedy workers' demanding wages of £30 a week—less than a 'true time' in Middle Vale. Together they had attacked the unions for 'thorough the country to ransom' while their pals like Duncan Sandys and Lord Polwarth were busyly fiddling their pockets. Together they attacked the dirty pornographic world of Soho and preached the sanctity of marriage and the family.

Until the Riddlegates burnt and the Lomtho-Polwarth Lampton scandals revealed the real world of the moralising, humbugging Tories.

But Lord Lampton can sink into oblivion with one thought to cheer him: Heath's Phase Two policies which he supported to the hilt will at least prevent his call girls from putting up their prices.
Blackmail and terror by army

from MIKEL MILLER: Belfast

They are the embodiment of high-styled discipline and efficiency and honourable conduct... the army have retained decency and humanity in their and their actions.

This was how Lord Carrington, Tory Minister for Defence, described the British Army in Northern Ireland at the annual conference of the Scottish Conservative Party on 10 May.

Two days before, Carrington had admitted in parliament that the British Army had been involved in the blackmailer's racket in order to get him to spy on the IRA. Two days after Carrington's macabre eulogy of the army's undercover war, it was discovered that the British forces were using deserters from the army as paid informers. In exchange for information on the activities of Republicans the deserters were promised that they would not face court martial for desertion.

In the days since these concrete evidences came to light that far from being isolated incidents, these moral methods are part of general army practice. Numerous men have been arrested for desertion, charged on how they were being blackmailed, bullied and bribed into acting as army spies.

One man whom the army forced to act as a spy for them has now disappeared. He was seen at Carrington's Powemoy estate, carrying a sign informing his wife that he was in military custody. The army officials deny that he has been deserting. Yet those arrested for desertion obtained from paid informers is used to lock up Republicans at Long Kesh concentration camp and centres that had already locked up stay that way. At the time of the setting up of the secret courts which now accept the admissions, the army admitted it had shown how the Totenes were opening the door to all the lowest rackets of Belfast and asked for them to be given a free hand to obtain 'evidence' by whatever means it sees fit.

Brutality

Under these conditions it is little wonder that the army has had growing success in filling the jails and concentration camps of Northern Ireland with the opponents of British rule. The brutality of the army, brutality and double-dealing have been so successful that the last developments in the court cases of Senator's children's prison.

The number of young girls imprisoned without trial has now risen to 1,500. In the case of the Tory chiefs are so proud of. This is how they hope to keep the people off the streets.

But the disgusting methods of the British army continue to unfold. In the same week that the truth about army intelligence operations came to light, three army officers appeared in court on charges of murder in Belfast.

Again Socialist Worker was one of the only newspapers to cover the story. The papers of the Tory chiefs are so proud of. This is how they hope to keep the people off the streets.

Socialist Worker was one of the only newspapers to cover the story. The papers of the Tory chiefs are so proud of. This is how they hope to keep the people off the streets.

Me in recent weeks soldiers have shot dead a number of Republicans, all of them unarmed. It is now known that the army has established a series of secret detention posts in Catholic areas, and that there is no escape to be known for these men. I have been informed by a number of local men, who said that the army had been seen to be using the traditional weapons of the IRA.

The last man an army sergeant was accused of murder was under arrest and four men, and a captain was charged with murder. But the army had admitted that the gun was issued to soldiers to plain.

The reasons why EDWARD HEATH is now a short-lived head of his government is because over a ludicrous issue—pornographic literature—The Tory government was forced to investigate a "public scandal." The rulers of this country spend a lot of time, money and newsprint pointing out that we are all one big happy family. We live under the best of all possible systems, and if anything goes wrong it is the failings of isolated individuals, politically motivated men, mindless militants.

And so it was with this. Within the Conservative Party vociferous groups proclaim the need to "clean up" Britain. Particularly the Conservatives' Welsh mps. They were discussing pornography last week at Lord Latham was sinking noisily into obscurity.

Because they believe it is the government that was forced to act. Earlier this year the police launched raids on chains of Soto bookshops. It was surely a safe move: crusades against "obscenity" are an ideal diversion from the real evils of the system, with a few more inches of newprint on the "victims" and their struggle against the "wickedness" of a few.

So they dug away, carted out piles of books and magazines and set about confiscating the source of evil. Then to their horror they found it. They were looking in a mirror.

A 25-year-old woman was found to have enjoyed holidays with what the News of the World likes to call a "Vic King." Then the Tory government.

It does matter at all whether the entire House of Parliament has been engaged in acts of gross indiscency for the last 400 years. What is significant is just when those times when the huge gap between what the rulers of this country proclaim and what they do is revealed.

Robert Carr, the Home Secretary, would have been embarrassed to find that one of his closest associates was a long-time exponent of a trivial and irrelevant issue and were taken seriously by the people who turn up at Tory Woman's Conference. Last week Robert Carr, the Home Secretary, said on "indecent public display of pornography." The sort of display now on view in the Soto bookshops in big cities is now on view in some high street newswagewindows. This is not an expression of freedom, it is the commercial exploitation of freedom.

If pornography is the 'commercial exploitation of freedom' what is Duncan Sandys £50,000 on his island in the West Indies? Or Reginald Maudling's dealings with John Paulson and Jerome D Hoffman (now in a US jail) or Lord Polwarth and his £46,000 share in North Sea Oil at a time when he is the government's oil supremo?

The greatest mistake made by Mr Humphreys, the News of the World's "Soho vice king," was not to join the board of Lomrho. It is a lot better paid than roaming the continent giving interviews at £10 a time.

Lomrho broke publicly for a similar reason to Latham and Jellicoe. In the first case the thieves were arguing about the division of spoils and shouted so loudly that even Fleet Street could hear them. In the second the thieves were caught paying what they were supposed to be stopping being sold.

Crusader

The Labour leaders have taken a principled stand of course. For them the Lomrho issue bears out what they 'said all along', Mr Wilson waxes long and eloquent about the 'Augean stables' of capitalism—except when he's given the job of status for status sexual activities for the Tory government no one is concerned with this: it is the 'question of national security'.

Like hell it is. If Mr James Wellbeloved, MP, the former chairman of the interests, had been in charge of the Garden of Eden we can assume that Adam's illicit relationship with Eve would have been terminated on the grounds that the snake was a red-chinese spy.

At times like this the Houses of Parliament close ranks. A suffocating air of self-satisfaction at doing the 'decent thing' flows from the building.

The reason is simple enough. For a short time the system has been seen for what it is—a mechanism by which wealth is extracted from and when necessary forced on the people for sale, including substitutes for human relationships.
The Watergate scandal not just an ugly face

PRESS, radio and television—they're all having a grand time with the Watergate affair. Our perhaps well-intentioned but certainly dim-witted liberal commentators are busy dishuing out dirt and making a living, and throwing up their hands in horror at the shocking revelations in America.

The champions of clean and democratic politics inform us that this Watergate business isn't typical. It's just the ugly face of capitalism. The other—their one—they made up for you—is really lovely.

Please do not think that these miserable little soundbites bring their breaths any nearer. Committees are representative of capitalist power, and in the American system, bad guys, all the others are absolutely, upright and sincere and charming.

And the Senate Committee is going to get to the bottom of this disgusting business, even if it means getting right to the top. Like hell they are. What they're really going to do is a fine job of whitewashing and even if Nixon himself gets the chop, it will still be a whitewash job.

Defend

But just because it is not the matter of the day or the thing of the moment, it doesn't make it less important. In America, and this is true of all capitalist countries, this social order is involved in this corruption whether they know it or not.

In any society based on exploitation—that is, which is robbery the production of the full fruits of their labour—those who require weapons to maintain order and power, and the capitalist class is not.

In an industrial society, where the workers are strongly organised, fraud is the most effective weapon. The capitalist class does not have to fool the people all the time, just enough for enough of the time.

The Senate Committee will not be sitting in judgment and will be considering office, both of them selling the capitalist class, and the capitalist class is ideal. When one slips up on the job, the other steps in, and vice versa.

"Suckers"

But one thing you can be sure of: the Senate Committee will see that justice is done and the tell-tale will ensure that it is seen to be done. The threats will be out and maybe Nixon himself will have to go, his image too tarnished to fool the 'suckers'.

But one thing you can be sure of: the Senate Committee will see that justice is done and the tell-tale will ensure that it is seen to be done. The threats will be out and maybe Nixon himself will have to go, his image too tarnished to fool the 'suckers'.

No room for Rippon

As it is, the CIO's efforts to achieve a most painful statement of his case cannot be effectively countered by his closest and most intransigent Cabinet colleagues.

So tightly were ministers of high and low at the White House bench that Mr Rippon, Secretary of the interior, was unable to find a seat at the Cabinet table, while Mr Nixon himself should have been called the Speaker's chair.

The Times 24 May

Analysis by Nigel Fountain, Laurie Flynn and Paul Foot

Watergate scandal not just an ugly face

IT HAS NOT been all bad in Britain over the past fortnight. Indeed, there is a lot of evidence to show that the state of ship and enterprise is, despite the odd bolt, strikingly to the course charted for it by a team which regrettably no longer includes Lords Lambton and Jellicoe.

Last Tuesday was the day that Lord Jellicoe had to resign for 'personal and health reasons'.

That same day the (albeit of Man) conference of the Union of Post Office workers it was disclosed that the rich are receiving other special services and attentions which no one but a few awkward workmen would deny them. And they are receiving them free of charge.

What happens is that while everyone else makes do with a worsening postal service, lords and prominent businessmen are getting special collections and deliveries through our much cherished institution the old post office. That is to say, delegates to the UPO conference supported an undoubtedly Communist or Trotskyist-inspired move to make the rich pay for their privileges.

INTERFERE

That Tuesday the Department of the Environment announced that it would be taking over the council of its own former minister, Peter Walker, who had made a statement last year condemning the then ugly face of capitalism—property speculation.

Last June Mr Walker suggested that the Tory government might actually interfere with powerful property and construction firms—undeniable right to make millions of pounds by building offices and keeping them empty.

