As wages are battered by soaring prices, workers must tell TUC:
STOP TALKING AND FIGHT!

LEADERS of 10 million trade unionists will sink back to Downing Street next week for further talks with the Tories and the employers. As their members' wages and living standards take a ferocious battering from ever-rocketing prices, the TUC chiefs will appeal to the 'better nature' of Heath and his big business buddies to make the Tories a little fairer for working people.

The union leaders will feel no one but themselves. Talking will not stop the Tories from continuing their assault on workers and their organisations.

The TUC has talked for years. It has had talks at Downing Street, at Chequers, secret talks and 'off the record' talks. And the only result of these long-drawn sessions has been to strengthen the Tories.

Just to rub the point home, the presentation of the TUC’s trip to Downing Street, massive new price increases were announced this week. The Price Commission, which has as much concern for working-class families’ living standards as the French government has for the results of nuclear fallout, has allowed:

- 4.8 per cent increases on mincemeat, Christmas puddings and table jellies produced by Cadbury-Schweppes
- 1.8 per cent increases on Heinz baby foods, salad dressings and canned salads
- 8.1 per cent increases for a range of meat products by the Mattelwines Meat Trust
- 8.39 per cent increases on Smedley-HP bottled sauces and 6.59 per cent on bottled pickles.

Also going up are: car batteries, tableware, parcels and freight charges, hotel and restaurant prices and feeding stuffs.

They all add up to a further chopping at living standards while wages have been either totally frozen or held down to £1 plus 4 per cent. As we reported last week, workers' living standards have FALLEN by 4 per cent in the first quarter of this year.

And still the TUC leaders want to go on talking with the cynical band of profiteers and speculators responsible for this robbery of the working class. Talk while the vicious Industrial Relations Act is still in operation. While workers like the Shrewsbury 26 face conspiracy trials for the 'crime' of defending trade unionism.

TALKS ARE A FRAUD

At its union conference, Transport Workers' leader Jack Jones, pleading for permission to go on the picket line for the forelock to Heath and company, said the union had to 'put its point of view' to the government.

The bosses have no such illusions. They know the talks are a fraud, a smokescreen for their real intentions. Sir Michael Clapham, chief of the Confederation of British Industry, said in a speech last week that Phase Three of the incomes policy this autumn would be 'very tough'.

It is time to drag down the curtain on the long-running farce starring Ted Heath, Sir Michael Clapham, Vic Feather and Jack Jones. Like all such productions, it is entirely predictable: it's always the workers who lose their trousers.

The strength of the working class doesn't lie at the conference table. It is in the factories, the mines, the shipyards and every workplace. It is there that the preparations must be laid for a mighty fight back against Phase Three this autumn.

The miners proved in 1972 that a powerful movement from rank and file level could force their union leaders from the praying position to the fighting position. The miners proved, simply, that the workers can win.

That lesson must be rammed home anew. From every section of the labour movement, the call must go out to the TUC and its member unions:

- Stop talking to the Tories and the bosses.
- State publicly that strike action will be organised whenever any section of workers is threatened with legal action.
- Prepare now for industrial action to win the engineers' crucial pay claim of 35; a 35-hour week and equal pay for women.
- Prepare now for the equally vital miners' pay claim of up to 42 per cent ston.

The powerful potential of the trade unions can organise to smash Phase Three. They can blast a hole through which every other section can march. It is a defeat which this Tory government of riches for the few and misery for the masses could not survive.

Fascist thug chased by big demos

Everywhere that Portugal's fascist murderer Castro went, this week he was challenged by angry demonstrations by supporters of the freedom fighters in the Portuguese territories in Africa. Picture shows a section of the 5000-strong crowd in Hyde Park before Sunday's march to Downing Street and the Portuguese embassy.

Many speakers at the rally, including Sir John Betjeman and Sir Christopher Darrin, blamed the TUC's failure to join the Labour Day march on the workers for the situation.

Against racism

THIS SUNDAY, by coach and by train, thousands of black people, trade unionists and socialists will converge on London. Their aim is to march, demonstrate and agitate against the Law Lords' decision that illegal immigrants who entered the country since 1968 can be deported.

It is one of the most sinister legal decisions taken for years. It follows in the footsteps of the Industrial Relations Act. It is another Tory turn of the screw on the working class.

As Gunshan Singh, president of the Bradford branch of the Indian Workers' Association, told Socialist Workers this week:

'This Act is an example of how racism has emerged from the capitalist class to enable them to defend their profits and divide the working class. This demonstration can make political conscious that in attempting to divide the working class this Act is against the whole working class, not just the blacks.'

It is also an instrument to express ourselves and is one source of preparing the people to defeat these capitalist manoeuvres. We must not see the demonstration as an end in itself. This is just one of the means. We want consistent and continued struggle until we achieve our object—to defeat these Acts.'

All must unite to defeat these moves and endeavour to build up a movement at grass roots level and also at trade union level.

The International Socialists are giving the Sunday march total support. Thousands of members will flock to London to oppose the new piece of anti-worker legislation by the Tories.

This issue of Socialist Worker contains important articles on the issue.

The Tory time bomb—and how to fight it: centre pages.

