Vital struggle on Race

Clay Cross fights rents fine

by Nigel Harris

IN SOUTHALL, families have been deserted by their menfolk because they are not content if they are 'illegal' immigrants. In Gravesend, mothers are too frightened to go and collect their social security or go to hospital in case they will be asked for their passports. Up and down the country, family members who dare to question the management can now be threatened with violence. Even police personnel and possible scab.

Thus, from the House of Lords' decision, making the 1971 immi-gration Act subject to the law of the land, terrorists and people, and it is always possible.

For the mass of working people in the country there is a very serious attack on the unity of the labour movement, it is yet another step in the attempt to control workers by power, legal intimidation and the courts.

Hesitant

The weakness of many of the exist-ing organisations is tragically evident in the recent response. Instead of mobilising at the immigrant organisations conference on 30 June, a mass rally on 10 July was called.

By contrast, the Southall Indian Workers' Association called for the formation of a national action committee of immigrant and other organisations to organise against the Lords. The frequent weakness of the immigrant organisations, which places a major responsibility on organisations like the Immigration Society.

In some places, local committees have already been formed, but sadly too slowly. The national demonstration of 22 July is the first target in the campaign, and there is little time.

Important

Immigrant organisations must be contacted addresses can be obtained from the local Community Relations Office (or similar) of the home office. Immigrant organisations, public meetings, and writing to local organisations, places organised, banners made and news orders.

The campaign against the Lords' decision should mirror the campaign against the Industrial Relations Act. The involvement of white trade unionists is vital, and we publish on page 2 an important appeal to them.

There must be trade union branches on all organisations, so that the government cannot shuffle the whole issue into an appeal to the Home Office. This is NOT an 'immigrant' issue.

Each and every black immigrant is under threat. His fate can be con-

quered only if there is effective collec-
tive resistance against the Lords' decision is also the struggle to conquer that fear.

22 July is the first step towards the most important date of 1973 - the 11th, IWA - for strike action in the autumn.

ALL IS BRANCHES TO SUPPORT

Fight the racist witch-hunt

Sunday 22 July

Assemble 2.30 Hyde Park Corner

March to 10 Downing Street

(Fascists from Dominican Cinema, Southall)

S W Reporter

SHOCK figures produced by the government prove the lie of Tory propaganda that living standards are rising in Britain.

Things are improving - but only for the rich minority.

The latest release from the Central Statistical Office - a section of Mr Heath's own Cabinet office - deals with personal income, expenditure and savings in the first quarter of this year.

Total personal income has risen by 3 per cent since the last quarter of last year. But tax payments, by 9 per cent, and national insurance payments, up by 7½ per cent, have reduced the so-called '3 per cent' increase to less than 1½ per cent.

IGNORES

Taking into account the increase in prices during the same period - more than 2 per cent - the CSO release concludes:

'Real personal disposable income actually changed at all between the fourth and first quarter.'

That means income for everyone, rich and poor alike. It ignores another fact, buried away at the foot of the document:

'Nearly one half of the increase in total personal income before tax reflected a recovery in payments of ordinary dividends.'

In other words, half the increase went into the pockets of shareholders, who make up less than 3 per cent of the population. Another substantial slice of the increase went to rents and interest.

For people who rely on wages or salaries for their livelihood, the standard of living actually fell by nearly 4 per cent.

And all the signs and statistics indicate that this drop in the living standards of working-class people has continued in April, June and July. The £1 plus 4 per cent rise has not kept pace with the heading rise in prices, especially of food and housing.

On top of all this comes the wholesale price figures for June - up 1 per cent on the previous month and rising at a rate of 3½ per cent a year.

Home Secretary Robert Carr declared last month: 'It is hard to think of a family in Britain that is not better off as a result of government policies.'

In fact, it is hard to find a working-class family in Britain that is better off this year than last. Millions of families, especially those on fixed incomes, have been beneath the poverty line as a direct result of government policies.

But every week there are news of the enrichment of already rich men on a scale which is beyond the imagination of most working people.

Two weeks ago a speculator sold a house in the City of London for £9 million. Nine months earlier, he had bought it for £4 million.

Last week, Mr Edward du Cann, chairman of the 1922 Conservative back-bench committee and chairman of Barclays Bank, personally made more than £300,000 by the sale of his bank's sub-

CARR: figures destroy his beard

SITUATIONS VACANT

Chairman: Durham Police Authority.

Chairman: Finance Committee, Labour Party, and member of the Party's National Executive Committee.

Member: Newcastle Airways Authority.

Secretary: Northern Region General and Municipal Workers Union.

The union post is advertised at £4000 a year and the airports authority post at £1500 a year. Both posts are union posts for skilled applicants will be unsure of future unless they are made with a little enterprise and initiative.

Applications: At least 10 years as a trade union official and knowledge of public relations.

Applications: To Dan Smith, } for the Boys Ltd, Newcastle on Tyne.

PARALYSED

At the same time the system that produces these inequalities is paralysed by a polar gap between international bankers and speculators gambling in property.

The pound has been devalued by a further 4 per cent. At a stroke, this devaluation wipes out the alleged "advantages" to the British economy of nine months' wage restraint.

This is why the delegates to the Transport Workers Union conference were wrong to allow their general secretary, Jack Jones, to talk with Heath about further trade union sacrifices under
PHASE THREE AND A HALF, as it's known here, is now a month old and already the signs are that it's much less effective than Nixon's previous, less-dramatic attempts to try to control a possible capitalization. And as usual it is the capitalistic government that ignores its own regulations when they apply to itself while at the same time preaching obedience to the public.

Phase three and a half was supposed to stop inflation by freezing all prices and by keeping wages and dividends within strict limits of 20% over June's levels. But there is evidence that only the biggest stock companies are keeping to the maximum price levels of the first week of June. The small ones are simply ignoring the law. And in some cases, prices were actually higher early in June because of shortages in supply, now that supplies are much more plentiful the prices have simply remained at the level. The normal seasonal fall in prices has not taken place.

Nixon, however, has not been standing idly. For him the long relaxing period in front of the television watching the Watergate hearings has not left him untouched. He has a new group of aides, and the creation of a new top-level position in the White House, head of the special committee on interest and commodities, to bring more pressure to bear on the Federal Reserve Bank.

This board is relatively easy to satisfy with inflationary signals than previous inflationary periods. The public is now well aware of the inflationary pressure, and Congress has already voted a new round of price control laws.

In the first two months of phase three and a half, there were a number of attempts to change the law, with 

TALKING of corruption, you can't get far without mentioning Nixon's close friend Bobbe Rebozo, the famous political consultant. When it was found that John Wesley Dorn borrowed $400 from Rebozo and that Dorn had written a note on a piece of paper saying, "Yes, I borrowed $400 from Rebozo," the note was on the way out because such documents are so easily falsified.

A New York daily paper owned by the Postmaster-General, a major shareholder in the majority of the major newspapers, and a Senator George McGovern, the Democratic leader of the Senate from South Dakota, voicing discontent with the price controls.

He moved a resolution through the Senate that was carried by 61 votes to one to allow food prices to rise if the price controls were not lifted. The result of the price controls, McGovern claimed, was to drive down the value of the dollar and to drive up the prices of food products. The result for the consumer was to see his food prices go up, but to see his wages remain the same.

The American newspaper is the primary instrument of the government in the spread of knowledge about the price controls. Even the newspapers of the last year or two, and, if people are being paid to go into the street and tell people that prices are rising, they are being paid to lie.

Basic policy, the government is to force the people to eat more government food because the average citizen is in no position to buy any other food.

A month later John Caufield, a White House intelligence agent, wrote a memo to the Senate that says he is not going to release the report of the Senate on price controls.

Caufield did not only himself to making things difficult for everyone of President Nixon. He also sent a memo dated 30 September 1971 requesting to investigations into the income tax returns of two of Nixon's friends, a Democrat and a Republican.

The memo was delivered to White House Chief of Staff, Nixon's husband. On the slip is the note "Next question: Can we come to a management decision about the future of the budget of the Labour movement."

Division of the workers means defeat.

This legal ruling is designed to weaken the unity of workers in straggle. If the state succeeds against black workers, the workers will be defeated in the future.

We appeal to all shop stewards committees, trade union branches and trade councils to make the defence of their members and their families a most urgent priority. Even at this moment some of their members are already under attack. Unless we protect the job, then the job will be used as scape- goats for the failures of the ruling class. Enoch Powell and the right wing are only too anxious for workers not to recognise this attack for what it is.

Please try and ensure that resolutions are passed in your branch, district and trade union conferences expressing your complete opposition to the laws, and that the power of your union is mobilised in full support of these resolutions.
prices in Britain show them rising at 24 per cent a year and it is now certain that the winter will be right last winter when we predicted that prices would rise by an unbelievable 12 per cent a year by this autumn.

The surge in prices is, as even the government’s own figures now confirm, eating into real living standards.

It is not the corporations, or the speculators who are now having to cut back on their spending, but the mass of working people.

The crisis conditions in the currency markets are likely to continue if only because the world has lost confidence both in the overwhelming might of the American economy and in the credibility of its scandal-ridden President and government. It now seems that the world’s primary world economy continues to be as healthy as the American economy.

As inflation and foreign debts hit the dollar, the European ruling classes are increasingly anxious to cut their losses and cut adrift from the dollar.

But this would involve a major diplomatic crisis splitting up with the ‘western camp’ which would also mean a reversion to a general all-out trade war between the Common Market bloc, the Americans, and the Japanese. In this situation each ruling class, in Britain as elsewhere, is going to be hard-pressed to defend its own interests in the context of this ominous economic background that many trade union leaders are still getting on about with the Tories preparations for the election.

The lesson of the currency chaos is that every country following the lead of the AEUW conference and tell its leaders to turn their attention from Downing Street Prisoners are constantly harassed, with humiliating searches by home office officials.

by Mike Miller

officer ordered his men to defend themselves and prisoners in compounds 17 and 18 came to their assistance.

In the battle that followed, troops fired CS gas in large quantities at attackers and prisoners with batons and rubber bullets. They also used dog snares.

The camp council pointed out in its statement that we don’t see confrontation with armed prisoners as anything worse than ‘defensive action against us if attacked, however we are ourselves.’