The government has now seen sense and intends to do absolutely nothing about this matter.

Mr Walker himself has now switched to another, equally important job at the Department of Trade and Industry. There he continues to conduct himself in accordance with the highest standards of behaviour.

Just before the Lambton-Jellicoe affair broke, Mr Walker quite properly commented on the mutual respect and public responsibility of the previous Labour government.

This is because one of the Labour Reform Bill's most dubious provisions concerned the previous government's support for the National Coal Board.

That was a pledge to the National Coal Board, issuing shares to the previous government, that it would support a national coal policy and support the National Coal Board in its efforts to keep coal prices down.

Lord Jellicoe was helping to increase the chances of sentences standing without actually appearing to do so. He did not and could not refuse the right of appeal. But since an appeal is a very expensive business, denying reputations must be protected at any cost.

Alternatively last week, Britons could have drawn comfort from the news that the government does not propose to bring any criminal charges against the directors of the well known anti-pollution firm, Purle Waste Disposal.

This is the firm which was paying its drivers special bonuses for dumping industrial waste (mainly cyanide) on tips where there were no charges to meet. Many of these tips were on so-called waste, like school playgrounds and housing estates.

Coventry and Warwickshire constabulary spent months investigating this matter and sent a dossier to the Director of Public Prosecutions. But he has now decided that no example should be made of the brilliant young millionaire who runs Purle Waste Disposal.

After all he was only doing what everyone in his position does, maximise his profit, Mr Morgan is a close trusted friend of Peter Walker who has just moved from his post as Minister of Environment. When he was at that department, Walker promised rough action on the cyanide dumpers. This was yet another public relations job.

EXPENSIVE

On jaw and order, things also continued to go well last week. For example, Lord Justice Lansdown refused legal aid for an appeal to 16 year old Paul Stoney—the Birmingham boy jailed for 20 years for mugging. This is British law at its best.

Lord James is helping to increase the chances of sentences standing without actually appearing to do so. He did not and could not refuse the right of appeal. But since an appeal is a very expensive business, denying legal aid to people from the slums of Birmingham makes one very expensive indeed.

There was only one slight piece of bother this week last week. Many people were pleased to hear John Edmonds, the General and Municipal Union official, join others at his union conference in appealing for a social contract between employers and employees.

CONFLICT

But Mr Edmonds' hystertical re

marks at his telephone being tapped during the gas strike are not at all helpful. They added strength to those who insist that there is a fundamental conflict of interest in society and that he believes that the trade union movement might have some alternative course to oil-clashes with their masters at Downing Street.

One piece of news which really must have saddened every heart was the death, reported in The Times, of the police dog Rex. While in the line of duty, Rex got a snuff of CS gas, which the British army use against human beings, and died.

This great loss should have been given much wider recognition. In fact Rex's death only slightly less space in The Times as two other deaths. Last Tuesday in Dover the British army shot dead 21-year-old Frank Smith by firing a safe rubber bullet at him at point blank range. He got eight lines in The Times.

And Howard Rushkoff, 31, father of two, got six lines. He was a building worker crushed to death by a bulldozer on a site in Peterborough. Deaths caused by the British army or construction firms are just everyday occurrences. The death of a police dog most certainly is not.
THE destruction of all effective opposition in Turkey continues. Evidence of torture, arrests and mass trials destroys all claims that the regime after 1980 has become "democratic." But these claims are going unaccepted and repeated by Turkey's allies in the West are only unacknowledged by the West, and not least by moderates who would find themselves in jail if they lived in Turkey.

What is the attitude of Britain's Labour Party? The latest document from the uncompromisingly pro-Common Market Labour International Department expresses a desire to maintain the ban on Turkey's participation in the conference. In early May, MP Frank Pakenham, the leading Labour MP on the Turkey question, was in the House of Commons on Turkey. He condemned the British government's "reckless" statements by various spokesmen on behalf of the government that "Turkey is a member of the Free World" and that "Turkey is actively and aggressively destroying all serious opposition to its repressive activities will think that they have the support of a country that has a long history of democracy. "All those in Turkey, both inside and outside, who are attempting to expose the regime will be treated with the utmost severity and are being misunderstood or ignored."

The regime appears not to be used to criticism. Socialists in Turkey who are attempting to expose the opposition to the regime, or those who are in jail, will not be surprised to hear that the British government has appointed a lawyer, a middle-aged man, to investigate the torture of prisoners in Turkey. The desk is not connected with a government agency.

LOYALTY

It is not for us to try to tell foreign countries how to run their internal affairs," he said. His reply to torture allegations was: "It is always difficult to know whether this kind of allegation has any foundation."

We are not yet in the position to establish consistent patterns of violation of human rights, but all of it is the Turkish people who through their democratic institutions are best placed to investigate this kind of allegation."

The Tunisian regime knows that it can expect total loyalty from the Tunesians, and has recently been trying to extract the same from the Labour Party. Over Easter the Foreign Office, worried that the Labour Party might take up a critical attitude towards the regime, sent prominent pro-Tunisian Foreign Office MP Bob Mellish to visit Turkey.

Pew, if any, other House or House of Commons support to Turkey, "It is a matter of fact that the Labour Party is a loyal supporter of the regime."

According to the pro-regime newspaper Milliyet, Mellish had nothing but praise for the way in which the regime had succeeded in destroying socialists. Perhaps Mellish was influenced by the White Paper written by the previous Turkish government which dismissed all allegations of torture as "subversive propaganda."

THE DEMONSTRATIONS held in Spain on 3 May by fascists and secret police have, as expected, led to no reports by Franco's regime. The day before, the large May Day demonstrations held by workers in the main industrial centres had been attacked by the police.

The rank and file movement showed its self-confidence by striking (legally) in large numbers and by the willingness of demonstrators to answer police barracks in hand. Several policemen were injured as they tried in vain to break up demonstrations, and a police inspector was killed.

The secret police-fascist demonstrations aimed to force the government to launch an attack against the illegal labour movement, and demanded the arrest of the police. They also denounced the sacking of Franco's Minister of the Interior, and of the cabinet. The "liberal" Catholic opposition, for their part, are working hard for permitting the decline of fascist-style laws and orders.

Opus Dei is a businessman's and technocrat's Mafia, and virtually controls the government and senior civil service. Northern Spain today is overwhelmingly an industrial, mining and commercial area. Most Spaniards live in towns (two million of them are abroad), so tidewater towns have lost the grip they had over Spain.

The modern capitalist state grew from within fascist Spain, changing the State and society by increasingly its needs, and attracting tourism and large foreign industries. As the only political party allowed to operate is the fascist Falange, the new capitalist class is Opus Dei as its political instrument.

Opus Dei's conquering of positions by stealth and its benjamins willingness to work profusely while the new capitalists have no weak to impose their will. Opus Dei was able to steer legislation and state funds in their direction, without a slowdown. New businessmen and Opus Dei are confident enough to show their power openly and use it for their own benefit.

The situation is worrying for the traditional supporters of fascism (landowners, small businessmen, mine state bureaucrats). The new capitalism is driving the weak to the wall, and already Opus Dei is channeling State protection away from them.

They fear that the power of the Falange may be gone forever, and that the old order is falling apart. They feel that industrial capitalism and Opus Dei's liberal political climate is responsible for the rebirth of subversive workers' movements.

Opus Dei does not favour independent workers movements as its members have most to gain from them. They need foreign tourists, foreign capital, foreign markets, and hope to join the EEC. Clashes with the illegal labour movement would put all this at risk, so Opus Dei has avoided it.

In response to fascist pressure, however, Opus Dei has not been afraid of stepping up repression considerably. They have announced that the police has acquired a new range of powers to carry out their orders. All of these have been publicly copied from the British Army in Northern Ireland.

With one exception: they will use rubber bullets instead of rubber bullets. The reason is, the British Army's rubber bullets have been considered too lethal by Franco's fascist police.
Pass the Butterworth

I WAS delighted to see that Sir Neville Butterworth, chairman of English Caledon, has struck strictly to the government’s pay cap rule when awarding himself a pay increase this year. His salary has gone up from £28,000 a year to £31,000 a year, a rise of about 10 per cent.

The amount of the rise—£3,000—is exactly double the total average wage increase of English Caldecot workers.

Goodie two faces

DID you notice this headline in the Financial Times of 16 May?

Limit profits of land speculators—Lord Goodman

Two questions:

Which solicitor was responsible for introducing Harry Hyman, the property speculator, to the chairman of the London County Council Planning Committee?

Which meeting made possible the building of a new university campus on the site of the old Crystal Circus, which is 31 stores high and still contains several blocks?

Which solicitor acts for the Hammonds Property Trust, one of the largest of the large property speculators in London?

Answer in postcard please, to Goodwin Derrick and Company, Solicitors, Goodwin Court, Oats, Little Essex Street, London WC2.

MANY A MACKIE MAKES MUCKIE

From John Mackie MP

Dear Sir,

My attention has been drawn to a particularly mendacious article that appeared in the Daily Telegraph on 28 April. A Full scot could normally only imagine a professional technique of distortion as such a pitiful publication, I feel that the facts must be answered.

Firstly, the whole venom of the article apparently derives from my consistent attitude—in and out of office—towards the tied house system. I am a professional farmer from a long family of farmers and have farmed from the age of 17. Over the years the situation regarding the tied house has changed radically. There are still disadvantages but there are many advantages. A farmer has to weigh up and make the choice, and today he has a choice.

I want to allow him and the farmer that choice, although at the same time I helped to institute and put through legislation to give the worker better resort to the courts and an inalienable right to at least six months possession of his house after he leaves his farm.

Secondly, the value you attribute to the farms I farm with my sons might be relevant if we owned them. We don’t. We are the tenants of the Greater London Council and the Church. Even if we did increase in their value it is irrelevant as we are farmers not buyers and sellers of land.