Editorial comment: page 3.

ALL IS BRANCHES TO SUPPORT

Fight the Tory pass laws

Sunday 22 July
Assembly 2.30 Hyde Park Corner
March to 10 Downing Street
(Protest coach from Diamion Cinema, Southall)
COLORADO is one of the most beautiful states of the United States. Tourism—its third biggest industry accounted for $650 million dollars last year, and driving through the state, you can see why.

Yet all is not well. Three years ago the US Army promised to remove its chemical warfare stocks from the Rocky Mountain Arsenal near Denver by 1973. It is now midway through 1973 and the Army is keeping quiet on its plans for the dump.

The Army, however, denying responsibility for the delay. They say that the Chemical Warfare Company, which manufactures the chemical ground, is responsible for Mr. Rocky Mountain Arsenal.

His problem is that he farms 80 acres himself, and since last summer 250 cows have died and there is considerable fear.

Shell has refused to allow Mr. Land access to the ponds where it dumps its waste pesticides—it manufactures nine different kinds on the arsenic property—so there is no proof that it is chemically contaminated ground water from the arsenic that is doing the damage. Mr. Land is therefore mounting a petition drive to force Shell Chemical out of the area.

The Army has also written to the governor of Colorado, John Love, who is directly responsible to the Secretary of Interior, that the report was their plan, that the decision was made a year ago.

Governor Love sent a trip down to Shell, toured the facility, and held a meeting in Denver, and held another meeting in the state capitol. The meeting, according to Love, was attended by about 30 people, including the state legislators, and the governor.

Governor Love said that he thought the problem was serious and that he would do everything in his power to get it resolved.

The decision was made by the federal government, which is responsible for the cleanup of chemical waste.

The Army has said that it will not be able to complete the clean-up until the year 2000, and that it will cost about $200 million.

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ALL EIGHT North Wales building workers on trial at Mold Crown Court in Flintshire last week were cleared of all charges against them. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty on the charges of intimidating witnesses to abstain from work and causing an affray.

The two charges were brought by the Director of Public Prosecutions following consistent pressure for a legal action against the big building contractors firms assisted by their friends in the House of Commons.

As soon as the verdicts were returned last Thursday, three men charged on these two counts alone, Colin Kalra, Roy Hughes and Kevin Dyer were granted bail. The five others remained and were fined on damage to property charges.

John Seaburg and Gwynfor Williams were each fined £50 for damaging a drilling rig, Ken O’Shea £50 for this same charge and £15 for damaging a dumper truck and Derrick Hughes and Gwyn Roberts £15 each, for damaging a dumper.

After the trial Ken O’Shea said: ‘This verdict is a great victory for the building workers and the trade union movement. It has perhaps created precedent for other trials of a similar nature and it has to be in an attempt to stop workers picketing when on strike.’

Five of last week’s defendants at Mold will also face trial on similar counts in October as part of the massive court action against the big building contractors. This is an even more serious assault on effective picketing since it involves the use of conspiracy charges against some of the men.

IT is vitally important that everyone understands why these prosecutions are being brought. The building strike last year put the biggest wages rise ever obtained in the building trade. It was the struggle that the employers and they knew we were planning a campaign to follow up our victory, to beat the big firms and win the industry for trade unionism.

They are now fighting to strike back at us. But above all they were concerned at the effectiveness of picketing and what it could achieve in the struggle of 1972. Just as it was with the building workers’ strikes, this is part of our effective picketing our struggle which is still far from over.

The big companies in the construction industry and elsewhere had to the standing together effect of the existing laws against picketing. These laws, however, are not suitable for this at the instigation of the big firms.

It took them a full five months after the settlement of the strike to come to an agreement. It took them five months to that a campaign against our lads in November. I would like to see the same conspiracy and Protection of Property Act.

There’s no shadow of a doubt that these cases are being managed. The police and the courts are a handy tool for the employers and their millions, the government. There’s just no other explanation.

If it’s not being stage-managed, then why is it that there were no immediate arrests during the actual picketing, during the strike itself?

Miners support appeal

Houghton Main branch of the National Union of Mineworkers near Berwickshire, Yorkshire, has voted to endorse the trade union appeal against the move to close the Houghton Main Colliery, a Socialist Worker last week. See also this week’s letters on page 13.

Tom Henderson, district president, No 4 district, Sheet Metal Workers Union, a signatory to last week’s statement, signed in his personal capacity, a point omitted from the statement. And Father Trinder of Wolverhampton was misquoted as Soaring Trinder.

Socialist Worker

I’M NOT HAVING any bloody immigrant telling me what to do.” The speaker was an elderly Scotswoman who had moved to south to avoid the venues. “I am a Scot, and I would have a complaint from a West Indian about a machine. The poor deluded woman, harassed, overworked and then unsupported, went on at length about the way she was treated by someone she could regard as being lower down in the heap.

That is the basis of a good deal of working-class racism. It is a poison that is most effective when people feel powerless. It is a poison that weakens the working class and so increases the people who have no right to give rise to it in the first place. It is a poison that strengthens those dedicated enemies of the movement, Enoch Powell, the National Front and all the fascist psychopaths.