When the riot was over, the army propaganda unit issued photographs of the ‘terrorist’ weapons used against the troops. But it should be obvious that his artefacts are no match for the long-range weaponry of the army and troops with steel helmets and shields.

The attack by the army on the republican prisoners at Long Kesh is not a new feature in the battle for Downing Street Prisoners are constantly harassed, with humiliating searches by home office officials.

CENSOR

Visitors also have to undergo thorough body searches. Much of the educational material sent in to the prisoners is seized wherever they find it among their own beliefs. Letters are censored on arrival.

The degrading conditions are designed to break the spirit of the hunger strikers about building a new society with peace and justice for all.

Marshals the troops

There is very little concrete evidence to back such a claim. Jones and Scannell's doubt are only too willing to make for a show of government fears to undermine their credibility.

But that is not often enough to make them seem so much different from the other movements which are on the verge of collapse. The left wing leaders of powerful unions were talking to Heath a policy to push their own interests.

But the international money crisis makes it less and less likely that the government will offer Phase Three in the autumn that will begin to compensate for the decline.

The strikes by workers, gipsies, teachers and civil servants earlier this year showed the even larger scale to which workers were prepared to fight back against the government, given a lead. The message has been reinforced since the success of the May Day stoppage and demonstrations and by the militant unions in the union conferences.

At this point, instead of organising for action in the autumn behind which is the first group of workmen to strike with the government’s freeze, the ‘left wing’ leaders of powerful unions want to talk with Heath a policy to push their own interests. The direction of this behaviour are currently on the left. One, to be found in the pages of the Communist Party’s Morning Star, for instance, that he had acted in the right side, but are just making a mistake of judgement. If only militants maintain friendly relations with them and ensure that they swing over to the right position again.

Marshal the troops

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But the international money crisis makes it less and less likely that the government will offer Phase Three in the autumn that will begin to compensate for the decline. There is one way to ensure that such leadership begins to develop. And it is not through merely electing new officials and than leaving everything up to them. A rank and file movement has to build that brings together the best militants in different industries and allows them to hammer out the necessary policies. Such a movement would not break from the existing unions as long as it would abandon the official positions to the right wing.

But it would link the demand for better policies in the unions to campaigns for the trade unions on the left, ‘left wing’ controlled or right wing controlled. It would recognise that anyone elected to an official position in a union should have to take responsibility to immense pressures. The only way to counter these pressures is through the existence of an independent organisation of rank and file militants.

The demand to develop such a movement is often denounced as ‘splitting’. But the charges that serious split will make serious gains for the workers as a trade union movement with the class collaborationist policies that Jones and Scannell have been trying to press.

Police quiz loyalists over murder wave on Catholics

IN SPITE OF STRONG police denials, reports reached Belfast that four ex-Union Defence Association members have been charged with the murder of 31 sectarian murdorers.

Northern Ireland has always rejected charges that it played any role in the wave of sectarian violence that swept the Six Counties for the last year, and at one point even went so far as to blame the killings themselves. After that threat was averted, the government turned its attention to frightening heights, and has continued to mount ever since.

Extortion

Information provided by one of the four men in custody implicated the leader of other UDA members in the murder campaign, which has been directed at Catholics, for no reason other than their religion. The leader, who was betrayed by the information on nine separate killings, and to have provided details on some UDA men who were involved.

Although this man has not been named, it is known that he was a member of the British Army who went absent without leave several months ago and joined the UDA. After being court-martialled for desertion, he walked into an English police station on the advice of a policeman, who had obtained information on a
ARMY TAKEOVER SPEARS OFF GENERAL STROKE

THE Uruguayan army, which has virtually ruled the country for 30 years, was trying to impose a coup and take total control in a coup d'état a fortnight ago.

Two successive governments had been unable to defeat the urban guerrillas of the Tupamaros, and were unwilling to do anything to deal with Uruguay's worsening economic situation.

The army was given a free hand in 1973, but has gradually extended its control over wide areas of the country.

The army has shown great caution and has concealed the extent of its rule. Uruguay, like Chile, has a fairly long tradition of parliamentary rule, and many officers seemed to share a concern that they would arouse too much opposition if they were to act in a constitutional way. Even this latest coup, which closed parliament and local government councils and put Uruguay under the rule of the military-dominated Council of National Security, was, on the face of it, carried out by the president.

Council of National Security was used as a scapegoat. A politician belonging to the reformist Broad Front was selected as the civilian head of the Tupamaros, and parliament of office, leading to the coup.

The coup shows the inability of the political parties to take a role in society. The Ulugurian army has enjoyed high earnings from its work in the world and the urban population had something approaching a welfare state. But after 1945, the country went into slow decline, and meat and grain prices did not keep pace with the growth of the major towns.

By the mid-1960s, many Uruguayan workers were impatient with the two main parties, one of which was seriously prepared to tackle the problems of inflation, unemployment and urban poverty. So the traditional left and the trade unions gained in strength, and the Tupamaros became widespread support once it started their guerrilla actions in the late 1960s.

The army was successful against the Tupamaros at least partly because the guerrillas were unable to carry out a major campaign on their own. Even though they had support from a large number of workers, the guerrillas are not tied to the financial and political interests that control the major political parties. The guerrillas are a minor party, not a major reformers to avert revolution.

This undercut the Tupamaros support. The victory of a right-wing faction at the last elections in 1971 made it easier for the military to extend its campaign against the Tupamaros, which became increasingly effective. But the government's unwillingness to undertake any reforms threatened to undermine the army's campaign in the long run, and Congressional opposition to the government's growing power annoyed the more ambitious officers.

Having seen through the weakness of all political movements in Uruguay, the president reduced the army to puppet status last February, and has now forced the dissolution of parliament.

The latest threat of the constitution, which the army posed to be upholding the Tupamaros, has provoked constant and considerable opposition. The Communist Party-controlled CNT union called a general strike from 27 June, which was still continuing at the time of writing, despite army attempts to buy off workers with a price freeze and pay per cent increase.

More interesting, from the point of view of the disaster, is the failure of the other two main wings of the army, which have started industrial action beyond the norm set by the CNT. Among these were workers in the state refinery, who struck against government instructions and stopped the supply of paraffin. It is now the winter in Uruguay.

In an effort to restore the supply of fuel, the government has con-scripted the refinery workers into the army and put them under military discipline. But it is not yet sure of victory against these three other workers. Which way will the army go politically is still an open question. Of the two main wings of the army, one favours a 'nationalist' military dictatorship, as in Peru, and the other a pro-American military dictatorship as in Brazil.

Faced with these alternatives, the only hope for Uruguayans workers is to extend the general strike to paralyse the new dictatorship and bring it down.

Fear of police backlash behind ban of left group

A REPRESENTATIVE of the French workers trade union group ‘Casse Oeuvre (Workers Struggle) spoke at last Saturday’s demonstration in support of the workers Union Congress in Brussels.

This isn’t the first time that the revolutionary movement has been under attack in France. After the May ‘68 events, the government banned 12 revolutionary groups, including ourselves and the Ligue Communiste.

Since that time a lot of revolutionary movements have been banned in various ways.

By being held for 24 hours in police stations while their identity was checked, the group was also refused permission to distribute a leaflet in a public place.

Like many people, we were arrested and committed to several weeks or even months in jail for what was written in our paper.

Alain Germain, one of the most prominent figures in the group, was arrested for a period of months for what was written in his paper.

Last year Pierre Overy, a Maoist worker, was arrested from the Renault car factory, was shot dead by a police machine gun, and his body was thrown in a nearby river.

Ordre Nouveau has been banned, it’s been redefined, one of the reasons is that we were accused of being anti-constitutional. This has been rejected by the court of appeal.

In this respect it is quite a positive step that for the first time in France, the traditional trade unions and the trade unions have expressed a general attack on the revolutionary movement.

This really shows the double-edged nature of these trade unions, which are especially two of the Communist Party, which is part of the opposition which wants to be in power. This is the case of the Communist Party, which is in a position to be in power. This is the case of the Communist Party, which is in a position to be in power.

So revolutions not only demand the lifting of the ban on the Ligue and the banning of the Ordre Nouveau, but also to the right against repression, and put pressure on the traditional trade unions to take a stand.

The campaign is only just beginning. The first day of strikes was a big success. The people are starting to understand the situation.

The workers are saying ‘enough is enough’ and they are starting to fight back.

It’s the Ligue’s turn to fight back now. It’s the Ligue’s turn to fight back now.

Socialist Worker

THE LUMP MUST GO

Workers occupied the LIP watch factory at Bienne, France, where the firm went bankrupt, threatening widespread redundancies. The workers are selling watches at much-reduced prices to cover wages. The picture shows them doing a roaming trade to delegations to the Socialist Party congress at Genoa.

French migrants fight pass laws

BRITAIN is not the only country where the racists are trying to whip up hostility against immigrant workers. In France three million immi- grants are also under attack.

A few weeks ago an immigrant workers demonstration in Grenoble, South of France, was savagely broken up by police and local racists and encouraged by the mayor who expressed regret at any pass laws.

A few months ago the government indicated that it would relax immigration laws, which brought together work permit and residence permits for immigrants. This meant that any immigrant who lost his job became an illegal resident.

The government has now agreed that workers who lose their jobs will get a three month ‘temporary permit’ instead of the work permit and that all others will be allowed to work again. This will allow the government to legalise the position of all illegal immigrants up to 1 January this year.

But immigrant workers are not satisfied. They know that if the full weight of the working-class movement were involved, especially the Communist-led CNT, France’s main union, they could win the total abolition of the ‘Frontier’ rules, the first step to real equality.

This victory, limited as it is, shows what can be done by a determined fight against a racist government. Workers in Britain can learn from it that the very laws now too could be beaten.

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FROM Building Workers’ Special

Socialist Worker

Cottesmore Gardens, London E2 8HD
WHEREVER it was sent me a copy of the Jane/Freeman issue of the Liverpool Free Press, thank you. It is an excellent paper, probably the best of the remaining local community papers which are trying to tell the reader about what goes on in Britain’s cities.

The Liverpool Free Press is full of excellent stories, well-presented and well-written, exposing the dark side of Liverpool’s violent policemen, its lying industrialists and its corrupt councilors.