Thirdly, the version you give of Oakley’s leaving my employment is shot through and through with falsehoods. He has not been in my employment for 16 years—he could say he had been employed on farms that I had some connection with for about nine years, but no more. He did not complain he was not getting enough money to live on. His average pay for the last two years was £41 per week, plus a free four-bedroomed modern house, free milk, free potatoes and free use of telephone.

He did not leave in ‘depression’. He left in the middle of milking because the manager, rightly so, told him he was unsuitable for the job. We did not once apply for a Bent, the work was applied for after more than five months.

Fourthly, as the facts about the clause in the Agriculture Act of 1970 could have been checked from the records, it is not worth while answering your so blantly twisted version.

The existence of scrupulous political publications has been a feature of British life for generations. It may have certain advantages, such as an outlet for the inhibited spirit of Paul Foot, and I would not take any steps to suppress it.

But that does not mean that a man who values his reputation should not be prepared to lose the record right when attacked. So, far as the libellous innuendo in the second last paragraph is concerned and the lying inference that I am a bad and greedy employer, although I have never contemplated suing anyone for libel, I think it is worth while to point out my mistakes and to point out my mistakes and to point out my mistakes.

I gather, incidentally, that there are other tenants on farms in England who have been told that they must leave their tied houses. Their names are Mr. Richard and Mr. Giddard, Mr. Jervis and Mr. William Moore (who has five children, I understand).

I hope that you have better luck with those evictions than you had with Mr. Oakley. It really is scandalous the way the farm workers answer back in court nowadays.

You can at any rate rest assured that any further developments on your farms will be fully reported in your favourite political publication.

John Mackie.

PAUL FOOT REPLIES

Dear John Mackie,

I am very much for confirming that your attitude to tied cottages differs sharply from that of the National Union of Agricultural Workers and even of the Labour Party.

I am afraid I cannot agree with you (nor can the union) that there are ‘many advantages’ to the farmworker in tied cottages, and I wonder what your attitude will be if and when a Labour government fulfils its pledge to give farmworkers the same (minimal) security against eviction as have tenants of unfurnished property under the Rent Acts.

I appreciate that the farms which your companies work in Eastfield are not owned by you (though I think you own several hundred acres in Scotland), but I’m sorry you can’t comment on my important suggestion that the proceeds from farmings so many lush acres have made you into a millionaire.

As for your account of the proposed eviction of Mr. Oakley and his wife—all I can say is that it differs very strongly from that given by Mr. Oakley. Mr. Oakley assures me that he worked for Gwentworth Scottish Farms in Lincolnshire, which I believe is one of your companies, for seven years, starting on New Year’s Eve 1972.

He then worked for a nephew of yours, Mr. Forbes, whose company, A Forbes and Sons, farmed land in Scotland until 1967 when he moved to Vicarage Farm, which is managed by T. Harman and Sons, in which, I believe, you and your family are the sole shareholders.

He makes that just over 16 years, and so do I.

You say that Mr. Oakley was averaging £41 a week for the past two years, but I am out of the money he was expected to employ other labour to help with the milking (which, he says, he could not possibly have done himself). His own pay, he insists, was, as I reported, £26 a week.

You say that he had ‘a four-bedded modern house, free milk, free potatoes and free use of telephone.’ He says that the house was built a very long time ago, and that he had free potatoes for one year only—1972.

You say that Mr. Oakley left his employment because a manager, (‘rightly so you judge’) told him off for inattention to his machinery.’ He says, on the contrary, that the refrigerator plant broke down, he was not responsible for the machinery, and that was in my contract. The manager came down and tried to mend it. In doing so, he blew the white milking plant, and then tried to blame me for it. I told him where he could put his milking plant and left.

You say that you did not apply for another eviction until wait, but waited for five months. Mr. Oakley says he has documents to prove that he left the firm on 7 December 1972 and was served with the notice in the first week in February—a short five months. I think you probably wrote him a letter on 5 December, remembering you personally wrote him a letter on 5 December, remembering you personally wrote him a letter on 5 December, remembering you personally wrote him a letter on 5 December, remembering you personally wrote him a letter on 5 December, remembering you personally wrote him a letter on 5 December, remembering you personally wrote him a letter on 5 December.

I am very sorry that my comments about the Agriculture Act were ‘blatantly twisted’, and even worse that you felt it worth while to point out my mistakes. I am sorry that you have better luck with those evictions than you had with Mr. Oakley. It really is scandalous the way farm workers answer back in court nowadays.

You can at any rate rest assured that any further developments on your farms will be fully reported in your favourite political publication.

John Mackie.

Parliament’s summer perks

THERE’S a tremendous stampede in the House of Commons for the last two weeks of the summer session for visas overseas paid for by someone else. First, there are the ‘quality-of-sources overseas’ (QOSO) sessions in Hong Kong in September (five MP’s) and Australia in September (eight MPs, two prospects) and a fortnight in Germany in September for ten MPs and two prospects. The Alta, near Inverness, is a haven for these by the RAF, at the expense of the taxpayer.

Even more goodies are available from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association—five MPs can go to Australia for 22 days in October and November, and another five can go to Canada for the first fortnight in December. Spouses are definitely not invited, even if the MPs are prepared to pay for them. This is not necessarily regarded as a disadvantage by all MPs.

The deadline for such visits to Malta, Mauritius, Canada, Bahamas, Gibraltar and Bangladesh is 2 June. So hurry, hurry, or you might have to stay at home.
We'll Stay Out for Our Rights

Three points emerge from the dispute at E Jaffe—the aggression that immigrant workers face, the frustration caused by the union bureaucracy’s reluctance to support them, and the workers’ determination to fight back. Jaffe has employed immigrants for two years and a half and when the TGWU tried to get organized, Muhammad Hussen, a shop steward, was dismissed.

We all joined the TGWU last June. When the workers at Crepe SIZES won better conditions and rights we thought we could do the same but this has not happened. 

Since then we have been trying to get things changed. It has not been easy.

There is no contract for the job as such. There is no job description. There is no discussion on what the job is or what it should be. We feel that we are playing a game with the boss to get what we want.

We decided that if he approached any of us again he should be told to go and see the shop steward first.

OFFICIALS

He never really negotiates with us. He used to say that we should give him our complaints in writing, knowing we couldn’t write English. If we came with a complaint he would say he had forgotten it because we didn’t write it down. 

We joined the TGWU last June. Since then we have had four different officials dealing with us.

When we had talks with Jaffe, a union official, Reg Harris, used to come down. Jaffe said he would talk with the steward but would not negotiate with the union. He would talk but never agree to any changes.

We got no help from the union officials. The union could have called a strike on a number of occasions. Several times Jaffe just rejected our demands out of hand. Then all the union did was to fix up another meeting.

We started to concentrate on getting union recognition. But we were very upset when the union kept sending different officials. How could they deal with our case properly?

Before May Day, Jaffe approached many of the workers to get them to work on that day. He put particular pressure on Mohammed Sawai, whom he promised a foreman’s job if he didn’t.

But Sawai refused because he wanted to stick with the rest of us. Then Jaffe said that if the lad didn’t work he would pay them only one quarter of their normal wage. He was trying to scare the lad, but he couldn’t do it. So we all came out. Sawai was sacked next day.

Jaffe claimed he was asleep at work and also that he was washing his face 20 minutes before the end of the shift. In fact he had been fixing one of the machines and had got dirty with grease, as the machines are never cleaned properly because he doesn’t employ sufficient workers.

We fixed up a meeting with the union to get Sawai reinstated. During the meeting I told Jaffe that I had had meetings with Mohammed Sawai for personal reasons.

Jaffe told me to get out—but the union official stayed in with him for another two hours. When he came out he said Jaffe wouldn’t take Sawai back. He added: ‘Ask the lad—it’s up to him.’

So we came out on strike. But at our next meeting the union official said we had disregarded his advice. So we asked him: ‘What was your advice—stay in and get sacked?’

He said, no, we should negotiate with Jaffe. We told him we had been negotiating for 18 months with no results. ‘If you’re not ready for a fight, we are,’ we told him.

He then said that because Jaffe was owned by Jones Stroud it would take us a long time to win, at least four months. He suggested going to the industrial court but we refused as we might have to go on strike again. I said we would stay out till we got our rights.

The union refused to make it official because we disregarded the official’s advice. We said we were strong enough anyway. After that the union arranged for arbitration with the Department of Employment.

The union drew up an agreement for union recognition with three points: Jaffe to agree to negotiate with the stewards, three days’ notice if we wanted talks with the management and, if that didn’t succeed, to call in the union.

I refused to sign it. We wanted a contract with specific details on conditions and wages and a statement that Jaffe recognised the union.

We have learnt from the strike that you can’t always win in just a few days. You might think you can win quickly but you must be prepared to fight for a year. We negotiated for 10 months and never got anywhere—in the end, we had no choice but to strike.

Jaffe is an immigrant himself. The union is his parent union. The workers here are the first to suffer. The union has a large National Front membership among white and black youth. Then we consider the fact that Jaffe has a large support base among white youth and that the union is controlled by a small group of white people. A new deal for all immigrant workers is needed.
DENIS HOWELL: introduced Labour ministers to Bryant

...WHO DECORATE HIS HOUSE FREE EVERY YEAR

Surprise
Every boy had been the work of Sharp who in turn had been given it by City Architect Maudsley. Many of the drawings were marked red for C. Bryant and Son Ltd.

When the chairman of the Housing Committee, George Canning, was told about this, he said: "I knew nothing about it and will certainly look into it." He expressed surprise that the corporation work was being carried out in Jersey.

Chris Bryant, chairman of Bryant, who used to own 48 per cent of the company's shares, and held all of his holding until he now owns just over 1 per cent. He had signed a statement saying he no longer shared an interest in the company. However, he refused to comment on the situation.

CHRIS BRYANT (Owner) - 14-

Injunction
Then there is the case of Chris Bryant, who was appointed as an official of the General Workers Charter, that they took out a summons against him and obtained a court injunction preventing him from going on their sites.

They were forced to back down and to employ a lawyer from 5000 to 500,000 a year. It was discovered that an 'office error' had been made.