Anyone who has swallowed a large dose of this poison is usually beyond reason. That does not mean that militants should not argue about the subject. Exactly the opposite. It has to be taken up in every workplace, it has to be taken up to isolate the racists, to neutralise them and to win over the workers. Because, make no mistake about it, our rulers need, and will exploit to the full, any and every means of setting working people against one another.

Racism is one of the most effective means because, though it is quite irrational, it feeds on very real problems, on the misfortunes and frustrations of the people, and this is a poison that gives rise to the unity and fighting spirit of the working class in the interests of the bosses.

Our real reason for a maximum fight by the whole labour movement against the ‘retrospective’ ruling on the Immigration Act is precisely because it is an attempt to drive a wedge between black and white workers. For otherwise (and very large numbers are white), are not the cause of the housing shortage, of cuts in social services, of the problem caused by foreign workers. So the Jews were used as a scapegoat instead. The same thing was tried by Mosley’s thugs in the 1930s. In each and every country, the objective is the same – to isolate, to the unity and fighting spirit of the working class in the interests of the bosses.

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The same is true as far as the TUC is concerned. Karl Marx first wrote, that the only way forward for working people is socialism and the only basis of genuine socialism is ‘for the world unite’ whether they be black, brown, white or yellow.

CYNICAL CONVERSION

IT IS SAID that there is more joy in heaven over one repentant sinner than over all the righteous. If this is true there must be a celebration going on behind the pearly gates.

Harold Wilson, the man who consistently covered up for the US government’s murderous war against the people of Vietnam and who flirted refused even to condemn the indiscriminate bombing of towns and villages has been moved to protest against the official visit of the man who directs Portugal’s smaller but equally. It is against the people of Mozambique, Angola and Guinea.

Cynics may think that Wilson’s ‘conversion’ owes more to the ‘revolution’ in Portugal than to any genuine change of heart. All the same the Labour Party’s stand on this issue must be defended. It is a definite stand against the US ‘revolutionary’ movements and against the labour movement for the anti-imperialist struggle in Africa.

It is not that alone. The fascist clique that rules Portugal carries on its colonial wars with NATO aims, with the help of a military alliance of which Britain is a member, it is the war against the people of Portugal and into NATO and all the other cold war pacts into which any and Labour governments alike have dragged us is not a battle of the sins of those we are fighting, but a battle of opposition, claiming to be opposed to imperialism.

[Image 0x0 to 840x1189]
Textile women warn bosses

A REVOLT of young women textile workers at a factory owned by a Gulf Oil subsidiary in Singapore has threatened the industrial peace that makes Singapore an attractive source of cheap labour for foreign capitalists. Singapore has strict labour laws and a government-controlled trade-union movement. Many workers are immigrants from Malaysia, whose workers' unions cannot be revoked if they make trouble or get too strong among the workers, but they had no recognition that Peron felt similar working class aspirations.

Left fights the myth as Peron returns

by Mike Gonzalez

DURING the short-lived government of Hector Campora in Argentina, the atmosphere of crisis and street violence never wavered. Factories and public building were frequently expropriated and opened, and former prisoners appointed to high places.

At Buenos Aires airport, the right wing of the Peronist movement, designed to crush the revolutionary left which had introduced Peron to the world, was to leave for the airport where Joan Peron was to arrive from his campesino settlement after six weeks in office seems to be based on the belief that only Peron himself by securing a new presidential election, can regain control of the situation.

There are deep contradictions within the Peronist movement itself. Under one name lies many opposing forces, united only by the desire of the masses. As the struggle against the military government continues, Peronism is split.

The old trade union movement, for example, tried many times to make deals with the government, but now the working-class resistance. "The FAR and the Montoneros, on the other hand, with sections of the Peronist Youth Organizations, joined in armed struggle against the regime and advocated a far more radical programme.

The Peronist left feels a new and less compromised trade union movement is on the basis of a genuine workers' movement.

Recognise

The problem faced by the Peronist left and the revolutionary left is that the Argentine working class is largely Peronist. In the few years the trade union movement was able to organize among the workers, the Montoneros have maintained a continuing aggressive struggle against foreign and domestic oppression. In 1965, 1970 and 1972, they took over the factories and were forced back - a struggle that was not repeated in 1972.

In the meantime, the regime has used military methods to try to contain the growing strength of the Peronist left. The Peronists have been told that they can be bought off with promises and the Peronist right wing has been given the support of the Peronist left.

The military are now trying to prevent any movement that could challenge their power. The workers are told that they can only achieve what they want through the Peronist channels.

The problem, historically, is that Peron was not a mass movement, and the left could not simply attack Peronism without isolating itself from Peronism on its own basis. Yet to support Peronism would mean acquiescing in destroying the revolutionary alternative.

The women who worked at Gulf challenged the existing union, which had negotiated a small pay rise, by refusing to return to work. The employers wanted, and demanded compensation, and the women went on strike. The employers tried to get the union to issue a ballot on the women's strike, but the workers would not accept it. The strike ended with a victory for the workers.