The lead story deals with the surprisingly good name of Kathy Francis, of Runcorn, who was sacked as a cashier because she was going out with the right man.

The firm for which she worked, C. W. F. Wood & Co. Ltd, was a long-established family firm of builders in Liverpool. However, the company’s financial problems were aggravated in a down market and, as a result, the company was declared bankrupt.

The firm then went into administration, and Kathy Francis was one of the employees who lost her job.

The story is an example of how préjudice in the workplace can have a devastating effect on people’s lives.

The Liverpool Free Press is a welcome addition to the list of local community papers, and it is to be hoped that it will continue to thrive.

 Lionel Jaffe

A week ago Mrs Coates called Kathy in for an urgent discussion.

"We need you," she said.

"Yes," Kathy replied.

"Do what your parents think?"

"Yes," Kathy replied.

"It’s a heavy work," Mrs Coates said.

"I know," Kathy replied.

"But you’re doing it for the good."
Tough strategy needed to win engineers' claim

Big pay battle looms on Phase 3

A MAJOR BATTLE against Phase Two of the Tory income policy is now likely in the autumn. When leaders of 2½ million engineering workers in the powerful Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions met in Eastbourne two weeks ago they agreed unanimously to lodge a claim for £3.52 a week minimum rate for skilled men and a 35 hour week as soon as the current agreement expires on 25 August this year.

They also agreed to give the employers only one month in which to make a positive reply to the claim. The employers have already indicated they will probably refuse to do so.

And as the claim is in clear breach of two of the most important provisions of Phase Two—engineering workers in a few months time may well be in the forefront of this year's most decisive struggle against the employers and the Tory government.

by ROGER ROSEWELL

The claim conflicts with Phase Two not only because it is in excess of the notorious £1.51 plus 4 per cent limit. On the very day that the present agreement ends—25 August—the second stage payment of £3 on the present skilled minimum rate of £2.52 will be made.

Under Phase Two no new wage increase can be paid within 12 months of a previous rise. The £3.52 and 35 hours claim thus involves that a settlement 'should be operative from the end of the current agreement for a period of 12 months with no restrictive or productivity conditions included' and is in direct opposition to Phase Two.

The employers' representatives demand a £10 a week increase on minimum wages earned in 12 months with a five-hour reduction in the working week for everyone.

The Tories were jubilant after their defeat of the general strike and the employer's victory at the engineering workers' factory in the early stages of the strike. The government's decision was based on the principle of an all-round national wage agreement, with the industry's maximum pay level as a target. The employers' bid for an increase in pay and hours was rejected.

Shocked

This is the special political importance of the claim. For, if the engineers were to beat the government, then millions of other workers would quickly follow their example.

Last year was one of tremendous working class victories. Miners, railwaymen, builders and dockers shook the Tories. Since then the government—enlivened the aid of the TUC leaders in their fight to curb militancy—and, at the present time, talks between the two sides are still going on.

The employers' claim and the struggle might create a clear win for the TUC leaders in trying to curb militancy and, at the present time, talks between the two sides are still going on. This is one of the claim's most complicated points. The TUC's spokesmen, Jack Jones of the TGWU and David Bennett of the GMWU, are involved both in the talks and in the claim. This contradictory role might well be of crucial importance. And Hugh Scanlon, the president of the engineering workers, has just been removed from the TUC team on instruction from his union, and against his own view.

Last year, the engineering workers were the one powerful section of the trade union movement to be beaten by the employers. The first reason for that defeat was the nature of the claim itself. The decision to fight for an increase only on minimum rates instead of a substantial all-round rise meant that the final settlement would affect only a minority of the industry's workforce.

And so the claim failed to win the support of the engineering workers—those employed in metals and ancillaries, electronics, aircraft, and certain sections of metal manufacturing.

This year's claim—although for 25p instead of £3 is again unlikely to win the enthusiasm of these sections unless the 35-hour week demand is pushed to the forefront.

The reason for this is simple. When Tom Price of the TGWU spoke at the Eastbourne conference, he claimed that on the basis of figures available in April 1972, £51 per week for engineering workers was more than £280 a week, with 25 per cent of those receiving more than £38. And since then earnings have risen.

This awareness of the pay earned by skilled engineering workers in the industry is probably earning as much if not more than the £35 minimum in the new claim. And again they are unlikely to want to fight for what they already have or believe they could get without a full-scale struggle.

These workers earning far less than the £35 are the sorts of people who would stand to gain most from a decision to strike. They are probably also the most poorly organised, often working in small factories in areas of high unemployment. The only demand that could unite the 2½ million engineering workers behind it is one for a general all-round pay rise of, say, £2 a week. This strategy was rejected by the Eastbourne conference. The Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions leadership is solid in its opposition to united all-round wage claims because it knows that this is the best way to involve the whole membership in a national struggle against the employers.

Lessons

The refusal of the Confederation to demand an all-round general wage rise now means that every militant must place the emphasis of this year's struggle on the fight for shorter working hours from which every engineering worker would clearly benefit.

That is lesson number one.

The second main cause of last year's defeat was the tactic used against the employers. This was the 'plant by plant' strategy which sought to win at factory level rather than the employers' refusal at national level.

Despite a tremendous struggle in some areas, particularly Manchester, the campaign as a whole was both costly and unsuccessful. An uneven response, fragmentation, lack of clear national leadership, sabotage of existing and a tough line from the Engineering Employers Federation were the main reasons for this.

Only national and united action against the employers and their government can succeed.

That is lesson number two.

This year's claim is going to be a test of strength. Last year—as was revealed exclusively in Socialist Worker last week—the engineering employers spent a massive £237,319 in subduing their member firms to cause lookouts or resist strikes. This year they are quite willing to do the same again. And the Tories will give them every bit of help they can.

Only a clear policy of an all-out strike by the industry's 2.5 million workers can defeat this kind of preparation.

It must be the job of every militant to force the union leaders to do just that. The Confederation leaders with their feet in both camps—pay and shorter hours but talks with Heath on an incomes policy at the same time—cannot be relied upon.

That is lesson number three and one that every militant should avoid having to learn the hard way.

VICTOR SERGE
Memoirs of a Revolutionary 1901-1941
TRANSLATED BY PETER SEDGWICK
The memoirs of Victor Serge, revolutionary, novelist and poet, are a testimony to the experience of three successive revolutionary generations—the anarcho-communism of pre-1914 France, the syndicalism of Barcelona 1917, finally Stalinism as Stalin took over. Out of the annihilation Serge himself survived as virtually a lone witness.
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FROM MARXISM TO PLAUTUS... by PAUL FOOT

JOHN STRACHEY is the most influential Marxist propagandist in the history of the British labour movement. Between 1931 and 1938 he wrote four books, one pamphlet and innumerable articles which brought Marxism to a wider British audience than ever before or since.

The books—The Coming Struggle for Power (1931), The Menace of Fascism (1932), the Nature of Capitalist Crisis (1934) and Practice of Socialism (1936)—explained Marxist economics in terms of sparkling, simple language.

They explained, too, the causes and the meaning of fascism. They analysed the art and literature of the time in class terms.

They urged the leaders of the Labour Party and the Trades Union Congress to abandon the innumerable articles which brought Marxism to a wider British audience than ever before or since. They argued that patriotism and the meaning of fascism was the art and literature of the time in class terms.

They urged the leaders of the Labour Party and the Trades Union Congress to abandon the innumerable articles which brought Marxism to a wider British audience than ever before or since. They argued that Marxism was an unhealthy obsession with the machinations of history.

The founder member of the Institute of Policy Studies, which was to become the Institute of Contemporary Affairs, Strachey went on to the Prevention of War—of which he was acclamation by right-wing intellectuals.

The political scene is littered with the living corpses of former socialists and communists. Some of them are trade union leaders now too accustomed to strike, others are propping the bar at the House of Commons, others (perhaps most) have retired to the universities or to television.

The most common reason for their demise is obvious: disillusionment, either with politics or with the trade unions or with the Labour Party—none of which were acclamation by right-wing intellectuals.

In 1930s Britain, the case of John Strachey is more serious. The change in him was too sudden, too catastrophic to be explained away, as in Hugh Thomas' biography, with passing reference to Strachey's psychological needs for an elder brother or to his adoration for Clement Attlee.

More importantly, Strachey, unlike almost another contemporary politician who entered the same blind alley, was convinced that capitalism was the root cause of the whole of the Tsarist Empire. This was not a strange view to hold, given that the last Tsar had been overthrown by fascists.

Both were published in the same year (1936). Both argued that Labour should accept the capitalist system. Strachey's book, however, is of a quite different order to Crosland's. Crosland had been dandled all his life in the expensiveness of right-wing social democracy. His book, wrong in every prediction, arrogant in every assumption, was written to appease the conscience of Labour careerists.

Strachey, on the other hand, argued in Marxist terms against the Marxism of his earlier books. Contemporary Capitalism is a running argument with The Coming Struggle for Power. The pith of Hugh Thomas' biography is that it does not (cannot), in fact, for Hugh Thomas sympathises with the latter Strachey, not the earlier one, take up Strachey's own arguments and explain how and why so apparently consistent a man could develop into the opposite.

The immediate cause of the change is easy to identify. All Strachey's Marxist books were characterised by an admiration for Russia. In The Coming Struggle for Power, he wrote:

"160 million men and women have already... left out of the kingdom of necessity towards the kingdom of freedom— in Russia.

Obediently, Strachey followed the Communist Party line on the Stalinist barbarism of the period. As late as July 1938, he wrote of the Moscow trials of old Bolsheviks: 'No one, who had... fixed his mind in the contrary opinion, could read the verbatim account of the trials without being wholly convinced of the authenticity of the confessions.'

Equally, all his works had been dominated by a hatred and fear of fascism. The Stalin-Hitler pact of 1939, therefore, came as a mighty blow to his beliefs.

He turned, almost at once, not to the working class but to 'his' country. His speeches and books (notably A Faith to Fight For, which was published in 1941) became increasingly patriotic. Socialism took second place to patriotism.

In 1943, he started a series of broadcasts as press officer for the Air Ministry in which he eloquently justified the most monstrous of the British bombings of German working-class areas. By 1945, he had a safe Labour seat, at Dundee, and was back in parliament.