Chris Bryant has been a constant thorn in the company's side. He wrote a letter to the Building Employers Journal National Building, (May edition) which told of a visit by the Birmingham shop stewards committee to some

shareholders in Bryant's Holdings, the biggest building firm in Birmingham, danced with glee at the announcement last month that their company had increased profits by more than 400 per cent. The figures quickly blew away the clouds which had been hanging over Bryant following recent revelations.

That there were 'familiar relations' between Bryant and Birmingham Corporation Architects Department, which might have explained the extraordinarily large number of contracts which Bryant got from the Corporation, that at least two MPs have been employed by Bryant, and hold senior positions in the company. These include Mr. Denis Howell, MP for Birmingham Small Heath, former Labour Minister of Sport, witch-hunter of the International Socialists in his union, Apex.

That 'lump labour employed by Bryant has led to gerry-building on a grand scale.

Conspiracy
That organised cover-ups have been intimidating and beating up union members.

That the Birmingham police are more interested in conventional suçs, such as charges against building workers than in pursuing proved cases of assault and battery, or of hunting down corruption.

The adverse publicity surrounding Bryant's appointment caused the suspension of Birmingham City Architect J.A. Maudsley CBE, in the course of police investigations into the City Architect's Department.

Maudsley, who had just sold his house for £20,000, is alleged to have been paid £17,000 by private architect James Sharp. Sharp is an ex-employee of the City Architect's Department and has designed a large number of schemes for the department.

Police are also investigating the contract for the £6 million Birmingham Computer Centre at Edgbaston. This was designed by another private architectural firm, Richard Bucker. One of Bucker's employees is Maudsley's son-in-law, Desmond Haydon, who previously worked for James Sharp.

Since Maudsley joined the Birmingham City Architect's Department in 1964, Bryant have obtained £7.6 million of contracts and are currently working on the £3.9 million city centre, a further £3.9 million worth for their civil engineering business.

This amounts to over 75 per cent of the contracts awarded by the city. As a consequence, between 1960 and 1968, Bryant's turnover increased by 41 per cent and their profit made 31.5 per cent.

It came as a considerable embarrassment when it was revealed that their name had been discovered on architects' drawings found in Jersey, Channel Islands, practice. The practice belonged to Wilkinson, ex-patriate Birmingham architect James Sharp and the drawings were of Birmingham city projects, including the huge Chelsea Wood, Woodgate Valley and Southport development.

PETE CARTER: 6000 kva for him annually by Bryant. In addition, Howell still gets his car serviced at Bryant's private garage.

Denis Howell is president of the clerical union Apex. He moved the discussion of the Apex conference two weeks ago. No IS member may now hold office in Apex.

Other fortunate shareholders include architects Seymour Harris with 3300 and James Sharp with 3000. Other lucky shareholders in Apex include the General Workers Charter, that they took out a summons against him and obtained a court injunction preventing him from going on their sites.

The case of Chris Bryant, who was appointed as an official of the General Workers Charter, that they took out a summons against him and obtained a court injunction preventing him from going on their sites.

Bryant has a constant thorn in his side. He wrote a letter to the Building Employers Journal National Building, (May edition) which told of a visit by the Birmingham shop stewards committee to some

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ground. To my knowledge this firm employs no apprentices.

Bryant's latest move has been to remove many of their board members announcing that 'This is a Bryant house'. They have changed the colours of their covers and fences in what is presumed to be a feeble attempt to fool militants, but these tactics stand little chance of success.

Building workers are on the march against firms like Bryant; the MPs who give such outfits a veneer of acceptability.
Ernie’s Utopia without struggle

by Duncan Hallas

Not, you might suppose, a very controversial proposition at a conference committed to the view that democratic controls on workers’ control were necessary. But it is a systematically extended through-out the union. The conference will be in the day-to-day struggle of workers in their organisations and at their places of work...

You would be wrong. The heroes of the Institute for Workers’ Control—they are mostly ‘left’ academics like Ken Coote, Walter Kendall and Steven Bodington—were hooted at the very thought that the IWC should support a call for an unofficial strike. Good God, that might annoy some trade union bureaucrats who otherwise might allow their names to be quoted on the Institute’s note-paper! And so they instructed the conference chairman, Bill Jones of the TGUV, that on no account and in no other resolution to be debated, let alone voted on. We then had to fight, not for the first time, on the issue of ‘workers’ control of the workers’ control movement.’

The incident would not be worth recalling, except that it does illustrate that the IWC is a mistake, an organisation, an organisation that produces beautiful blueprints for workers’ control of everything from the aircraft industry to Young’s brewery but which shirks away from the slightest hint of the ‘political struggle’ that Ernie Roberts writes of. I don’t blame Ernie, or for that matter Bill Jones, for the contemptible antics of the TUC when they faced the IWC. I know very well that both of them supported the 8 December strike. But they wouldn’t fight the fakers on the issue. That is what is wrong with their politics and Ernie Roberts’ book.

There are a lot of good things in the book. Plenty well written reader will learn something from it. Roberts makes short work of the advocates of ‘workers’ participation’. It is a stunt designed to make the present system more tolerable by the concession of management. The job of trade unionists is not to accept the system... but to change it.

In proving his criticism the conservative views of Communist Party spokesman Bert Hamilton on the subject and in the lack of even the elements of workers’ control in the LSP—‘We are always above the workers, a thing apart.’ He also stresses that a key aspect of the struggle is the fight for workers control of their own organisations and quotes with approval from the Cliff Barker IS pamphlet, Incomes Policy, Legislation and Shop Stewards, the statement that ‘Union officials are becoming less and less responsible to their members, and more and more their foremen.’ ‘The House of Lords,’ he points out, ‘has been and is being controlled by trade union leaders.’

BY EARLY SEPTEMBER last year—at the height of the national building workers’ strike—the North Wales building workers had succeeded in shutting down almost every lump site in North Wales.

BY EARLY SEPTEMBER last year—at the height of the national building workers’ strike—the North Wales building workers had succeeded in shutting down almost every lump site in North Wales. Following calls for assistance from their colleagues in the South West, Mid-Wales, they sent their flying pickets into the area to help the struggle. By 6 and 7 September Alford Street housing contract in Telford new town and other similar actions around Shrewsbury were picketing.

At the Telford site there was some disagreement between picketing organizations, particularly between the JtU, some strike-breaking workers. Site equipment was damaged on some sites and some fights took place.

National management contacted the National Federation of Building Trades Employers immediately after the incident and then got in touch with the publishers. The North Wales (West Midlands) constabulary have been investigating the incident into Telford and other alleged incidents.

Tougher

Twenty offices from this force and offices of the GMB (North Wales) Constabulary worked full time on the incident.

The National Federation of Building Trades Employers was working on the basis of several days to get the situation under control. The situation was critical and the Federation was aware that the situation was critical and would be dealing with the issue in detail in the coming days.

Unfortunately this all and more is marred by the political line of the book, Ernie Roberts tells us again and again that the fight for workers control is a political fight and to carry it through we need ‘a political party which has a real revolutionary theory of Marxism’. Good. What can we do about it? We work, says Ernie, for ‘a revolutionary leadership in the Labour Party’.

Incredible? Yes. There is no one in black and white on page 223. And this from a man who tells us ‘Without the leadership of a revolutionary party workers can never take power’, who himself insists on the weakness of the rectionary tendencies, the bourgeois leadership. ‘The Labour Party’. Come off it, Ernie.

The leopard does not change his spots. If you want a revolutionary party you have to fight to build one at the grass roots, not to try to manipulate an electoral machine.

The two-faced front and the order

by L. E. M.

The computer bagged raw sugar plants in the West Midlands, London until 11th May and moved north to South Africa all safety regulations and workers.

Mr. M’s opposition seems to be that a defence of the National Central Empire is more important than the safety of the workers or the sugar plant.

To date only one employee of the factory has been injured in an accident resulting in the death of a worker. The factory has been closed down in order to pin individuals to specific acts of sabotage.

The case of the North Wales building workers will not come to the press. At the time the press was not asked to cover the strike. The management have agreed that the press will not be allowed to cover the strike.

For once inhale a drier process it cannot be tolerated. The case of the North Wales building workers is not only important but necessary to ensure the safety of the workers and the sugar plant.
Opportunity of a stretch
for militant socialist
exploitation of unions and states
and how to use it.

Priority of law
over chiefs

Bob Smith is 47 years old. He is in the foreground. Behind him is his father who is 70 years old. Bob Smith worked for Central Asbestos for eight years and had never heard of asbestosis until he was told that he had it.

Priorities of the fingers
and premature ageing are two of the symptoms of a deadly disease. Picture: Colin Jones.

Disguise

The obvious charge to which the firm and a day's time limit does not apply is causing grievous bodily harm. The relevant direction of Central Asbestos would almost certainly be found guilty of GBH if such a prosecution was launched.

In deciding on an action on the Central Asbestos case, the Director of Public Prosecutions also declined to bring a GBH charge against any director of the company. And he had one other charge up his sleeve which he also declined to use. This was the catch-all of his decision against John Prestwich and is now turning against picketing workers' compensation.

When Central Asbestos expected a visit from the Factory Inspectorate, workers were instructed to disguise the existence of a small sample which totally backed any legally-justified accusations. They were told to cover over the pit in which it was placed with floorboards and to cover the floorboards in turn with empty sacks so no trace of its existence could be seen.

And Mr Kenneth Wood, who runs factory works manager to managing director of the company, over the relevant period, told lies to the Factory Inspectorate, presumably so that Central could continue their unlawful but highly profitable activities. He wrote letters stating that modifications requested by factory inspectors had been made when they had not.

But the Central Asbestos case is not one where the DPP had the slightest intention of bringing any charge, never mind a conviction. The case carries no limit on sentence. The truth is that the DPP is a matter of policy for Jack Prescott or picketing building workers with a sledgehammer. And as a matter of policy, the DPP leaves employers alone.