Dossier of death before Wiriyaumu

THE SLAUGHTER of Wiriyaumu is only the latest in a long line of massacres by Portuguese troops in Mozambique to be reported by missionaries.

A catalogue of mass killings, torture and concentration camps was smuggled out of the country by Father Luis Alfonso da Costa. It deals with the ambivalent role of the province of Tete and tells of security missions in which Portuguese soldiers have been accused of interrogating, torturing and murdering a married couple, later burning their bodies, and a woman was forced to strip in front of her small child.

Da Costa also told of Rhodesian troops using the Portuguese as a convenient cover, and burning their bodies. Suspected Frelimo sympathizers were subjected to prolonged torture, including caning and mutilation. There are concentration camps known as "dreadcamps" containing 250,000 Africans, and these are Nazi-style reimplant raids, with villagers being tortured or killed to avenge Frelimo activity.

Clubbed

Da Costa reported that 92 people were murdered by the Portuguese between May 1971 and March 1972. The first massacre was on 7 May 1971. Fourteen men were killed - believed to have been clubbed to death--in the villages of Kapinga and Katcha.

An informer who took part in the killings said later: "We killed many men upon his head and did not embalm them with the machine." The Portuguese were involved in clearing off the Rhodesian troops. Among the dead were three boys, who lived in the Mozambique area.

The Portuguese army, early in October 1971, ended with 19 Dak villager dead. One man was beaten to death while his pregnant wife and children were forced to look on.

The fourth massacre was in the Mozambique district in 1971. Commandos killed 23 villagers including a child. The charred skeletons of some were found.

Sinking province of North China as H-Bomb of between one and three megatons was detonated, sending the whole of central Asia with fall-out.

In Wajima, Japan, the radio-activity count rose 70 times.

A fortnight ago the Russians made a further contribution --an underground explosion--to the war in Afghanistan, coinciding with a denunciation of Andrei Sakharov, the "Father of the Russian H-Bomb", after he had attacked Brezhnev's repressive regime.

The threat of atomic weapons to the survival of humanity has not been a major issue in the West for 10 years. In those years the threat has grown suddenly. The weapons are predominantly in the hands of the USA and the USSR, buried in missile silos in Kansas and Siberia, under the oceans of the world in nuclear submarines.
Wages of Syntex

THE Grant of the Year award has been won already by the Syntex Corporation of California, which has just negotiated a huge investment grant and tax concessions from the Irish government. Syntex will be setting up plant on the Shannon Industrial Estate for the manufacture of contraceptive pills.

The new factory will be based in Ireland, where it is a criminal offence even to possess contraceptive pills.

A special dispensation—twice the required fee—may be necessary for women who have to handle the finished product.

Sir Alfred and the Cakes

I HAVE been asked to state that there is absolutely no connection whatever between the following facts.

ONE: Alderman George Richards is chairman of Denbighshire County Council's Roads and Bridges Committee.

TWO: Alderman George Richards is a member of the council's road rendering sub-committee.

THREE: Alderman George Richards is chairman of the council's road haulage and road materials sub-committee.

FOUR: Sir Alfred McAlpine and Son is a huge civil engineering and building concern which is engaged in a variety of activities.

FIVE: Last April Alderman George Richards won the Llangollen seat on the new Wyllie Council by five votes.

SIX: Alderman Richards' election address stated that it was 'printed by George Richards'.

SEVEN: In fact the address was printed by Sir Alfred McAlpine and Son Ltd, Hooton, Cheshire.

EIGHT: When this last fact became clear, the matter was investigated by the West Mersea police.

NINE: After an exhaustive investigation, the police decided to take no action.

TEN: Alderman George Richards is a chief inspector in the special constabulary of the Gwynedd police force.

Under the spreading Greenwood tree

THERE were tears in the eyes of Tony Greenwood as he finished his last speech for the national executive of the Labour Party at the party Conference in 1970.

He had been on the executive for 16 years, during most of which time he had been associated with the leadership of the party. In 1961, in fact, after Harold Wilson had dropped out of the race, he stood as the left-wing candidate against Hugh Gaitskell.

He later went to a Labour Party meeting before going on to the House of Lords as Baron Greenwood of Rossendale, he said.

'I beg the party to spend the next four years telling the people of this country what socialism means and working out the socialist policy that the next Labour government will have to apply.'

FIVE: Last April Alderman George Richards won the Llangollen seat on the new Chwyldraeth Council by five votes.

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policy, for the nationalisation of the building societies.

The party is also pledged to fight property speculation, which will be taken up by the property companies throughout the country, including the Lancashire contractors, Pochin's.

When Lord Greenwood joined the board of Pochins, and three subsidiaries, in 1971, the chairman, Mr C W T Pochin, wrote in his annual report: 'I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome him. I am sure his experience will be a benefit to your company.'

So it must have been, for Pochin's profits rose from £24,991 in 1970 to £51,531 in 1971 to £157,662 in 1972. Much of this profit came from a subsidiary—Pochins Construction which paid £34,000 a year to its directors, including Lord Greenwood.

Lord Greenwood's directorship in Pochins is not his only interest in Lancashire. He is a board member of the Central Lancashire New Town Development Corporation, which hopes to create around Preston a new town of some 400,000 people, an irresistible honey-pot for Lancashire contractors.