The somersault is not as complete as it looks. For all the polemics between Stalinists and social democrats, the two camps were linked by a strong ideological thread, Strachey's old friends and mentors, the veteran social democrats Sidney and Beatrice Webb, had written of the Russian revolution, soon after it occurred:

"The Russian revolution is the greatest disaster in the history of the labour movement. Every shock the Webers about the Russian revolution was the spectacle of working men and women taking action for themselves. The Webers had been brought up to believe that the workers' case had to be argued and advocated for them, history had to be written for them, notes had to be selected from them, and their destinies shaped in the most humane manner possible by people of intelligence, education and good will.

The Bolshevists put paid to all that by unleashing the energies of working people, and by mobilising them to take power themselves. Less than 20 years later, however, the Webers were happy to notice that all that nonsense had been stopped. In 1934, they visited Russia, met a large number of friendly bureaucrats, studied an even larger number of constitutional provisions, noticed that the energies of the working class were back in harness, and were delighted.

A 'new civilisation' was being created in Russia by enlightened bureaucrats for the masses. Global capitalism, after the Russian revolution, Strachey wrote (in the Theory and Practice of Socialism): What was true of the international working class movement now in Russia was that the workers had won in the Soviet Union what industrial workers could never win in the capitalist democracies of the West. Francis Left and right workers achieved for the first time socialist economic and social system which the world had ever seen, in spite of the fact that all advanced countries remained in capitalist hands."

Or must the workers either largely abandon hope of the Union or jeopardise it by trying artificiously to protect it, or to create revolutions in the rest of the world?"

All faith must rest in Russia. Socialism in Britain is an impossibility. Strachey argued elsewhere, as a Labour MP, that the Union might be the only hope for the international working class movement. The workers, they said, had real power, and must use it to defend the workers in the East. This theme runs through all Strachey's writings of the period. He was the spokesman of the Workers' Union. He argued with them, without straining the need to organise with them.

This lack of confidence in the membership books of the Labour Party and their changes of mind and determination. His own change of mind.

In Contemporary Capitalism, he argued that the philosophy of modern capitalism had been tampered by a combination of trade union strength and Labour Party influence. The arguments run directly against the fact of the Webers' own contemporaneous dismissal of them in The Coming Struggle for Power.

In 1939, in addition, however, he studiously ignored the real explanations of the disappeared Webers of 1930s which he himself had given before the war.

In Why You Should Be A Socialist Strachey argued that the classical Marxist system works so much better in war. The Webers, he said, believed in, someone to buy all the goods which can be turned out. They are bought by the government and not for the most part for destruction."

In Contemporary Capitalism he hardly notices that massive armaments spending continued in peace while that factor, far more than any alleged Labour Party or trade union strength, stabilised Britain for the war.

More crucially, that stabilisation was not, as Strachey had predicted, permanent. During the 10 years since Strachey's death his two stabilising forces—trade union and Labour Party—have grown stronger.

The trade unions have attracted two million more members and the Labour Party has made its years of parliamentary office. Yet in the same period official trade union membership has become more unstable, more greedy, more ugly, more violent and more radical.

The official trade union literature will be useful if it directs people to John Strachey's pre-war writing. It will be worse than useless if the failure of the trade union life is not appreciated.

The power which can confront the barbarism of capitalism is not generated in Labour cabinets, still less in the Kremlin. It lies at the root of the working class. In the factories where its muscles are tested by socialist propaganda and socialist organisation stay from there, they are lost.
ON MONDAY the Portuguese dictator Marcello Caetano arrives in Britain as the guest of the Tory government and the Royal Family.

Caetano’s main aim will be to attract investments to ‘Britain’s oldest ally’ and her colonies and to obtain finance, diplomatic support and arms to pursue three colonial wars in Portugal’s East African colonies—Moçambique, Angola and Guine and the Cape Verde islands.

The Portuguese dictatorship has realised that without African colonies the humongous public debt could be reduced to a minor European power. For this reason the Portuguese dictator from 1929 to 1969, Doctor Salazar, enforced a policy of keeping blacks in the colonies in the deepest misery and total ignorance to prevent them coming into contact with ideas of personal and national freedom.

To prevent richer imperialists powers from wresting control of the colonies from Portugal, forign investments were stopped. Portuguese capitalists were not able to make large-scale investments and banks in Portuguese Africa were subjected to the worst unemployment, working conditions and lowest wages on the whole continent.

The extremes of misery in the Portuguese colonies delayed for a while the spreading of ideas about national independance which had affected most of Africa. Peasant families had to spend most of their time struggling just to survive.

The aspirations for national liberation at first took root among the relatively small urban population in particular among the tiny minority of urban blacks who had received an education and among the urban workers.

But by 1956 what had been an underground movement of intellectuals had become a clandestine organisations in Guinea and Angola. Almost immediately they suffered the attentions of the Portuguese police.

This made the growth of the two organisations MPLA (The People’s Movement for the Liberation of Angola) (African Party for the Liberation of Guine and Cape Verde) very slow.

Amílcar Cabral, the revolutionary leader assassinated this year in the order of the Portuguese government, had come to the conclusion that no urban-based movement could overthrow Portuguese rule. The PAIGC, though initially made up of middle-class people, had built itself a base among workers in the capital, Bissau.

In 1957 when they organised a demonstration of striking dockers, the Portuguese shot down 50 of them. As dockers were the only large, well-organised section of workers, there was no possibility of effectively spreading the strike.

Campaign

Cabal decided that no effective revolutionary movement could be built in the towns, as the workers were not yet a class on a national scale and only existed in any numbers in the capital.

From early 1959 to the end of 1961, the PAIGC carried out a thorough preparation in the area where it intended to launch the guerrilla struggle.

The armed struggle was started in Angola with much less preparation. The opening shot in the MPLA campaign was an attack on the prison in Luanda, the capital. As news of the attack spread to the rest of the country, there were spontaneous revolts in the North.

A murderous counter-offensive was launched by the Portuguese. They killed tens of thousands of Africans.

They extended the repression to Guinea—forcing the PAIGC to launch the struggle earlier than intended—and to Mozambique, creating a mass exodus to Tanzania.

At the same time Salazar’s dictatorship decided to introduce a number of changes. At home it was trying to follow the Spanish boom, based on attracting tourists and foreign capital.

As Portugal was smaller and poorer than Spain, it had to open the colonies to attract foreign capital, thereby ending the monopoly of the few Portuguese companies.

Salazar also decided to improve the Africans’ conditions in an attempt to stop the revolts from spreading. There was some improvement in wages, taxes were reduced and the legal basis for compulsory forced cultivation was removed.

Under this system large numbers of peasants had been forced to produce cotton for the cotton monocrop which paid them starvation prices. In 1956, for example, 519,000 African farmers had been paid an average of £5 for a whole year’s work. Some were getting £2.50 for their year’s sweat.

As the legal change was not enforced. Other measures were put into effect only near areas of the MPLA’s areas of operations.

Though the MPLA was operating on three fronts and five by 1958.

War zone

The most successful movement is undoubtedly the PAIGC. By 1959 it controlled two thirds of Guinea to the coast and a few major towns and forts. Whereas in 1963 it became clear that the Portuguese could not win, they resorted to even more desperate measures.

The military governor of Guinea, General Spinola, declared most of the PAIGC-controlled territory a ‘war zone’, exactly like the US ‘free fire zones’ in Vietnam. Any civilians found in this area were shot by Portuguese aircraft.

In Angola and Mozambique, the liberation movements control around one third of the country at this point. As a result, Portugal spends 50 per cent of her budget on the armed forces. Spending on public works and social services has fallen from 34 per cent before the war to 25 per cent at this point.

In a country where a large proportion of young men are abroad, dodging the draft or looking for a job, the standing army has reached 200,000. To compensate for the manpower shortage this creates, Portugal has been trying to recruit increased numbers of Africans both into the army—to fight against their own liberation—and into the elite and skilled jobs.

This has been attempted most thoroughly in Mozambique, where serious recruitment has been stepped up. Since FRELIH’s former guerrillas were kicked out in 1967, the MPLA’s military wing Acculturada de Armas has sent thousands of Mozambicans nappin air raid.

The July issue of International Socialism features an important article by Chris Harman on the experience of Counterculture Action and their response to the current struggles of the working class. Other articles include:

A Monetary Crisis: John Urry
India and China: Nigel Day
Fourth International: Duncan Hallas
Why did you join the Party?: Robert Arnott
Plus Notes of the Month and book reviews.

The International Socialism journal, 6 Cottons Gardens London E2 6DN.
Annual Subscription £2.10

Above: Freire guerrillas on the march in Mozambique.
Below: Portuguese Paratroopers kicked out in 1967 by the MPLA.
Right: A guerrilla victorious in the Portuguese air raid.

Heath will sell arms to Angola, Mozambique, and the former Portuguese colonies, 10%
WHAT MAKES a workers' government different from that of other parties? Any body of men exercising governmental power can call itself a workers' government, or a Labour government.

So how do you tell that it means business? Well, there are many ways of telling, but here is just one very important way. A truly workers' government would make it illegal to blackleg during a strike.

This would mean a complete reversal of the existing legal position. To this end, today anyone wants to cross the picket line, he or she will have to get the protection of the law. The police must come back to him or her up. A basic principle of capitalism is 'freedom to work.' You must not interfere with a person's right to work. And this you means you the worker.

It does not mean the employer, the speculator, the asset-stripper. These gentlemen can throw as many people out of work as they please without breaking any law.

What are the realities behind this workers' freedom to work? No more than freedom to sell his capacity to work, his labour power, to those who, as a class own the means of production.

And of course from the capitalist viewpoint the ideal situation is one where the worker is an isolated individual—i.e. that is, not organised in a trade union.

That is why, for example, British Leyland, Ford, Chrysler, Fiat and Citroen are going to invest by 1977 several hundred million pounds in expanding their car factories in Spain.

There Spanish workers are (capitalistically speaking) more 'free' than the workers elsewhere who are organised. Trade unions in Spain are illegal. They exist only in underground bodies.

The whole power of the state is directed to smashing them. Workers on strike are shot down. Leaders are arrested and sentenced by military courts to long terms of imprisonment.

Of course, a similar situation exists in Africa, the beginning of the capitalist era. Combinations of workers, as they were called, were illegal here too. Here too they existed for a long, long time as illegal organisations.