The entire cost to the firm, Central Asbestos, of killing workers and breaking the law to maximise profits was a £10 fire plus 50p costs.

In short, the saying that there is one law for the poor and another for the rich is faulty in some respects. When it comes to killing, maiming and conspiracy there is no law which applies to the rich provided that they commit their crimes as employers engaged in the pursuit of profits.

International Socialism 59

The June issue of International Socialism features an article by Brian Trench Perspectives for the Irish left that is essential reading for all socialists fighting British domination of the 32 counties. Other features include:

The Electricians—decline of a union:
George Russell
Grows
Briefing on wages and the cost of living. Notes of the Month and Reviews
International Socialist Journal, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN
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THE role of a revolutionary party is to develop the confidence of workers, making them aware through day-to-day struggles of their unlimited potential.

The finest example of revolutionary leadership, how it can express the growing discontent of the workers and channel it into the capture of state power, is the October Revolution led by the Bolshevik Party in 1917.

The earlier February revolution had overthrown the centuries-old Romanov dynasty. It was the spontaneous outbreak of the Petrograd workers and soldiers, provoked by the suffering and slaughter of war and the unequal way they had to bear this burden. This revolution was welcomed by many middle-class people who had lost confidence in the autocratic government and who set up the first Provisional Government.

The revolutionary parties played no direct role in the making of the February revolution—indeed they did not exist. A month earlier, Lenin had said at a lecture in Switzerland: "We of the older generation may not live to see the decisive battles of this coming revolution."

The creation of the Petrograd Workers' Soviet, in the wake of the upheaval, was the spontaneous action of workers. It was the revival of the St. Petersburg Soviet, which had played a brief but glorious role in the 1905 revolution. It was a non-party area organisation elected by factory workers and workers' clubs.

All the socialist parties were represented in the Soviet, which was established for the first time by the Social Revolutionaries, the peasant organisation, and the middle-class party, the Kadets. The Bolsheviks were at this stage a small minority. Soviets were set up in Moscow and other cities, and the Petrograd Soviet became the model for the example of Petrograd but they did not at first expect to win government power. Their leaders believed Russia was ripe only for a middle-class bourgeois revolution and workers' pacifism for a working-class socialist revolution.

Power

But the authority of the Soviets, especially in Petrograd, was recognised and backed by the working class and trade unionists. The workers claimed their leaders as their spokesmen. The Soviets gained influence and authority, and in some cases were able to govern, in the Provincial Government. Relations between them swung between cooperation and rivalry.

In Lenin's April Theses to the Bolshevik Congress, he argued that the middle-class democratic Social Revolutionaries were not enough, and no democratic reforms had been achieved. He called for action to seize power and the soviets should not stand on the sidelines but should grasp power themselves. Lenin believed the Petrograd workers' council was the best forum to rally the workers and prepare the way for the socialist revolution.

Lenin stressed that the middle-class Kadets were idealistic and naive, and could not last. Power would have to pass to the workers and the poor peasants.

How the Bolsheviks showed the way

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

A series by Sabby Sagall

The workers and soldiers, in overthrowing the Tsar, had shown they wanted to end the war, to eliminate growing food shortages and increasing exploitation in factories. But most did not yet realise that these aims could only be achieved through Soviet power, a workers' state based on workers' councils. Lenin's April slogans, "All power to the Soviets", pointed to the only way the workers, peasants and soldiers could achieve what they wanted.

By the end of June, a majority of Petrograd workers were convinced that Bolshevik policies were correct. During the July days, the Petrograd workers openly displayed their hostility to the government, which had ordered a large-scale military offensive at the front.

But the Bolsheviks, by now a majority in the Soviet, had to restrain the workers from overthrowing the Provisional Government there and then. The majority of workers and peasants organised in Soviets throughout the rest of Russia still followed the radical middle-class Mensheviks and Social-Revolutionaries. These parties continued to speak in favour of a partnership between the Soviets and the Provisional Government.

There was a strong danger that the Petrograd workers would become isolated from the rest of Russia.

The Bolshevik leaders remembered what happened during the 1917 Paris Commune, when the Paris workers took power. When the Petrograd workers and peasants of the rest of France, Isolated, the Paris Soviets were destroyed from within by the capitalist government. The Bolshevik Party in July 1917 acted as the 'memory' of the Russian working class...

But the July days terrified the Russian middle classes, who decided to try to overthrow the Soviets. At the end of August the right-wing General Kornilov attempted a military coup, but his conspiracy failed when most of his soldiers deserted him.

With the increasing war weariness and growing hunger among workers and peasants alike, the Soviets moved further and further to the left. After the Kornilov affair, the Bolsheviks won majorities in the Moscow and other Soviets.

Bloodless

In the countryside, deserting soldiers returned home hungry. The running massacre of landed estates became more frequent. The Social-Revolutionaries lost support among the peasants whose demands they had in no way satisfied, while the Bolsheviks promised them the land and the power of the war.

This shift in support made possible the almost bloodless victory of 25 October. The insurrection which toppled the capitalist regime of Kerensky and the Provisional Government was led by the Bolsheviks through the Petrograd Soviet and its Military-Revolutionary Committee under the simple but powerful slogan, 'Land and Peace'.

As commander of this committee, the man who supervised the final seizure of power, was Trotsky.

As Trotsky put it, the Bolshevik Party had to show the way not only to the workers without which the energy of the industrial workers in Petrograd could not be equated to steam not enclosed in a pot-box.

WORKING FOR FORD, by Hw Beynon, Penguin, 30p. SO MUCH written about Ford in the past few years that some people may find it difficult to start all over again. In another long line of rhetorical statements, Hw Beynon has never worked for Ford, he is a lecturer at Brunel University, and sometimes he misses the point.

But it is still a book to be read by everybody with an interest in Ford and by all Ford workers, I can guarantee it will, in part, bring tears to the eye, a lump in the throat, and anger in the breast. It will provoke discussions in places and a fierce pride in a struggling emergent trade union that is fighting for its life against appalling odds—and slowly wins.

Does not doubt that Beynon is an ironic socialist but he makes several points about the role of trade unions and the 'Fordism' of the 1920s. Beynon draws the conclusion that most of us at Ford faced a long struggle, that Henry Ford was the first fraud and never actually invented anything except a concept of human relationships that must rank with the works of Alfred Korzybski.

Henry Ford was, as Beynon quotes: 'As a capitalist he was a genuine genius'. Detroit', Nothing proved this more than the 1914 strike at the River Rouge plant in Dearborn number four which was finally settled by the unionists protecting their right to work.

To the reader of this book is the determination of Ford to 'permit no bargaining, no strikes. It is only the right to manage at every level—even in our homes and our lives.'

From experience I know this is true. The Ford attitude is management of the staff as of the part of the Ford means.'

Beynon attributes the book as 'a book of resistance against the encouragement of capitalism. They face the world as if for a community Fordism as an ideological megalomania, built on blooded and pledged to fire and destroy the world.'

The book is a book to learn from, and most of the lessons come from the mistakes made on the trade union side. It is a modern bitter story, but where you can push other horror stories to the back of your mind, this one you can’t. It lives with us, as some of us live with the shame of our trade unions, without the influx of trade unions, because you don’t want this to happen more than any other.

The book draws no conclusion as to whether Fordism was inevitable but the way that can only be determined by the workers and their trade unionists, of which someone once said: "The bricklayer is as center of resistance against the encouragement of capitalism. They face the world as if for a community Fordism as an ideological megalomania, built on blooded and pledged to fire and destroy the world.'

That is what the book is about, but read the book, trade unionists, please.

TORY BARE
Shop stewarded, Ford, Lenton

One for the fire

THE RAVENOUS EYE, by Milton Shulman, Cassell, £4.50. MEMO TO THE EDITOR: Do you really intend to review this 'humming book' by 'shouting Shulman'? Nobody in his right mind would answer this book. I bought it the wrong thing? Should I phone you if I want to do it, otherwise save the wrong thing? All this would be a sensational turning in Ribby Wood at midnight.

TOM CLARKE

IT'S THOSE MEN AGAIN

AUDREY WISE has written a lively little pamphlet, THE STRUGGLE FOR WORKERS' CONTROL. The book is a critique of the domination in the unions, addressed mainly to trade unionists, and argues that women have an important part to play in the struggle against capitalism, a part which is ignored by the unions who are dominated by the controlled movement too. As a result the trade unionists have been made women submissive and unknown and have been manipulated by the men in the shop, answerable to no superiors or in any way constitutionally linked with the union hierarchy.

It is a pity it did not continue. The negotiating committees of course are a cup of tea. Disperse the negotiators from the shop floor and the real problems that concern it and you have a totally useless body with no real control system. Nothing emphasised this more than the recent disputes.

What is it in her in 12 pages that one would disagree with: positive discrimination for women, men equal pay, shop floor control of any job evaluation, equal pay for women as men, overtime, a shorter working week, better conditions, better maternity provision and no discrimination in education, training and job opportunities.

But the weakness of the pamphlet is that she doesn’t show how women should fight for these. She fails to show that the fight against male domination in the unions is better tied in with the anti-capitalist women’s movement. May be written by men and women together.

IRENE BRUEGEL
Leading critics to the slaughter:

OVERT-ACTED, overdressed and overwhelming — that's only the description for Vincent Price's brilliant tour-de-force in Theatre of Blood (Leicester Square Theatre, London). Oscar Wilde once hinted that the tools of a critic were pen, paper and poison, and it is the antagonism between artist and reviewer that forms the basis of this film.

But as well as satisfying the egoism of actor and critic, it also takes a swipe at the house of slaughter that is Shakespeare.

The film, set in a glossy upper-middle-class world, tells the grotesque history of Edward Lionheart, a Shakespearean back of uncompromising mediocrity, who sees his life as an expression of genius, Devoid of humour, sympathy or originality, Lionheart's view is shared only by his daughter Edwina.

When the influential London Theatre Critics Circle spurns his seasons of Shakespearian drama and unanimously awards its annual prize to an unknown actor, Lionheart is so mortified he commits suicide by leaping in the Thames.