Agriculture Industry which the Labour Party Conference wants nationalising is insurance—bad news for Directors of the Municipal and Mutual Insurance Company, whose titled board Lord Greenwood joined last year.

Forced

Lord Greenwood will have his work cut out spreading socialism around the boardroom table in this fat insurance company, whose directors include Sir Francis Hill, former Tory leader of Lincoln Corporation, Sir Roy Reece, former Tory Party chairman in Wales, and Sir Frank Marshall, member of the general purposes committee of the Tory Party executive.

A socialist Labour government might also be forced to nationalise private crematoria, like those at Woking and Golders Green, which provide substantial profits (£49,675 last year) that's £5 profit for every cremation) for the London Cremation Company, whose board Lord Greenwood joined in December 1971.

Public relations firms will presumably be safe, so Lord Greenwood can get on preaching socialism to his partners in Bell, Capper and Associates, a relatively new public relations company which specialises in quasi-political campaigns—where the emphasis is on personal sacrifice.
Rough justice for militant

THE COURT OF APPEAL recently upheld a verdict of conviction from Michael Hicks that his conviction for assault against two policemen should be quashed.

The police in London have good reason to dislike Hicks, a London-based member of the Communist Party's national executive committee, who was fined £36 and ordered to pay £40 costs at the City of London Court for allegedly assaulting two plainclothes policemen.

Last summer printers and dockers picketed the premises of the Robert Hope Print firm in Soho to press for a campaign to support printers working in nearby Briant Colour. And Hicks was the first group of trade unionists to receive the attentions of the newly-formed Special Patrol Group who viciously broke up the pickets, injuring several workers.

One of Hicks's fellow members of the Society of Graphic and Allied Workers had been tried and convicted for assaulting a policeman. Michael Hicks was his chief defence witness.

He challenged a police inspector's evidence, and was himself arrested and held for a moment as a case discussion.

But that was not the story, either, of the policemen. That year Michael Hicks was set upon by two plainclothes policemen and brutally beaten up while he was attempting to prevent a trade union blackout activities of selling the Monthly Star to fellow print-workers.

He too was arrested and charged with assault on the policemen, tried and found guilty.

Judge Argyle—who's vicious manner of his own conviction in the OZ obscenity case was too much even for Lord Campbell—Justice 'Bloody Sunday' Wigdory—discussed Michael Hicks' appeal against his convictions.

Despite a bevy of witnesses who constructed a near-watertight case for his conviction to be quashed, Argyle found that it should stand.

The judge said there was no explanation for the injuries that the two policemen, Primmer and Alder, suffered other than that Hicks had assaulted them.

He offered no explanation for the injuries Hicks suffered nor for the fact that a witness for Hicks said he saw one of the policemen dancing in a public house the day after he supposedly received his serious injuries.

In short, Michael Hicks was tried for the alleged assault on Argyle as usual preferred to accept the police version of events rather than the incorruptible law enforcement officers, the police.

All in all, the machinery of injustice handled the case with its usual precision and impartiality.

The arrest of Andrew Cunningham, regional secretary of the General and Municipal Workers Union, was accepted without a murmur of protest from the union's 100,000 members in the North East.

The charges he has to face concern his association with the network of corruption surrounding John Poulson. But there are other charges that should be brought against Cunningham and they are that no trial would be initiated.

For they concern Cunningham's record as a trade unionist, and they explain why his downfall will pass unmarked, to be broken up some other union.

Andrew Cunningham was elected regional secretary in 1964. The votes cast by the Northern District Committee were: A. Cunningham, five votes, W. Rickleton, four votes, R Harris, nil, and P. Goodson, nil.

The Greater London office that district secretaries and officials shall be nominated and elected by branches and members in the district and that a district committee shall consist of not more than seven members. The irregularities of his coming to power were never explained.

But 'Big Andy' was always a stickler for organizing and discipline, even in the days of the GMWU. When the firm's offices were busy in sales, he would sometimes work for £50 a day.

The case of Mr. B. Swainson, Mr. Cunningham, who had been a GMWU member since 1957, died in April 1971 after a four-month illness.

During those four months he had been unable to work and in order to pay his union subscriptions. Because he had been in hospital the GMWU refused to pay his widow £30 death benefit.

Mr. Cunningham commented: 'The union rules are not made by the officials. They are drawn up by lay delegates at our annual conference. The policy official, took it on my head to break our rules and pay out the benefit, I could either lose my job or be sued and taken to court by the unions in the North East ... If you don't pay your car insurance premium after an accident, you won't get the insurance company helping you out.'

So popular was the GMWU with middle-class employers like Dunlops in Washington, signed agreements with Cunningham before their new factories were opened.

But Andrew Cunningham was not one of those who stuck up for the interests of capital and labour. He put it into practice.