Here too the capitalists and their political henchmen, the Tories and the Liberals, did everything they could to stamp them out. They all tried to stem the tide of progress.

Progress—that is, the coming together of working people into organisations of their own, and opposed to the bosses. Progress—that is, working-class solidarity against the bosses.

Progress—that is, the quest for a way out of the capitalist jungle in which all values, all worth, is measured in terms of money, where man is reduced to number and criminal-commercial conflict.

If you compare this country in a country a month or so ago, a Spanish placing the cause of the Spanish workers. I do not know what particular party he belongs to, and I don't care.

All I know is that he spent 20 odd years in France's jails for the crime of organizing the Spanish workers and that he was here asking the British workers to show their solidarity with their countrymen. He was here to remind us that the picket line does not stop at any national frontiers.

Now the British workers took action last week to express their antagonism to the French government's testing of nuclear weapons. The TUC gave the lead for this action. The question arises: why against only the French government?

Why not also against the Ruskies, the Chinese, the American? The answer to that is: this is a dispute between various imperialist powers, in which the TUC has involved itself. It has nothing to do with the picket line.

The men and women on the picket line are involved, whether they know it or not, in the battle to overthrow the system that will, if not destroyed, destroy humanity in a nuclear war. So—let us keep our eyes fixed on the picket line.

What an enormous step forward

ward if the TUC took a look at the picket line in Spain, at the strike at the Ford Longbridge car plant in Pampilona and the subsequent lockout of 1700 Spanish workers.

Took a look at this and the strikes in all the steel plants. And gave a lead for action by the British workers.

These workers are fighting against terrible odds. Fighting for freedom. Yes, they want a living wage, decent conditions of work and so on, but back of all these demands is the elemental, indelible urge to be free.

These multi-national companies hang in gloom with Franco's thugs getting away with murder and the TUC is so very, very, very busy trying to make capitalism function 'rationally'.

In the matter of understanding where the system is heading the whole-kids of international finance are the greatest bunch of amateurs you could find anywhere, but when it comes to squeezing out the maximum profit they're dead keen.

They don't think Spain or any other country is too remote from their interests. They are too eager to get in there where there's plenty of cheap labour power and friendly governments that allow or tolerate anyone who fights for freedom. That's where the whole-kids of international finance are the greatest bunch of amateurs you could find anywhere, but when it comes to squeezing out the maximum profit they're dead keen.

That's why for us the picket line is all important. And not just the picket line here, but the picket line anywhere.

Hugo Dewar

‘FREEDOM’ WE CAN'T DO WITHOUT

[ADDITIONAL TEXT]

from 1863-1933. Thonnesen, like Rowbotham, believes that the fortunes of the movement will rise or decline along with the fortunes of the working class, with the movement as a whole. (Rowbotham stresses the need for a stronger class movement and the working class to act in opposition to the bosses.)

Mikhail Lifshitz's 'The Philosophy of Art of Karl Marx' (E1.00/£1.60) demonstrates the relationship between Marx's development of his own system of art, and his development of his revolutionary theory.

'Terror; Torture and Political Persecution' (£1.18/£1.50) by Jane Collier is a highly informative survey of the brutality of the governments of the former Yugoslavia since they took over in 1971; it puts it into the context of 20th century history and also indicates the present danger to the British government, and the failure of the British press to investigate the situation.

Prices include post and packing. Orders should be sent to Pluto Press at Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, NW1 (0171 272 0141).
FOR most people, the idea of revolution is closely associated with violence. This message is hammered home in school textbooks and popular historical novels.

There you will find gruesome descriptions of the ' reign of terror' in the French Revolution of 1789, but hardly a word about the thousands of workers who formed the Paris Commune of 1871, when more than three times as many people were killed, in a much shorter time, by the forces of 'law and order'.

Those who spout most eloquently about the horrors of bloodshed are not pacifists. They are politically committed to society as it exists today, a society that is the most violent in the whole of human history.

Twice in the past 60 years there have been world wars in which tens of millions of people have died. Ever since 1945 there has not been a single year in which there was not a war somewhere in the world. As you read these words, US bombers are dropping bombs on Cambodia, where they have already killed more than a tenth of the population.

British government spending on military preparations is at a peace-time record of £300 million. In 1900 100,000 troops are trained to kill and it is a serious crime for them not to do so if ordered.

They have often been used to kill recently. Wars in Malaya threatened 'British interests' - the tin and rubber companies which British big business owns - the army was used to slaughter them. In one grisly episode, soldiers proudly displayed the severed heads of captives.

When a revolt broke out in Aden, leading to general strikes by the workers, British soldiers were used to protect the interests of the giant oil companies.

And the troops are still in use protecting 'British rule' and several thousand million pounds worth of investments in Ireland.

SMASH

The minority who own the wealth of the world may preach about the dangers of violence. But they resist to it the moment their own wealth and power is threatened.

Tory ministers have repeatedly asserted that they are using troops to defend the 'civil authorities' in Northern Ireland so they would nowhere else in the United Kingdom. There is no such occasion arises, the army will be sent into the streets of Britain to shoot to kill, arrest and trial, throw tear gas and squash people's uprisings.

Leading army officers have been everywhere from Kenya to Kisumu, hid the Warmister army training college, predicted in his book, Low Intensity Operations, that troops might soon have to be used in South Africa.

The parliamentary leading of both the wars and the troops place themselves in the tradition of men like Churchill, Lloyd George and Baldwin. Churchill ordered troops to shoot striking South Wales miners in 1911, Lloyd George posted machine guns at the pit heads during the strikes in 1919, Baldwin sent troop convoys through the streets of London and battleships to threaten Liverpool during the General Strike. Note that none of these three cases was there threat of a revolution.

The lesson holds today. If the wage struggle begins to threaten what big business regards as its most essential interests, then Edward Heath or Harold Wilson, the political disciples of Churchill, Lloyd George and Baldwin, would resort to the most naked forms of violence.

Revolutionary socialists do not create violence. We merely insist that if the workers are not to be blackmailed by the massive, organised violence of the ruling class and its state, then we have to be prepared to fight back.

This is true in any strike. The employers always use forms of violence in an effort to get their way. They threaten to disrupt the lives of workers who respect picket lines by sending them and depriving them of a living. There is only one way for the strikers to break through their threats - through counter-threats of their own.

But to say that force has to be used in any case as saying that bloodshed is inevitable. That depends on the balance of power between the two sides.

If there are a couple of workers, but 10 million in a picket line, then there will be bloodshed if the police decide to beat up the pickets.

But if it is the miners at Saltley Coke Depot last year, or a few hundred policemen, then little violence is likely. The police will back down - provided the pickets make it clear they will reply to force with force.

The history of revolutions begins this out, in the October 1917 revolution in Petrograd, there was little bloodshed - only 11 people died. The workers were united and well armed, while their opponents were demoralised, divided and had few forces at their disposal.

ARGUED

The worst bloodshed occurs not when the workers' movements use force, but when it sets aside the use of force, leaving its opponents free hand to assert their power. In Paris in 1871, the main leaders of the Paris Commune argued that it would be wrong to start a civil war by marching against the counter-revolutionary army based on Versailles, although it was weak and hardly able to resist.

It was left with the Versailles forces, which bailed, built up their strength and, when, with huge numbers of men on Paris, murdering tens of thousands and only a few men in the war, the moderate leaders of the war-class argued for not trying to overthrow German big business power. In fact it had to be fought, because it could not be profitable unless it destroyed the working class. The army had to be confronted and followed a policy of military expansion.

In 1913 it turned to Hitler and millions of people died as a result.

THE bloodshed is not the bloodshed of the working class. It is the bloodshed of the workers and their employers, the workers that run the factories and the workers that run the mines.

In 1914 there is only one way to minimise bloodshed at decisive moments of struggle to minimise the movement to ensure that it has more chance of success than the employing class and to be prepared to use it.


SMALLCREEP'S DAY is a great book.

"Presque Smallcreep leaves his machine one day to discover what happens to the component he is making. He becomes a cobbler for 14 years. He takes this into every corner of the vast factory, and what he sees is both horrifying and fascinating." - The man who operates the surgery-grinder, the laboarers who stagger back and forwards carrying the same component from one start to another, who does one hand in his machine and the other arm when he happens in to it, the humble cunners who live in the sweat system and peddle he ways they do the fifth for the honour of the country, Brother Knarf the pin pricker who sticks a hard band on the pin street and the man and the man on the street with a tension-hating ring, a kingdom and the man and the man that do it - the only way we can have as much as we want to do go by, what you like some of the fantasy in Robert Taswell's book The Ranged Crossroad Philosophers, you'd like this, though you need a strong stomach through the book for the acid in the wordroom or the sweat-stingings.

So here we are, "strolled" the Norwegian millions, as their lives are just home and work, home and work every day for all of our decent bloody lives - the fists were up - "kept happy" - the only thing that could do for a living - "the vicarious" he was bowling - "Daily, Bloody, though as it all is a flash he grabbed the table and tipped it and the laughter and the conversation then turned and strode away towards the flames." -

Step by step the factory unfurls itself and reveals itself to be a gigantic con- tentary, a conspiracy in which everything is involved, not just one person, but completely senseless and pointless.

When we say that we want to get rid of this monstrous end-product of the whole society, we mean something.

"Good God, I said, is this machine we're fighting against a man or a part of it, of all its parts, and what we had done for the poor devil, who was covered with rust, with clinging pages and who has not touched the goodness of the smell of the foundry, smelt of the open air, the place where the dust of the concrete and the black dust became a haze on the window, and the ash on the floor, and the rust, and the smell of human sacrifice.

'My God, I said, is this what we have created?'


PHIL EVANS

DOCKER’S PENNYWORTH

HOLDING ON, by Mervyn Jones, £1.50

WITHIN the London seaside land grab by a bosses’ union, the small employments of the rivieran industries there has been a steady and significant growth of a new political tradition. A middle-class, middle-aged, treated working man could call a ‘passing of the party’ meeting, in 1911-1912 dock strikes and the post-war dock strike.

In fact the 1936 strike was the only occasion on which dockers showed a significant, organised, even radical, degree of militancy.