Being Price, a grave, no matter how watery, cannot stop him, and he re-emerges to plot the death of the critics with the same enthusiasm with which he butchered Shakespeare.

The film offers the usual fare of the horror epic: continual bloodletting, decapitations, sundrenched limbs, spurring veins. But its power comes from its touchstone in the worst of Shakespeare — wild ravings and unintelligible language.

Luxemburg

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I AM writing this article in that appalling moment between the alarm clock going off and going to work, those few minutes which seem like hours, when you are at the moment of deciding whether to throw off the skin of your hangover and the whole degrading ball of the world is before you.

Everyone who works knows about this moment of exhaustion and monotonous repetition which has made someone make a film about it.

by David Widgery

Keeping politics in the theatre

ACTRESS Muriel Kavan is a young socialist, Zorani, and left-wing member of Equity, the actors' union, who is recovering her admission to her St John's Wood studio but can't bring herself to join any party because she'd be 'compromised'.

She's also violently opposed to Equity members such as Marlon Garag and Nigel (Patrick who clamour to 'keep politics out of theatre'). The agency is political — the price of Nevada gold, anything. When she goes on TV if the wage fares weren't political and wasn't it. But she's one of the few who has the sense of political interests against the feuds he couldn't answer.

'If I signed on the dotted line for a party I'd lose my integrity and independ- ence,' she says, 'I couldn't do it.'

I know I have double standards being here, but I'm not going to rejoin to live like this. If they arrange to start the revolution all around the world a week on Friday I'd be there with the rest of them. The thought of people on the other side is enough to make me speak out in a problem.'

by Neil Hamilton

Moral

Of course such an inflammatory story can have no end (until we all do).

Faraday, the director, makes films because he thinks 'the cinema is the only means of expression open to people of all cultures like me ... I do believe in the direct influence of films on the public, but rather in the diffusion of a kind of politics, or the striving away of the world that helps people to understand one another'.

It is a funny and beautiful film, though disgracefully marketable, and appears to be too long — only it's over, when it seems like a sensible drama. It's set at the Classic, in London's Piccadilly, but is distributed by the Offbeat Cinema, a radical distribution company, from 12 Great Newport Street, London WC1. Phone: 01-734 8288.

Capitalist Lackey' replies

'CAPITALIST LACKIE' REPLIES

I ASKED for criticism of my TV column but this is ridiculous! People are calling me names without signing their own. I'm getting anonymous letters yet.

I'm a passionate liberal, reformist, capitalist lackie and I'm only writing the column to get promoted — promoted! — to the Guardian because I keep telling Socialist Worker readers to make feebie gestures like writing to producers instead of waiting for the Revolution to sweep TV and the BBC on to the Capitalist rubbish dump and lead the triumphant Viewers' Revolt in a victory dance on Shepherd's Bush Green.

So I'd like to make clear to the postcard militancy that my aim is to stir up critical interest in television, to direct that criticism outward to the program makers, and to try to dissuade anyone in the twin evils of passive acceptance and passive rejection which are characteristics of the reaction to TV in this country.

These handicaps inactivity all write about 'workers', 'viewers', 'masses', 'the TV audience', as if they themselves were in no way connected with these categories. The relationship is, after all, a normal relationship, not an alienated one, not even an uninterested one, but a relationship among people, all of whom are makers and all of whom are signers of television work.

The 'average worker' watches television for hours a night, he writes, 'Time he could be talking, organising or learning.' Right on, or swerving, boring, walking the dog, doing out the spare room or arguing with his wife.

It is ridiculous to say any workers' 'refuse to admit the existence of conflicts within themselves. Everyone living in a capitalist society, as we do, is torn between the roles forced on us by an exploiter and as exploited — where was your last cut-price transistor made? Hong Kong or Sao Paulo?'

We're going to achieve something we must exploit these conflicts, not forget about them.

Knowing this I don't see I have any right to argue others to extremities of action I wouldn't undertake myself, and perhaps my own common sense does the same. Not that any of them have any common sense to matter apart from not watching television.

Don't stop writing. But don't be afraid to sign your names. Your secrets will be safe with me. 1972 for yours.

Neil Hamilton

A TV critic

SOCIALIST WORKER television columns by Tom Clarke were the Writers' Guild prize for the best television play of the year for 1972. Guest of Honour at the Guild dinner was Eve Curie. Tom Clarke did not attend the ceremony.
The International Socialists is a democratic organisation whose membership is open to all who accept its main principles and who are willing to pay their contributions and to work in one of its organisations. We support independent working-class struggles to defend the absorption of capitalism and its replacement by a classless society with production for use and not for profit.

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

Our aim is to build a revolutionary socialist organisation in this country which can play a leading part in a world revolution and which can combine with other socialist organisations throughout the world. We believe in the necessity to unite socialists with the day-to-day struggles of working people in order to support all genuine demands that tend to improve the position and self-confidence of the working class.

We fight for rank and file control of the trade unions and the regular selection of all full-time officials.

Against secret organisations. We believe that all settlements should be agreed or revised by the full membership of the union.

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

Against anti-trade union laws and curbs on the right to strike, whether these are ‘official’ or ‘ unofficial’.

For equal pay and a better deal for young workers.

Against productivity deals and job evaluation and for militant trade union unity and joint shop stewards committees both in the plant and on a com-

bined basis.

For a minimum wage of at least £25 a week.

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

Against all wars and for peace. We work to build militant groups within industry.

Against racist and police victimisation of black workers.

Against conscription.

Against all forms of imperialism. We unconditionally support the right to self-determination of all nations and people.

Against all nuclear weapons and military alliances such as NATO and the Western Alliance.

Against all secret diplomacy.

Against all forms of imperialism. We unconditionally support the right to self-determination of all nations and people.

We are opposed to all ruling-class policies and organisations. We work to build a revolutionary workers’ party in Britain and to end this end the unions of all revolutionary groups.

The struggle for socialism is the central struggle of our time. Workers’ power grows on the basis of human solidarity, on the increasing of man’s power over nature, with the abolition of the power of man over man, it is constantly worth fighting for.

Remember the socialists here in 1922. More than a century ago Karl Marx wrote: ‘The philosophers have merely interpreted the world, the point is to change it’. If you want to help us change the world and build socialism, join us now!

THERE ARE BRANCHES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

SCOTLAND

Aberdeen
Cumbernauld
Edinburgh
Glasgow
Inverness
Greenock
Dundee
STIRLING
GREENOCK

NEILPORT

WELLINGTON

HULL

HITACHI

NORTH EAST

Bishop Auckland
Cleveland
Darlington
Durham
North Shields
South Shields
Sunderland
Teeside West

NORTH WEST

Blackburn
Bolton
Burnley
Chester
Crawley
Crewe
Dundee
Glasgow
Greenock
Hull
Leeds
Liverpool
Northampton
Oldham
Oxford
Sheffield
Swindon
Swindon
Telford
Whippley
Wigan

GREAT LONDON AND SOUTHERN COUNTIES

Brackley
Chester
Cheltenham
Dartford
Dover
Downing
Durham
Folkestone
Guildford
Hove
Hull
Huntingdon
Ironbridge
Kings Lynn
Leeds
Luton
Manchester
Middlesbrough
Newcastle
Northampton
Norwich
Nottingham
Oxford
Plymouth
Reading
Sheffield
Southampton
St Albans
Stoke
Reading
Lincoln

MIDLANDS

Birmingham NE
Birmingham SW
Birmingham W
Bristol
Cardiff
Chester
Coventry
Derby
Dudley
Eastbourne
Edinburgh
Exeter
Farnborough
Glasgow
Great Yarmouth
Hereford
Hull
Ipswich
Isle of Man
Leeds
Lettow
Lincoln
Luton
Manchester
Middlesbrough
Nuneaton
Nottingham
Norwich
Oxford
Portsmouth
Reading
Slough
Southend
Stafford
Swansea
Telford

SOUTH-WEST

Bristol
Bournemouth
Bristol
Buckingham
Bury
Cardiff
Chester
Cheltenham
Dartford
Dover
Eastbourne
Edinburgh
Exeter
Farnborough
Glasgow
Great Yarmouth
Hereford
Hull
Ipswich
Isle of Man
Leeds
Lettow
Lincoln
Luton
Manchester
Middlesbrough
Nuneaton
Nottingham
Norwich
Oxford
Portsmouth
Reading
Slough
Southend
Stafford
Swansea
Telford

SW Reporter: THE 5TH CONGRESS OF THE National Union of General and Municipal Workers at Scarborough. Turmoil and rain pouring outside the conference hall, marked only by the success which the executive has had in bringing down the debate inside.

The stage behind the platform was adorned with six-foot high portraits of previous GMWU general secretaries, with a prominent picture of David Bennett, successor since January to Lord Cooper, placed firmly in the foreground. It was a splendid symbol of the domination that the GMWU executive exercised over the national union.

A swift glance at the union accounts for 1973 provides a stunning illustration of the programme of the new executive. Last year the union paid out of the pot a total of £1,715,000. The total of all funds available was £58,552,220. That total—£58,552,220, was returned to the membership in the form of strike and winning funds.

As the congress progressed the leadership became more and more unable to sound the claxon calling its members to action. The Industrial Relations Act, the freeze, productivity dealing, factory closures—each one by one was signed into law and file approval allowed them to get away.

PRODUCTIVITY

Speaker after speaker from the executive condemned the freeze breaches in productivity deals.

Alex Donsett, GMWU General Secretary, said in his chairman’s address: ‘I should say that no reasonable person could accept that productivity will be disfigured by the freeze. It seems that we are being asked to take one backwards, but I suggest improvements wherever we can.’

Jack Biggin, national industrial officer for the electricity industry, was proud of the agreement on pay and productivity reached last year. He went on to say that, in 14 months, gave workers in the electricity industry an increase of 7%—a princely sum of £2.65.