The GMWU is6 a collector of chairmanship in the last few years, in addition to his union post, he has been chairman of the Northern Labour Party, chairman of Labour Party national executive, chairman of Durham County Council, chairman of the Tyne-side Passenger Transport Authority, chairman of the Durham County Council, chairman of the Tyne-side Passenger Transport Authority, chairman of the Durham County Council, chairman of the Tyne-side Passenger Transport Authority, chairman of the Durham County Council, chairman of the Tyne-side Passenger Transport Authority, chairman of the Durham County Council, chairman of the Tyne-side Passenger Transport Authority.

Some of these positions carried a salary. For chairing four meetings a year of the Tyne-side Passenger Transport Authority he received £1,500, and in others he was in the curious position of negotiating with his own staff.

Last year there was a demonstration of aircraft outside GMWU headquarters in Newcastle. One of the protest leaders, Mr. Holroyd, expressed his appreciation at one of these bases: Our experience is that the union is most level-headed and fair in its approach to industrial problems.

And this harmony between the GMWU and local industry extended right down to the shop-floor. The employer concealed the closed shop to the union, and the union officials kept the militants under control.

As the GMWU stated in its evidence to the Conciliation Committee on trade unions: 'There is no need, in the interests of maintaining membership, for shop stewards to demonstrate hostility towards management. There is a method of convincing members of the value of trade unionism.

It was only when Andrew Cunningham built the membership of the union in the north-eastern district. The employer even collected the union subscription for him through the check-off system.

The other is that we feel it is ridiculous that Mr. Cunningham should represent us as a union official and be chairman of the airport committee.

The airport workers have not been the only group of workers in the North East who have found themselves demonstrating outside Thorne House in recent years, or tearing up their union cards.

Perhaps the most blatant case of victimisation occurred at the Walkers Factory of George Angus in April 1970, when 1700 members of the GMWU were locked out in a pay dispute.

The company's terms for a return to work were the acceptance of a new bonus scheme, an undertaking on behalf of all workers that they would remain members of the GMWU, and the breaking of the union's non-coercion policy.

The GMWU was defeated and lost the second round at Fine Tubes. It is ready for the third round.

To Russia with love

A week before his arrest, Andrew Cunningham visited the Newcastle branch of the Co-op Bank to arrange travellers' cheques for his holiday. Where was he going? 'Russia', boomed Andy. 'The socialist countries are much better for holidays.' Sadly, the Russians will miss his draw of a top union boss from Britain this year.

Luxury

But there is no way that the rack and file members of the GMWU can remove an official from office. All power is concentrated at the top, and men like Andrew Cunningham thrive on it. He did well out of the union and the Labour Party, as his big new Jaguar and luxury bungalow testify.

And for the members whose subscriptions made it all possible he had nothing but contempt. The GMWU regional council meetings for 1 May 1972 record Cunningham as saying: 'I am becoming more disenchanted with the years go by because I am about to say is generally accepted by people who should know better, that is that the leadership of the trade unions is out of touch with the rank and file. I now want to reverse this, and I am going to say that it is the rank and file who are out of touch. It is the grassroots which want reform, it is certainly not this regional office.'

Under the law, the trade union member who rules the bosses...
NOT SO MANY YEARS ago it was commonplace to hear that economic crises were a thing of the past. They belonged apparently to the ice age of capitalism and were no more to be expected today than glaciers and mammoths.

In the view of some, this opinion is not often voiced nowadays. Instead, with mounting regularity, there are reports of international currency crises, abrupt changes in the value of the pound, of tourists having to cut short their holidays because they suddenly find they cannot afford the fare home. And bankers and governments admit they can do little to prevent the recurrence of such crises.

Yet there is a vast amount of new in the air, from the new television to 'exchange rates', 'Smithsonian parity', 'Bretton Woods', in newsmen's words, leave them bewildered. It seems to have little to do with real life, with clocking the facts and somehow keeping up with rising prices.

So what is happening? Are we about to be faced with a return of the 1930s, or are we, basically the same as in the 1950s and 1960s?

To understand the problems which face capitalism internationally today, it is necessary to begin by looking briefly at the reasons why it seemed so successful 20 years ago.

In the years after the Second World War, capitalism grew as never before in its history. The periodic slumps that had been typical pre-war were no longer taken for granted. Basically that was because of the massive sums which the major western powers—above all the USA—spent on armaments. An automatic reaction to this, to the output of so much industry. And it was a market that was more or less free from periodic fluctuations.

The war had completely devastated the Japanese and German economies and considerably dislocated the other European countries; in Britain especially, the government had created an economic position of unparalleled strength. Europe and Japan were aided by the immediate power and prosperity of the US. For their businessmen and governments, one of the main aims of economic policy was to get hold of as much US dollars as possible.

For many years, it was taken for granted that dollars were as good as gold. With them businessmen could buy whatever they wanted and trade throughout the world was carried on in dollars—except in the case of the old British empire, where the pound was regarded as an adequate, although not perfect, substitute.

So the massive strength of the US economy, based on armament spending, provided a framework in which the rest of western capitalism could prosper.

But about 10 years ago things began to change. Other countries, particularly Japan, were able to grow more quickly and sell their goods more cheaply than the Americans. In part this was because they spent much less on armaments than the US. The US spent about 10 per cent of its national income on armament. Britain about 6 per cent, the French about 5 per cent, the Japanese less than 1 per cent. The US had not only leant on Britain, paid for the arms that provided a ready market for big business internationally, and the other countries' lack of advantage of the market.