If our organisation means few jobs, why then today is it a matter of pride that his car was that close to the ground he was getting ready to make sure that the employers would have a fair ride over the hands of the strike?

The book seems to have been written in a vacuum.
The theatre/film exhibition

On the edge of the universe

THERE ARE TWO films, newly released, both science-fiction, one American, one Russian, both are disturbing— and one is a masterpiece.

Solaris has been hailed as the Russian mainstream experience: and it has. Now that film may have been interesting, but when set against Solaris, there’s no contest.

This Russian film is taken from a novel by a Pole, Stanislaw Lem, and deals with a communicator’s experience on a space station orbiting a mysterious planet covered by a strange shifting sea, a sea that has the power to take shape as grotesque pendulums of human forms, of catatonic, chains, grand canyons.

The communicator arrives and finds the station a shadow. Men had been studying the planet for more than 100 years and a science, Solaristik, has grown up around it. Most of the researchers have withdrawn, baffled, leaving just three men, one of whom commits suicide just before the arrival of the ‘communicator’. The three men become aware they are dealing with a form of life that has evolved as a huge brain that is the planet, floating in the infinity of the universe.

Still fascinated the viewer with the technology of space research, and would wound up with a semi-religious last reel. Solaris, both for the spectators and for the audience is concerned with a far more interesting subject: the human mind grappling with a universe it seeks to understand, but with only limited man-made ideas as tools.

Omega

It is a staggering film. It uses marxism and is sharply often hard on a concept of democracy.

It opened at the Odeon, Kensington, London, last Tuesday, and the distributors say they will have a problem getting it round the country because of shortage of prints, but the Russians are supportive of the film. If you see the film, try the book. It is published by Faber, and will soon be out in paperback.

After the masterpiece comes Soyisten Grein, which is about Charlotte Heston attempting to save the world. A job which has kept him going ever since he came down the mountain with the tablets in The Ten Commandments. Eternity is planned on the lines of Ancient Israel and Rome for soap operas and, like the rest of our film, quite a few of them. The Omega Man and now Soyisten Grein.

The year is 2022, the setting is New York, totally polluted, population 44 million, living on plantations supplied by the Soyisten Corporation.

It's a man who is investigating the murder of a top Soyisten executive. His name is Alistair. A Soyisten agent who is about to learn that a planet now dominated by a wealthy but despotic society was, at one time, a peaceful world peopled by a. The progress of all the members, such as the position of women under technological barbarism, is chilling.

Nigel Fountain

In the thirties

AN EXHIBITION titled London in the Thirties is now on at the London Museum, in Kensington High Street, and the catalogue says, it is an attempt to present the world as it would have been a decade before the war, and that the show is necessarily fascinating.

If you were in or around London in the late 1930s, you would have been surrounded by the new developments in the world of film. The talking pictures, the new sound equipment, the new cameras, the new techniques in editing, the new ways of lighting, the new ways of cutting the film. You would have been able to see the new films, and the new films would have been showing in the new cinemas.

The new cinemas would have been the ‘talkies’, the sound cinemas, the cinemas that were showing the new films. The new cinemas would have been the ‘talkies’, the sound cinemas, the cinemas that were showing the new films. The new cinemas would have been the ‘talkies’, the sound cinemas, the cinemas that were showing the new films.

They could go on singing

MIKE ROSEN, who recently appealed for socialist songs and poetry for a book he’s doing for Pluto Press, has been swamped by contributions. He wishes to thank everybody and will attempt to reply to all in time.

The working-class war widow is disturbed when her only son becomes involved with the Russian Bolshevik Party. The fear that her boy might get on the wrong side of the powers-that-be haunts her wretched life.

A working-class war widow is disturbed when her only son becomes involved with the Russian Bolshevik Party. The fear that her boy might get on the wrong side of the powers-that-be haunts her wretched life.

The production is presented by The Half Moon Theatre. It’s on until 21 July. Tickets are available from the box office on 26p. You can’t take your beer in from the bar— unless you’re aggressive—and it starts at the Hampstead hour of 7.30.

The girl who acts the mother is grand and the supporting cast do as well as anyone. I even got the feeling the audience were agreeing with more than they would wish. Yet it would have to go on with a lot more rap if it were to work for a working-class audience. For the theatre company, who seem to be committed to what they were saying. If that sort of thing is going to happen, it will die, change and develop as only Brecht could have wished.

Roland Muldun

In 1960 the council tenants in St Pancras, London, fought against a rent strike scheme which contained many of the elements which have now been incorporated in the Housing Finance Act. The story that that fight is told in this pamphlet by Dave Burn, with an introduction by Hugh Kerr of the Harlow Tenants Federation.

Rent Strike: St Pancras 1960

Dave Burn

A portrait of a woman

WWRANGING...R REVIEW PAGE

REVIEW PAGE

A RECENTLY-issued, strongly, a review of the film Theresien, reviewed Review Page's choice of films, reviewed should be seen that 'most people are going to see' and calling for an end to the intellectual and elitist rubbish that keeps appearing.

Well 90 per cent (literally) of the films we review are either circuit re-release or potential circuit release.

A letter in reply came from Nick Hart-Williams, of the Other Cinema, who argued that Socialist Worker should not be tied to new films just because they had been chosen by the big companies for general release. We should deal with films that should be seen—circuits or not—and should go beyond reviews to discuss the role of films and filmmakers.

Which is true, but provides problems. Review page must deal with the products that wind up at your local Odeon, because some happen to be very good—and others awful, but popular, and it's worth asking why. As far as non-circuit films are concerned, the general policy is to review them when we think them important, even if, unapologetically, readers will find it difficult to get to them.

One point made by Nick Hart-Williams which is very valid is that socialists could use films at their meetings for more. Both Current Action and the Berwick Street Film Collective have films on the struggle in Britain—documentaries and shorts which would be worth showing.

The collective is just finishing a film which traces the history of the struggle of the struggle of the women in night clubs for union rights, and does not. It is not of limited interest either—for deals with the development of a struggle and is relevant for all workers, not just those working in night clubs.

The tragedy is that socialist filmmakers can't make films as they arise, and get prints of the films to unions branches and socialist groups around the country. A film on the recent Chrysler dispute would be worth acres of newspaper, attempts to do this are going on in France at the moment. The problem is not lack of enthusiasm, but cash.

Important, but this is the clearest I've seen. I recommend the experience.

They are on take one of those 'deak fists' down to the super new cinemas.

Then the exhibition gets to business and shows us the new machines arriving in London in 1936. No expositions accompany the photographs. Unfortunately the museum still thinks one photo is worth 10,000 words.

There is even a picture of some communists behind a street barricade in London. Judging by the space these and the battle for Cable Street get, you would think that the depression, Stalin, and millions of unemployed happened somewhere else and in another country. Certainly not in the zippy new Britain of the 1930s.

Despite this, the exhibition is worth seeing if you're in or near London. Have a look. It costs 20p, and I guarantee a few good laughs.

John Hellebrand

Mother takes the red flag

Wooden

The production is presented by The Half Moon Theatre. It's on until 21 July. Tickets are available from the box office on 26p. You can't take your beer in from the bar—unless you're aggressive—and it starts at the Hampstead hour of 7.30.

Now I am forced to add that because of the cultural differences between today and what the exhibition was written it comes across in a wooden way.

The girl who acts the mother is grand and the supporting cast do as well as anyone. I even got the feeling the audience were agreeing with more than they would wish. Yet it would have to go on with a lot more rap if it were to work for a working-class audience. For the theatre company, who seem to be committed to what they were saying. If that sort of thing is going to happen, it will die, change and develop as only Brecht could have wished.

Roland Muldun

In 1960 the council tenants in St Pancras, London, fought against a rent strike scheme which contained many of the elements which have now been incorporated in the Housing Finance Act. The story that that fight is told in this pamphlet by Dave Burn, with an introduction by Hugh Kerr of the Harlow Tenants Federation.

Rent Strike: St Pancras 1960

Dave Burn

A portrait of a woman
Mistakes that opened the door for disaster

The Loftus house disaster and the negligence which contributed to it reminded me of the war years when I was employed at Avery's, a manufacturer in the Warwickshire coalfield as a Bevin Boy.

The ‘stall’ where I worked had been operating in contravention of the Coal Mines Act for years. It was impossible to use a coalcutting machine on the face owing to the fragmented roof in ‘46’s’ sill. It is contrary to the Coal Mines Act to use explosive to bring down uncontrollable conditions. Yet this we did every day.

When an inspector came in I was told to hide it in these tawdrily under sack coal. The inspector must have known all about this. DAVID FRASER, rugby.

No, haters don’t make the best socialists

A GOOD revolutionary is not motivated primarily by hate as John Fiske suggests in ‘The People Who Rank as the best fighters,’ 30 June. The best Marxists were men of great compassion, whose compassion for the hecatics Marx, Lenin or Trotsky will confirm (this is also true of the best writers in any field).

A psychology of hate leads to universal contempt and detestation. One year that he tried to control his hatred for the so-called bourgeoisie it was impossible for him to attempt to recruit them into the union. Blind hatred makes the most reasonable people, he needed to temper his emotions with a hard-headed strategy. It is necessary to be both hardheaded and kind-hearted.

There is another danger to John Fiske’s arguments. If you are motivated by hate then you may create hate relationships throughout the revolutionary group. Some existing sectarian groups operate on the basis of brooding and holding the terrors of the other. This is one reason why they won’t build a revolutionary party.

Finally, I have a theoretical error in the letter. Fiske has a ‘stages theory’ of revolution. ‘Stage 1’ is ‘light of hatred’ and ‘stage 2’ the revolutionaries being soullessly self-interested.

Mike rejected this way of thinking. The seeds of the ‘new’ are here and now in the ‘womb of present society. It is foolish to forget this fact because, in certain historical circumstances, the seeds arise in the movement with all the characteristics of hatred and the result can be disastrous. Witness Stalin. JOHN SOUTHGATE, London NW3.

The rich were never needed

SHAME on Chris Harman. Class division never has been, nor will be inevitable. He is an exponent of the past using an argument that is still frequently applied in varying forms to the present.

At what magic moment in time did the wealthy, limited elite class become necessary to human advancement and become an oppressive ruling class of whom we ought to be afraid? Nineteenth century millionaires were no more socially beneficial than the industrial magnates of today—profit before people, then as now.