It was hailed as a “reasonable agreement” by Biggin because it brought the labour’s rate up to £2.65. He went on to point out, however, that “that 30 per cent of the workers in the 14 months were on incentive payment schemes.

INCENTIVE

Productivity deals in the electricity industry were attacked by J. Bonna, a Liverpool delegate, who pointed out that over the past few years 50,000 workers, a third of the labour force, had been locked out because “where is it going to stop?” he asked.

Charles Reay, national officer for local authority manual workers, said: “We have low pay is what we have allowed too many public authorities to get away with implementing productivity deals.”

The fact that the freeze has temporarily put a stop to productivity deals was not sufficient evidence of its nastiness for union general secretary David Bennett, who bore the weight of the responsibility of shifting the shift working in place of three to one.

Charles Donnet, responsible for GMWU members in hospitals, said, “In the last couple of years workers fought alone a battle which could only be won by the whole trade union movement.” He then went on to say that there had been no point in the freeze having been done if only the TUC had been quicker in reassuring the government that they would ignore the anomalies in low pay rectified without using the freeze as an excuse to maintain differentials elsewhere.

Donnet ridiculed £7 demand day work would be difficult if not impossible to sustain if the present legislation was not changed.

The freeze clause statement came in Tuesday morning’s debate on two resolutions concerning economic policy (see last week’s Socialist Worker). One of the resolutions was a special motion from the national executive committee which merely noted the freeze’s negative laws it was “unfair and unworkable”.

It called for “statutory control over key prices such as food, rents, fuel, and soft fuel and welcomed the TUC’s Labour Party’s initiative on inflation”.

The Perivale branch stated that “the TUC should cease meeting and discussing with the government on matters pertaining to Tory financial policy.”

Bennett made it clear that, although he thought the Tory freeze was unfair, its main criticism of it was that it was not effective in stemming inflation and achieving social policy. He called for the “restoration of collective bargaining” by an Industrial Relations Act which is now acceptable and which will strengthen and not weaken the situation.

He found the policy of refusing to talk ‘decreed under the order’.” He praised the government.

In response to the long tradition of struggle that the trade union movement has behind it he made it clear that for him, at least, that struggle was over. “We don’t forget our history,” he said, “but since 1969 we have talked together.”

His pre-occupation with the “corridor of power” was not shared by the Perivale delegate, J. Cope, who pointed out that for the first two years of the present government the forum had refused to talk to the TUC. “For two years the TUC treated us with contempt,” he told “They should now treat us with contempt.”

The executive’s special motion, which avoids any fight against the freeze, in favour of talks with the Labour Party about an alternative strategy to fight inflation, was carried with only a handful of votes against. The Perivale motion was defeated by

NALGO ranks fight freeze

BRANCHES of NALGO have started a campaign around this year’s pay claim for local government white collar workers.

The claim is for increases of 15-20 per cent. Kew tied to the government’s Plan Two norm would result in an acrros-the-board percentage increase of 6.3 per cent which would mean a real cut in the standard living wage of any council.

The NALGO leaders have given no wage restraint and fight to more than £1 plus per 4 cent. The signs are that they will settle within the norm at the very least.

Details of the claim are to be circulated to members, but there will be no posters, leaflets, car stickers and other publicity which added the campaign in 1970, when NALGO won the biggest over settlement of 1970.

Last week, the Metropolitan District local government committee called on the national committee to initiate a big publicity campaign, backed up by special meetings at branch level. The resolution will result in NALGO demands being met due to the employers’ final offer.
STOP THE PRESS LIES

BRIAN PARSONS (26 May) makes the usual point. He says that the press lies these days — that without the press lies, Heath would be in a better position.

But while Parsons advocates grassroots publications I say that he does not advocate it. He does not advocate the publication of the Tory papers to wake up to one fact: that no one will give a mugger a hammer to carry out the mugging, when they could get a sledge hammer or a crowbar and do more damage than a mugger like Max Aitken the money to attack socialists.

Every worker should boycott the Tory press until they go bankrupt and so cannot back Heath. — J PREEN, London SW1

I AGREE with Brian Parsons' statement that grassroots publications are very important. But this is only one of the methods by which we can fight the million-controlled mass media machines.

In our fight against the enormous wealth and power of the press lords it is essential that we should ask ourselves: where does the brainwashing start? It starts in the schools, when we at school ask our students what we are doing, our history books which taught us about the mighty British empire and of the great battles fought to maintain the empire and of how the natives of India and Africa all worshipped the great white king.

As boys and gals we all believed this and, the history lesson over, we went to the shops and ate Pop Corn and toy cars and learned the truth about British rule in India. It was during the two years I spent in India that I came to realize that the truth was not really taken from my eyes. Here I saw some of the bloodiest civil wars in the history of that city. This was when the notorious Simon Commission visited India. The Indians were infuriated because there was not a single Indian on that commission.

The day Simon arrived all troops were called out, military guns were set up on the street corners and the Calcutta police fired upon the demonstrators. Several jute mill strikers were killed and wounded.

But the British people at home told about this? Oh no. On the contrary, the papers were full of the news of the battles fought to maintain the empire and of how the natives of India and Africa all worshipped the great white king.

For all this we need for socialist schools to be set up to teach the workers' children the truth about capitalist society. — ERNEST OFFEN, London W4

UNIONIST ON THE TOTALLY UNJUSTIFIED

IN RECENT weeks there has been much discussion of the position of South African workers in South Africa for democratic and trade union rights. As a result of this discussion, we need not deny them trade union and political organisation, in order to back up the mass strikes. Major British companies with branches in South Africa have been forced to work the South African workers' starvation wages. These struggles may seem very distant to us here, but for us as a family in Coventry have their oldest son, John William Hassey, on trial in Pretoria, South Africa. He is being charged with offences under the Terrorism Act 1969. It is generally true that anything from five years imprisonment to capital punishment is possible for 'crimes' are distributing leaflets and attempting to pass documents and money to imprisoned South African workers. John is a member of ASTMS, his father a member of NUPE (NUSV), his sister a member of NUPE.

His name has appeared in South Africa has urgently requested that a member of the Defence Committee urges him to give some moral support to the British interes璽ion of the South African police.

You will appreciate that defence costs alone run into thousands of pounds and the Defence Committee urges him to give some financial support. The Defence Committee Appeal has been endorsed by the District Committee of the Confederation, more than 40 Coventry Labour councillors and MPs Bill Wilson and Leslie Huckfield-COVENTRY SOCIALIST LEADER 32 Falcon Ave, Binley, Coventry.

Those hursh-hush profits of the press tycoons

EVERY TIME journalists and print workers put in for a pay rise, they are beaten around the ears with tales of 'what terrible strain the industry is in' — cut back to make ends meet, or even that another pound paid out will stop the machines forever.

Strange, then, that as company accounts for 1972 are published, they all show that newspapers are booming and profits are continuing to increase on the previous year.

Take United Newspapers Ltd which owns a string of provincial papers and periodicals from the Yorkshire Post to Punch magazine. Sir William Barnett, chairman and managing director of the group, has just announced pre-tax profits for last year of £4,440,275, which was 56 per cent up on 1971. The total dividend to shareholders for the year was 52 per cent. That is a profit of £53.50 on every £100 worth of shares held.

A reader indignantly touts the tears at Sir William's apologists to shareholders for not making their financial profit greater.

Even more unfortunately, Sir William wasn't crying or apologising when he refused to pay his journalists the £50-53.50 a week they had been promised before the freeze.

And when staff at the Sheffield Telegraph and Sheffield Star took industrial action to try to recover the money which had been stolen from them for their wages and for attending mandatory chapel meetings.

For a while, it looked as though the journalists, by sheer unity and strength were going to win by forcing the management to put their promises in writing and a special fund to be dishoused out after the freeze ended.

Muttered

But the Tory government came to Sir William's aid. He was ordered in Parliament to refuse to pay any work undertaken without a sight of relief and thought that was the end of the matter.

He was because the National Union of Journalists' executive had rejected anything about challenging the Order in the courts, then decided it was all too much for them and sunk away.

The money United Newspaper workers were told by Sir William's head: that is the same amount that any shareholder in the company owning some £76 worth of shares might have been doing for two years. United Newspaper employees might have questioned the Annual General Meeting of the Company would be held on Tuesday, 12 June. Indeed, the company's letter described London EC4 . . . just in case they want to sack shareholders that they are thieves.

CLEARBAR for Barry's Boom

screamed the Daily Mail in a front page splash last week, as the mini-Chancellor announced cuts in public spending just to prove he was still around.

The story, written by the Mail's Political Editor, Walter Terry, went on to praise the Chancellor in no uncertain terms, and to 'approve Mr Barrow's neat handiwork' . The Mail also agreed with the Chancellor that the cuts would not increase prices in any way.

Tucked away on page two was the news that the Prices Commission had approved another batch of price increases for the next few months as well as the increase in the price of packaged food.

The Sun-Special, on the other hand, where Tony Shrimpley is Political Correspondent, was far less enthusiastic about Barry's latest boom-bust, and warned that he must do something about subsidising food, or he would be out of business.

Next month, the stories in both papers will reflect the same opinion of the Chancellor whatever he does—but the bylines above the copy will be different. For Walter Terry is moving to the Daily Express and Tony Shrimpley replacing Terry.

Terry won't have change his political colours much at the Express, but friends of Tony Shrimpley are puzzled by his move. In private life—and in his column for the Sun—Shrimpley is a strong Labour supporter.

He is a Heath-hater and an Enoch Powell sympathiser.

How then will he cope at the Mail, which prefers to believe Powell's fairyland figures on immi-

When the cuts are announced he will have to say that Shrimpley's pangs of conscience will be appeased by the news that every opportunity to discredit even the pretend-socialists.

It remains to be seen whether Shrimpley's pangs of conscience will be appeased by the news that every opportunity to discredit even the pretend-socialists.