As a result, Japan and Germany were able to invest a much greater proportion of their national income in new industry than did the US or Britain. The Japanese economy grew three times as fast as the American in the 1950s and twice as fast in the 1960s. The German economy grew twice as fast as the American in the 1950s and about 50 per cent faster in the late 1960s. Goods produced in Japan and Germany began to eat into the American market, which the US firms had previously kept as their private preserve.

Yet the Americans continued to behave as if nothing had changed. They continued to spend massive sums of money abroad buying up foreign firms and maintaining troops throughout the world. Indeed, with the Vietnam War, their foreign spending shot up.

A point was reached where the US spent much more abroad than it earned there. It is a difference that has been approaching a massive 10,000 million dollars recently.

Some European politicians and financiers began to accuse the US of taking over European industry and paying by merely printing dollar bills. They suggested that the behaviour of the US was hardly different to that of a man who signs cheques to buy things when he has no money in the bank. They demanded that the situation be remedied by forcing down the value of the dollar, until it corresponded to the real value of the wealth in the American economy.

But the US government hardly wants that. If the value of the dollar falls, then the cost of American big business investing abroad will increase. Some other governments feel compelled to back the US. They already own so many dollars that any fall of the dollar automatically cuts their own wealth.

So every international meeting to discuss the problem is more like a poker game than a rational debate. Each of the participants knows that the outcome can gain or lose his country hundreds of millions of pounds, and fights desperately for its interests to prevail.

But without some last-minute agreement, the framework of international trade becomes more and more unstable. At any time the number of marks, francs, yen that a dollar will buy can shoot up or down.

The instability is magnified by the fact that bankers and industrialists try to make a massive profit for themselves by predicting in advance how the currency rates will change. If they think, for instance, that the mark will rise, they will buy thousands of millions of marks, aiming to sell them at the higher value.

But in their scramble to get hold of marks, they themselves increase the demand for the mark and push up its price.

The way of the giant multinational corporations is now larger than individual countries, and bigger than the world's largest: the biggest, multi-national company, General Motors. When such firms sell one car, in effect they buy another, it has a massive impact. And when a firm is moving through Latin America, or to another part of the world, the effect is inevitably multiplied. Can any national government keep a check on what it is doing?

So thousands of millions of dollars can flow from one country to another in a few hours and it is possible for the value of the dollar to fall to rise or fall 3 or 4 per cent in a single day. Under such circumstances, the pretensions of national governments to "plan" their economies is laughable.

The Tory government, for instance, has been saying that if only workers do not press for wage increases and accept its policies—which have cut living standards by about 10 per cent this year—then price increases will stop. But if in one day the value of the pound falls 4 per cent, then that means the cost of food and raw materials will rise 4 per cent in one day. One day on the international money markets has as much affect on prices as eight months of internal wage bargaining.

In fact when the government urges wage restraint, it is ignoring Britain's capitalism's problems, all it is doing is raising the stakes in the international poker game in the context of the world's stability, not to say guarantee at all that it will win the game.

Despite the money crises, many other national economies have continued to grow, if sporadically, somewhat chaotically. This year has seen a year of economic boom throughout the Western world. But as the monetary instability grows worse, it is likely to spread instability within each national economy.

The measures with which the American government has been trying to keep up the value of the dollar are out of proportion to the overall economic situation worse. Firstly, it has been gradually cutting the proportion of the national income that goes to wages, so reducing the only factor that has underpinned the steady economic growth of the Western world and since it is the factor that is no guaranteed at all that it will win the game.

The crisis arises becauseynationalism is by its very nature a chaotic system. It operates internationally and is based on competing national groups of capitalists, each attached to a different national state and a different national currency.

The struggle of these rival capitalist groups is a struggle to see who can make the biggest profits at the expense of workers. And the anarchy creates contin-

The danger will not be averted for once and for all until those whose labour creates the wealth get together internationally to fight for the overthrow of the system.
WHY
BLACKS
ARE ON
THE
MARCH

THE TORY GOVERNMENT has tossed a time bomb into the black communities. Heath and his men have passed a law saying that any immigrant who entered the country "illegally" after the year 1968 can now be deported.

Previously, any such person who managed to evade detection for more than six months then became immune from either prosecution or deportation.

The effect of this is that ordinary black people can scarcely be overestimated. It now gives a free hand to police, civil servants and employers to demand a black person's passport for any reason under the sun.

In Southall in Middlesex, the Department of Health and Social Security is still demanding passports from black people who register for national insurance cards. This is in spite of the fact that the main civil service union has said that it will not operate this role.

Racialist

The Gas Board has been demanding passports from black students applying for summer work and Ealing Education Committee has only just temporarily relaxed its ruling that black parents must produce their own and their child's passport before signing up for school.

Southall is part of the London Borough of Ealing. Close on a third of the people live there. Of the adult population, 35,000 are Indians, 20,000 of whom live in Southall.

This single fact is the most important thing to grasp about Southall because successive racist propagandists have succeeded in creating the impression, even in the minds of supposedly "liberal" people, that racial tension is at fever pitch because Southall is too crowded or "overrun" with Asians.