Those who are possessed of wealth may be forced into the service of the working people in order to prevent them from the asking. There will always be a substantial minority of people ready to fight to retain their privileged status.

Once power has been wrested from them the whole machinery of the state will be put in place to crush their resistance so that in an effort to preserve itself the revolution seals the seeds of its own destruction. It is this that forces the continuing path of the past and will preserve those of the future until conscious flesh means of shaking the majority of working people out of their apathetic compliance with the existing system into using their main weapon—force of numbers—peaceful and powerful effect.

Perhaps all of this has been done, or attempted, but it is so important for the hospital workers’ struggle that we should hear about it, one way or another. E. DYER, London WC1.
Communication is power—money in control

ABOUT two-thirds of the way through his diligent examination of modern journalism,* Herbert Brucker writes: "Our problem remains what it has always been—to demystify communication. Suspect—burnish—but he lacks a sense of outrage, while approving it in others. So, while he can recognize the equation money--power of communication, he cannot hope of altering the equation will only come through a radical change in society."

He goes on musing about the relationship between communication and politics. "Politics is a pig that so much thought politeness and its pretension to lead to a whim of connoisseurs. He cites also in his book the examples of French, German and Scandinavian 'democratisation'—particularly on Le Monde, where the staff have a controlling slice of the action and a veto was exercised over the use of pictures, in an attempt to make sure that the power..."


The Struggle for Power

In the spring of 1972, the British Labour Party was enjoying a period of stability and prosperity. The review of the report on British Leyland was expected to continue the positive trend of recent years. However, the situation was not as rosy as it seemed.

The British Leyland Motor Corporation, a large and influential company, was facing a number of challenges. The company was trying to keep up with the changing demands of the market, but it was also facing increased competition from foreign manufacturers. The company's management was under pressure to deliver better results, but it was also facing criticism for its high levels of debt.

The situation was complicated by the fact that the British government was also facing a number of challenges. The government was trying to balance its budget, but it was also facing criticism for its high levels of debt.

In the end, the British Leyland Motor Corporation was able to weather the storm. The company was able to deliver better results, and the government was able to balance its budget. However, the situation was not without its challenges, and the company and the government continued to face pressure from their respective stakeholders.

Communication and Money

Communication is a powerful tool, and it is often used to manipulate people. The relationship between communication and money is complex, and it is often difficult to determine who is using communication to control others.

The Struggle for Power

The British Labour Party was facing a number of challenges. The party was trying to maintain its support among the working class, but it was also facing criticism for its high levels of debt. The party was also facing increased competition from the Conservative Party, which was gaining popularity among voters.

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Militant beaten up by police

"I'll show you my credentials," said Tony Boyle, engineer working at Massey Ferguson, Liverpool, holding a jacket soaked in blood and a number of photographs of his face battered. This is what happened to me last Saturday when I was running around, beating up policemen, handheld to a van. Someone found the strength to throw a 3ft by 1ft by 3ft 5in long bit of wood 600 yards into the Mersey.

He was appealing to a packed meeting of International Socialists on Wednesday last week for funds to help the defence of three IS members arrested during the previous Saturday's demonstration which forced Colin Jordan's fascists out of Liverpool, probably forever.

So angry were several of Tony's mates when they saw his condition after being released on bail that the police stated they had to be restrained from re-entering the station and tearing the officer's shoulders. Tony, whose face was instantly blooded, had been charged with assaulting the police officers and possessing an offensive weapon -- the stick which he had, according to the police statements, thrown into the Mersey.

The meeting collected more than £35 for the defence fund.

Earlier Paul Foot, from the IS national committee, had spoken of the urgent need to build a revolutionary party. Six people joined IS after the meeting.

BRITAIN'S 260,000 miners put down their names last week for the coming fight against Phase Three of the Tory wage freeze.

Delegates to the conference here instructed their executive to lodge a claim for increases of between £2.51 and £2.71 and voted for a policy of confrontation if the government's limitations seek to restrict the claim.

President Joe Gormley made the appeal that has ever passed his lips, but that did not fool many rank and file delegates who recognized the familiar signs of half-truths.

Mr Gormley promised that "never again shall we allow miners' wages to slip down the scale, such as we allowed during those years of 1947 to 1958. But at the same time he committed himself to the pending productivity deal, ignoring the fact that productivity dealing led to many wage cuts, massive redundancies and sweeping job losses in the late 1960s.

He pledged: "How can anyone expect trade union leaders to be moderate in their claims for wages for the miners when they see so much money available for squandering on the boardroom of mining companies?"

FAILURE

The wages resolution instructed the national executive to secure increases to establish a wage basis of £5 a week for black coal and £4.50 a week for face workers, in an agreement to run for 12 months from 2nd December.

The executive was instructed to ballot the members for a national negotiation or settlement of the miners' basic wage claims. After the failure of an attempt by delegates to withdraw an executive invitation to Coal Board chairman by Bill Message, Inverness.

DEREK extra to speak, extra made the familiar appeals for higher productivity by the NUM and the NCB. Telling of the recent European tour by board and union officials, he said: 'On our travels throughout Europe I'm glad to say that the people to whom we speak often cannot tell who is a capitalist and who is not. They can achieve this external appearance of solidarity I am sure that we can.

Not a murmur of protest from the union leadership greeted this scaldingly indictment of the example of NUM officials or their fellow trade unionists in Europe.

The conference passed unanimously by a resolution declaring its complete opposition to the Industrial Relations Act and advocating a policy of non-co-operation with the agencies that the act has created. Mr Gormley said that it was 'accepted on the understanding that the union is still able to protect itself' by appearing before those very same agencies.

The meeting voted that the conference did not intend to reject the government's anti-inflation policy and asked the executive to consider taking steps to examine this when this stands in the way of legitimate collective action. It also condemned the 'hugely inflationary burden of arms spending' which now weighs on the community and demanded the repeal of the Housing Association Act, pleading its support to local authorities which defy the Act.

A resolution adopted under the executive's handing of this year's resolution on productivity, but many of the lessons of the unsuccessful ballot of March this year were not used. Delegates pressed the executive to use them more promptly, but it is not likely to go before the Coal Board until the beginning of October. Despite McGahey and other officials' attempts to return to the coalfields for the campaign, the claim has not been an immediate overture ban to prepare for the next.

Arthur Scargill, newly-elected president of Yorkshire NUM, claimed it was not necessary to discuss the tactics at this time, hinted at possible new methods of struggle.

INSIST

This attitude which exists amongst many of the Left-Unionist and Communist Party leaders in the NUM needs to be fought hard by the rank and file, who must insist on their right to discuss and prepare for the fight now. These 'left' leaders only play into the hands of the right-wing by failing to mobilise the members in preparation for the waging and betrayal that they are planning.

In the election for a national NEC, the Right-wing and anti-socialist right-wing Sydney Schofield, who won the IS seat, andqua McGahey beat Len Clark, president of the Nottingham area, by 155 votes.

McGahey also came close to beating the Blackpool IS candidate, while two NUM representatives for the TUC General Council, the voting was for Lawrence Daly 278, Joe Gormley 146, Michael McGahey 155.

Village workers to defend 1000 jobs

HORDON, East Lancs: 1000 workers are waiting for the message that will mean the end of their jobs.

For their bosses, HowardRotovator, the advertising company, who have decided to close down the only major industry in Hordon, a small Lancashire town, will at some time between now and autumn, possibly in the next few weeks, fire 1000 women on the unemployment list in an area where jobs are scarce.

Management dropped the axe when they called the stewards in to discuss a pay rise. The stewards were told that there was no money in it to expand.

But for former stewards John "This is madness! We have been working here for the past two years but never said anything. We will be through the blood, but we have been existing on the money we have."

The factory is now a net 1000 jobs. The factory is a net 1000 jobs.

No guarantee

Previously only 500 jobs have been offered outside the factory. John said: "We have plenty of work. The plan has been made to give a benefit of between £1 million and £1.5 million to the workers." In the meantime, John said: "We are not going to just wait and see what happens. We are going to fight for our jobs."

The Factory has now been closed and the workers have gone home. The factory is now empty. The factory is a net 1000 jobs.

BUSINESS PLAN IS PLANNED

MEMBERS of the international trade union movement who work in the bus industry have appealed to members of their trade union rank and file for paper. A meeting was held recently which was attended by 15 members of the National Union of Tuberculosis and South Wales, and the motion was passed.

One is already established in Yorks.
by Ian Collins, TGWU, Bristol

BETL-The local transport union district committee has refused to support the campaign of the SEIU builders' workers to be tried at Shrewsbury. A resolution at the last meeting of the steel fixers' and labourers' branches, calling on all shop stewards and shop stewards to discuss the issues, was never put, despite an appeal.

Bill Hamer, local building section full-time official, said it was ‘unconstitutional’ since it was being moved by labourers at all last year's meetings. This is correct, according to the minutes. But last week’s meeting was held 12 days after the labourers’ branch met. Under pressure, two meetings were held at last year’s strike, but now the union is refusing to report to their members on the issues in dispute, insisting there is ‘nothing to report’. The union is claiming an unusual communication with the builders’ control of the meetings and the presentation of the issues is a form of controlling the union’s business meeting.

MOLD, Flintshire-The first stage of the biggest court-room attack on picketing and workers' organisations in this country for a half a century is now under way.

In the Crown Court at Mold eight North Wales building workers are on trial accused of making an affray, intimidating people to refrain from working and causing damage to property during a picketing of the Ironbridge Dam site at the height of the official building workers' strike last September.

The trial is now in its third week, and the defence is not expected to open its case until next month. It is likely to continue into November.

Five of the eight defendants were involved in the events on October 26 which led to the alleged illegal strike activity to intimidate strikebreakers during the same strike.

The prosecution has concentrated its fire on the supposedly illegal actions of the Chester and North Wales action committee, on the defendants' membership of, or association with, the militant rank and file trade unions. On some of the defendants' alleged admissions that they had taken part in damaging property, the defence has opened.

Maurice Daven, prosecuting, said last week that what had allegedly gone on at the site was not 'ordinary trade union conduct'. The pickets had been organised by the action committee and this was not part of the union.