The meaning of Marxism

by Duncan Hallas

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6 Cottom Gardens, London E2 8DN

Leonard Hill

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The lessons of Lothofune

WHEN the coal industry costs seven lives in the kind of horrific disaster that occurred at Lothofune Colliery on Wednesday 21 March, the sympathy extended to the relatives of the dead men is universal. Nowhere does this sympathy appear more highly developed than in the press and on the airwaves.

Last Thursday's documentary on BBC television, Lothofune: After- math of a Disaster, provided a sorely needed object of this. It was narrated by the BBC's own Yorkshireman, Michael Parkinson, and wound its way through the harrowing story of the tragic fate of the dead men's relatives and friends. It deserved its Tuesday night slot, and this is a call on all members of the disaster to avoid being betrayed in the desperate bid to find the seven trapped miners.

Every pit disaster hits the head- line for a few days at the most, a bitter reminder of the terrible price paid by the miners to pay for the decisions made at the top. It is a constant reminder of the pitmen for granted that they have to pay that price and taken for granted is it an industry that costs life every five days.

The press and television always seem to ignore two vital questions: Why does such a disaster happen, and could it have been prevented?

The questions are answerable, but perhaps the answers are a little too low to become convincing. On the face of it, all the particulars of such tragedies is that too many of them are avoidable. In a calm, civilized society that considered the safety of its workers more important than high production figures where miners themselves control the destinies of the industry, such tragedies would be few and far between.

The bitter lessons of Lothofune are clear. Michael Parkinson they are less clear. His attitude is summed up by the words he read at the memorial service: "May sweet memories stir the urge to struggle, to secure in the mines those same good conditions that made the war so easy for the civilians of whose lives has for ever been made that they may turn out to be blessings in disguise";

serves an insidious purpose. It obscures the miners' understanding of the safety within his control if he would only join hands with his fellow miners in other areas of the industry, the role of society by a tiny handful of miners alone who would see them and make profits mean an expensive public relations exercise.

The official inquiry into the Lothofune disaster is to begin at Wakefield this week. It may con- clude that the tragedy was just a terrible accident and that all the fingers of blame at mine officials in the NCB. What it certainly will not do is put the blame where it belongs and leave the people of whose lives have been lost to the people of every working man and woman.

BILL MESSAGE

Postal workers defeat leaders

ISLE OF MAN—the union executive was defeated at the Isle of Man Post Office Workers’ conference last week.

The conference rejected Adpot, the year’s new joint union, by 20 votes to two on a showing of 57. All other motions were defeated by large majorities.

Workerscbc put forward three proposals: a scheme for extending holidays, more protection against sackings and a new scheme of free speech. The CIWGB won support for its proposals but were unable to secure a majority on any of them.

The conference also heard a speech by the General Secretary of the TGWU, Mr. E. A. Ferranti, on the conditions of work in the postal services.

DEFEATED

The debate on the motion of the year’s conference was defeated by 24 votes to 17. The motion called for a referendum on the_pcmbb proposals and was defeated by 21 votes to 16. The motion was carried by 14 votes to 13.

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ON FRIDAY 27 April, at 1.40am, 14-year-old Velma Murray was asleep in Rotterdam Road, Cavendish, when a car screeched to a halt and a gun was fired into her bedroom. The bullet hit her in the head and she died instantly.

Her mother, who came from the West Indies, lives in Birmingham, but Velma was staying with her friend Bernice Grizzle, who owned the house. Mourners placed a 32 lb copper pipe in the driveway and sent flowers. The gas went up as a bullet, Mrs Grizzle gasped, but X-rays told her it was a bullet to the chest. "Somebody tried to murder me," Mrs Grizzle told a local reporter. "I don't know what, I've never done any wrong in the world." Her friend, a police officer, said, "She was just the victim of some local gang warfare." 

Kath Priestley, a 56-year-old West Indian, was found dead in her home after apparently being shot. The police said her death was being treated as murder. "She was just the victim of some local gang warfare," said a police officer. "She was just the victim of some local gang warfare."
Steelman call the bosses bluff

TEESIDE: The dispute at the British Steel Corporation's Lackenby Basic Oxygen Steel plant has resulted in an important defeat for the corporation management. Working men in the engineering, electricians and boilermakers' unions were demanding pay rises for the steelworkers faced with the conditions of dust and dirt in the plant and the night shift struggle to negotiate at shop floor level on particular jobs. A series of steelworks had closed production to a virtual standstill, and last week management talked to Lackenby steelworkers by threatening to close the BOS plant. Lackenby is one of the Teeside 35 steelworks.

But after two and a half years of being given the run around by an arrogant management, confident of its ability to divide the workforce, the men called the corporation's bluff.

The management, faced with a united workforce, had to hased into their heads which included a management negotiating team to fix rates with steelworkers for special jobs and also negotiations for an overall conditions payment. The temper of the men is still smouldering and there is absolutely no doubt that if management hedge, flannel, play for time or in any way fail to come across with good money, restrictions will be immediately enforced.

Management has been badly shaken by the militancy of the men, militancy that is a welcome change from the squabbling over the past two years. The lesson that militancy and unity pay has been learnt.

March to prison

WAKEFIELD—Socialists including members of the Unwin and Greaty unions who refused to go on the Irish Official Republican movement's Good Friday march on Saturday where Conor Lynch, who was convicted on the charge of sedition, told the trial for Catholics in Northern Ireland in 1909, is serving his sentence.

Strikers need help

BLACKPOOL—The women and girls on strike at Empire Pools demanding union recognition, need support from other trade unions. Help on the picket line will be appreciated.

March 4 to Stand up for the 180 production workers who came out in strike in sympathy.

The strike lasted for four weeks and lost 900 men, in the best tradition of the steel trade union movement, the men marched back to work with banners flying, cheered on by the women.

Substantial increase over the original offer of £1.63 were made to many of the women, to bring them to a guaranteed minimum of £18 a week at 20 years old. Other girls were won on time rates, sick pay and a reduction on the working week. A union commitment to meet management immediately to work out a new and improved pay structure.

Women, who picketed the factory every day of this strike, sometimes in terrible weather, have shown what can be done by determined effort and that women workers can be just as militant as men.

VICTORY BANNERS FLY

HULL/FEEDER—Management of Nu-Steel, the welders factory promised to pay the claim of 50 women office workers who were asked to work on the first day and longer and better terms to get the successful support of the 180 production workers who came out in strike in sympathy.

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OFFICIALS of the Tailors and Garment Workers Union in Swindon, West London, are meeting management of the Wynuna Garment factory this week in an attempt to resolve the strike.

Wynuna is typical of the many small garment factories in the area that have resisted all attempts at union organization. There is no minimum wage at Wynuna and the management employs only Asian women on piece-work systems. If a machine breaks down or supplies are held up, the women can get no pay at all.

Average rate is £8.10 for a 40-hour week. All the firm's products are bought by the Dorothy Perkins chain. Picture, by Christopher Davies (swindon), shows Wynuna workers leaving the factory.

Front's storm-trooper sets pace in Midlands

by SW reporter

WYNNUNA—Labour won the election here last week with a 832 majority but the party has no room for complacency. From the outset, the race was set by the National Front's candidate, Martin Webster, a former goose-stepping Nazi in Colin Jordan's National Socialist Movement.

Webster opened his campaign with a play that Goebbels would have been proud of, he quoted the right of Pakistanis in the constitution to vote and claimed there were 20,000 'colonised immigrants' in the town. In fact, there are some 7000 people of West Indian and Asian descent.

Powell's stick

National Front propagandists plugging one message constantly: 'An immediate programme of phased compulsory repatriation.' The result of Webster's efforts was to win him some 4500 votes from the Tory candidate, David Bell, who held this seat on the race question and as a result received no support from Enoch Powell.

Powell is already using Webster's success as a stick to beat the Tories' 'liberal' leadership.

The Labour Party campaign was lacklustre and unorganized, and her husband Ted to campaign for candidate Billy Bowden. When Ted Castle was approached by local trade unionists to support a leaflet exposing Webster's Nazi past he declined at first, moved under pressure and finally agreed to accept the leaflet as part of the Labour campaign.

But when the leaflet went out to dozens of large factories in the area, Castle went back on his support for it. In general, Labour kept quiet about the Front, hoping it would go away.

But the Front and similar fascist organizations will not be dented by the plasma liberation of the Labour Party. In a situation of recurring economic crisis, inflation and deteriorating standards of living, the racists will be making a major effort to increase their support and attempt to divide workers with their poison ideas.

And it will take tough and determined socialist action to stop them, not just waving of a Labour Party bowwow down under your own record of retreats and betrayals.

Plot charges increase

BLACKBURN—Three more people are in custody on conspiracy charges after police and Special Branch raids on the Irish community in nearby Great Harwood and Accrington. Sean Colley, John McCauley and Michael Keastley were charged with preparing, with persons or persons unknown, to damage or destroy buildings. They were to appear in court again next Friday.

Welders vote 'We strike on'

TEESIDE—Welders at Laing's Offshore Pipeline (Graysboro) have voted to continue their seven-week strike.

The strike is of crucial importance. North Sea oil is becoming a boom industry and companies like Laings see construction contracts as a fast way to print money, but are determined to keep the workers' slice of the cake to an absolute minimum.

The welders, who are in the bookeemaakt's union, are seeking pay rises for the working conditions and for proficiency. Before starting the jobs they have to spend three weeks in a training school on reduced rates where they are put through 24 tests. One job for which management are refusing special payments includes crwoing 60ft along a 24m diameter pipe to weld a cap on it.

Other employees in the area are watching the dispute closely, since they fear that if the men win, Laings will become a pacemaker for the area. Some strikers believe their full-time officials also feel this. Official backing has still not been received despite promises.

The men are prepared to return to work if the management just agrees to negotiate their claims. But the company seems to want an all-out confrontation to the bitter end.

Laings have now admitted that it was a rig which was due for delivery this spring will not be ready until autumn at the earliest. They admit that the main reason is not the strike, but their own incompetent planning.

Financial support is desperately needed by the strikers. Please write to T. Miller, Laing's Workers Strike Committee, c/o 80 Austin Road, Harbinst, Stockport.