In fact the action committee were set up officially by both unions concerned, the Union of Construction, Allied Trade and Technicians and the Transport and General Workers' Union, to organise and strengthen the strike. The men were members of Building Workers' China Aid. This was not, he intimated, a 'trade union movement', and its aims were the same as the official movement of the trade union movement.

Building Workers' China Aid is the rank and file trade union which holds regular meetings, publishes a paper and elects officials in exactly the same way as any other movement, according to Mr. Daven. He then opened his case of the events of the official trade union movement and the prosecution's case of the events.

Refuse

The prosecution has also made constant reference to the Shrewsbury trial and the events leading up to it. This is part of the attempt to establish a 'smarter' element in the case. The judge, Lord Justice Talboys, set aside definitions of this line of argument.

Kenneth O'Brien, the defendant, said under oath that when the police first came and asked him to go to the police station for questioning and he refused, they said they would put a warrant out for him if he didn't come. He added that he had been threatened with 10 years imprisonment and that he got the impression that the police were determined to get convictions.

Mr. O'Brien said he felt that he had been treated like an animal by the police—his wife, he added—because the police had 10 years prison sentences. He was not treated like anything, he added. He had been informed that he had not been treated like anything, he added. He denied that he had been at any time admittance to a dump, any treatment.

Chrysler

The news that the dust has settled over the Chrysler 'shockry' affair, the only thing that can be learned.

It is the fact that a determined and united workforce can and will win concessions from a reactionary management. The Chrysler workers proved this strike by the flying picket.

Another telling lesson, and a lesson in unity, is that you cannot win without a fight. No doubt they scored on several points, but when a union's power lies so long as you are united. Did the workers feel that they could win in the end? Did the workers feel that they could win in the end? Did the workers feel that they could win in the end?

The gallant comforted informed a group of Chrysler workers that the car was the result of the workers' determination, and the two workers were unable to do without it.
Back-to-work vote a farce—steward

PERKINS 30
BATTLE

PETERBOROUGH: 3000 workers at Perkins Engines walked out on strike on Tuesday less than two hours after returning to work after a 24-hour lock-out. The previous day a mass meeting had defeated a leadership-sponsored recommendation for a 24-hour lock-out agreement after Bob Wright, the Executive Council's vice-president, told them management had concealed the principle of parity with the Coventry factories of parent company Massey Ferguson.

Militants at Monday's meeting had wanted to contest Wright's claim. They called back to the meeting the right to address the meeting themselves. Stewards on the platform seemed about to agree with them, but Wright refused to let the militants speak, shouting that there were paid arbitrators on the committee.

CONFUSION

One Perkins worker leapt on to the platform and took the microphone. He ran towards him, grabbed the microphone and pushed away the man, whose union does help pay for Wright's well pressed and expensive pin-striped suit.

During that confusion the vote was taken, even though the workers had only heard one speech and one point of view. It was declared carried.

Afterwards groups of workers were scattered all over the playing field trying to work out what had happened. In one group of about 50 workers it was managed to divide and confuse a work force which had stood firm against 11 arrests and three and a half weeks of lock-out by the management.

TOO CLEVER

As he hurried off the platform, he did not notice that he trod on a couple of torn-up union cards flung down by disgruntled workers.

'It's typical. You can see what side they are on,' Perkins worker Pat Bennett told Socialist Worker. 'They won't let us have the meeting to allow any discussion.' Shop steward Paul Green described the way the vote had been handled as 'a farce.'

But Bob Wright had been just a bit too clever on the very evening a management spokesman made it clear that the company had accepted the workers' main demand. The union can put whatever interference pre-tation they want on the agreement. But we haven't conceded anything,' he said, when questioned on Anglia TV.

The same night, stewards who had worked to defeat the lock-out, angrily demanded the retraction of this statement and the sacking of four canteen workers who had worked during the lock-out. Ernie Mason, senior engineering union steward, summed up the feelings of a lot of workers: 'I am not a militant. I am not an anarchist. At the same time, I have demanded the settlement, but I've since changed my mind.'

Another steward, who did not wish to be named, said that a Perkins spokesman had done more for the unions at Perkins by telling the truth than Bob Wright and all the full-time officials put together.

Deputy convenor Jeff Cill told Tuesday's mass meeting: 'We ask you what you want to do.' There were chants of 'Out! Out!' and 'Bob Wright Out!'

Union cold shoulders strikers

ROTELT-Officials of the electronics' union ignored strikers from the Inland Revenue site, the longest strike in Britain, at a meeting of the Joint Industry Board at the National Westminster Bank's offices in the City.

The JIB was meeting to discuss two separate consultation issues taken from a Freedom to Shop initiative. Following a two-week lock-out, Three strikers from the Inland Revenue site, Perry Law, Keith Lofthouse and the Adelphi, went to the JIB for a meeting with the JIB, or to at least arrange a meeting.

While they were waiting outside the hotel for the strike to end, the strikers met Arthur Rees, an ETA area official. Perry explained in a blue tie and work cut suit, vaguely that he was going to a meeting in the JIB.

When the strikers entered the hotel, they were told by porters that the JIB meeting was secret, and the room number was not to be disclosed. Notice of the meeting had been removed from the board.

The JIB had also left word that it would accept no written communications. Tommy Hendry, a striker, said: "We're trying to get a settlement, but they don't want to know. While they persist with this attitude we won't go back.'

The JIB had started two and a half years ago, when 16 electronics' strikers decided an extra 28p an hour, to give them parity with other workers on the site. The employees are James Scott and Len Bowley, subcontractors to McAlpine, and the management have persistently refused to negotiate, happy in the knowledge that the government has been too busy with the building.

Employer's minister Chadwick Clarke has stated that men have had to be laid off since last July because of the strike.

By A three to one majority delegates to the Transport Union's delegate conference in Preston last week elected Deputy General Secretary and shop stewards' representative Jack Jones the go-ahead to the TUC talks with the Tory government and the Conservative party.

The debate on Tuesday showed much militancy against the Tories and their masters, the employers, but Jack Jones and his two canteen colleagues, John Cossins and Tony Johnson, were supported by delegates from the floor who stood out for a solid statement of policy, the shop stewards' representative, 'getting the union's voice in line. We must break the go-out victory and break the name for breaking off talks.'

The vote on the resolution of class collaboration. 'I have the responsibility to put your case... I'm not paid to be creamed. I'm paid to speak and act. I'll put your case as fearlessly as possible, not pour any punch into it.'

You don't!' someone roared. 'You don't!' another interjected. One delegate and in truth Jack Jones has come to the scene. His speech showed there was no real strategy for tackling the Tories, the employers' offensive and, no understanding why it is happening.

Talks and more talks are the only answer, they say. Somebody along the line, it is hoped, the trade unions' 'inevitable' case for the employees, can come up with a free collective bargaining, for price controls, for higher, proper wage increases. Minimum wages will be laid off. Black is not upset. And to the JIB.

Delegates give Jones go-ahead for No 10 talks

by Laurie Flynn, Brighton

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Bernie Holland, a Covent Garden porter, who must remain on a fight out way fair face. Come in and see the whole thing. That's involved in going in there is seeing crumby. What you could be after is the real limit, where this hand goes back to the people.'

Jimmy Daines, from Coventry, said: "The problem is we've already been raped. Why should we go back in and get raped again in the hope that this time we might enjoy it?"

But Jones pleaded and got his season ticket for No 10 preserved.

"He got it because the left is busy trying to make sure that every time the ending the talks is linked with a call for a vote or a no confidence motion, their policies and ideas and their system. The will is there. It is crying out for organization and direction.

LOCK-OUT NEWSMEN GO ALONE

NOTTINGHAM—Printworkers and journalists in dispute with E Bailey Forman, publishers of the News of the World newspaper, are publishing their own newspaper. The signing of the agreement would be on the proposed new paper, called The Times, to the former News of the World group, published Nottingham Evening Post and Guardian Journal.

The agreement to the dispute was under a liaison committee of all five unions involved, his increased circulation.

Although the original cause of the dispute has long since been settled, the management is insisting on its 'point of rank'.--the strike of the Guardian Journal, and a promise from the unions that blacking who have worked during the dispute will not be disciplined.

Last Tuesday, a mass meeting of all the workers involved unanimously condemned the liaison committee's 'intransigent attitude' and called for trade action against all those who acted against the interests of the unions.

An issue of The Times will appear every Wednesday, and possibly every day, until the dispute ends.

DEADLOCK ON FLEET STREET

The national newspaper proprietors, who have been actively advocating 'threshold agreements' as the 'answer' to industrial relations are actually openly seeking a threshold agreement which they signed only nine months ago.

In a deal hurried through last October to settle the wage freeze, the Newspaper Publishers Association, which includes the owners of all national dailies and Sunday, paid an 8 percent increase to all its national and district workers, and promised the six unions involved a further 8 percent this October.

The agreement stated that if meaningful cost of living index rose above 173.4 for any two months together, the increase would be paid for those months.

The cost of living index in May was 173.8. The figure for June, which will be available soon, will be even higher. Yet the newspaper bosses, who can hardly more for less from the advertising boom, are refusing to pay out as promised.

Their excuse would payment in breach of the wages freeze law. It is named in his hand on her Walter, Lord Goodman, chairman of the NPA and one of the richest lawyers in the country, has explained that in his view it must remain on the side of the law. His members agree.

The unions do not. Members of the National Society of Industrial Printers and Assistants (NASIOPA) have called meetings at crucial production times, with resulting losses in newspaper production to the value of about £1.5 million.

The bosses have left to deal with the press between four and five of the unions involved. The successor of NASIOPA, however, has barred Richard Brightman from attending any talks with the NPA until the bosses agree to pay the money as promised.

MILITANT

This has led to deadlock, with the bosses even threatening to lock out all workers from the national papers unless they can rely on 'cooperation'.

A similar situation in Scotland last month was dealt with by the Scottish Pulpie Newspaper Society after only two days of militant action by the Scottish Typographical Association. The unions agreed to a 3 percent increase in exchange for a promise of another paid nonproduction day at Christmas. This would bring in as much money as the £8 per cent and cannot be guaranteed, unless we can know what promises the government will take to deny wages increased during Phase Three.

Nevertheless, it is clear that at least five of the six unions are prepared to call a similar settlement in England.