Such propaganda inevitably has its effects on local authorities with the result that Ealing education authorities now insist that Indians should not be taught in Southall.

Significantly, this hatred spans all class and caste divisions. Virtually every young male in Southall is able to give you examples of police harassment, intimidation and provocation.

Denied

One of the worst examples in recent months concerned the case of Satnam Kaur. Kaur was employed by the largest garage in Southall, the Iron Bridge. He was accused of stealing £50 from the till and was taken to the police station.

There he continually denied the offence. But "pressure" was exerted and he eventually confessed to the crime.

So frightened was the youth that when asked what he had done with the money he first said he had lost it gambling. When the police refused to believe this he was forced to take them home and give them £11.50 out of his own savings.

He appeared in court the next day with no legal adviser but fortunately he had the courage to tell the magistrate that his "confession" had been extracted from him by force.

The case was adjourned for two weeks and Kaur was able to get a lawyer.

Vicious

By this time the money had been discovered. It had never been stolen at all. The police failed to give an explanation of how it was that Kaur had confessed to a crime that never took place, and the papers in the case were sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Such a case may sound exaggerated, one isolated incident. But it is not. No confidence in the police exists amongst the Asian community in Southall.

But a new and vicious turn to this type of harassment has been given by the new legislation. Last week in Goodmayes, Essex, a 17-year-old East African Asian was arrested when he asked the way home and was only released when he produced his passport.

This gives the sinister twist to the old adage, 'If you want to know the way, ask a policeman.'

There are, even, at the govern-
ment's estimate, a mere 10,000 'illegal' immigrants today, yet the Tories are spending tens of thousands of pounds in trying to catch these few unfortunate human beings.

The reaction to this legislation in Southall has been swift and predictable. The Indian Workers' Association has withdrawn its representatives and allies from the Ealing Community Relations Council and has urged other organisations to follow throughout the country.

Coachloads of Indians will be coming from Southall for Sunday's demonstration and all the local factories have been leafleted to explain the dangers of this petty but vicious legislation.

Police/Indian relations have deteriorated still further.
Tough action... the only answer...

For all black workers in Britain, the House of Lords ruling on "illegal" immigrants and the 22 July demonstration of protest are of major importance, but this is an issue vital also for white workers.

For years, the government has steadily increased the law and the police to divide, control, and frighten workers and their families. That was part of the meaning of the Industrial Relations Act, of legal contracts on the shop floor and of police attacks on the picket lines.

The Lords decision means that the shop stewards and workers of the white workers, for whom the police and the Government have a very real fear, have won a major victory. They will not feel it unless they march and force the issue.

The whole trade union leadership heart bleeds for the "true part" of the white working class. The Transport and General Workers Union专卖full of clauses demanding a minimum wage and Jack Jones made speeches about it. But the union leadership will not use the TUC strength to do anything about it. They all share the fear of the white working class.

This is the reason for the slow pace of the 22 July demonstration and the weakness of their attempted partial victory. The white workers on strike are not the same as the black workers on strike. The white workers are not in the firing line, the black workers are.

The Transport and General Workers Union, for instance, has already strong clauses demanding a minimum wage and Jack Jones made speeches about it. But the union leadership will not use the TUC strength to do anything about it. The white workers are not in the firing line.

The great problem is that of the white working class. The white workers, black workers, the TUC, all share the fear of the white working class.

But whatever happens, neither the government, the press nor the left should be under any illusions as to the anger of the Asians in Southall.

So maddened are some Indians that one youth said to me last week: "You know what my favourite dream is? Two cop cars with four policemen in each crashing into each other at 80mph and me standing and laughing." This anger needs to be channelled towards meaningful action that will drive this reactionary legislation off the law books.

Darshana Tomkinson of Ealing International Socialists: she put the successful call for action committees and strikes to Southall Indian Workers Association. Picture: Peter Harrop (Report)

The Labour government has refused to commit itself to the 1971 Act, it speaks only of an amnesty. That means keep the racist status, try to defuse the situation. The action committee has a much more serious task: to begin to develop a new fights against the racist police action by politicising the cases in the local press, providing quick legal advice and defence, picketing police stations and courts.

To begin to advance the real fight on racism in the workplace, in housing and clubs, is not enough. Above all, to build the base for industrial action against the Lords decision.

The national conference of immigrant organizations refused to withdraw from the council of the community relations councils — many of whom get 10% of what life is about, not the community relations councils for local committees, but it was clear nothing would be done about it.

The conference tried to convert the 22 July protest into a day of defiance into a "day of mourning." Hardly surprisingly, it resulted in no suggestion of strike action.

This is the way to build the opposition. It is the only way to do this. It is the way to force the ordinary black worker, that there to be fused into a fighting organization, not the affiliated to the race relations. If we can unite black workers, whites and Asians, we have the resources to build a real serious opposition.

The means to build the edging in the black community is, as the Southall IWA resolution argues, through creating local action committees. This is an excuse for yet another "anti-racial" talk shop where Labour Party spokesman can spread the illusion that it was not their government who provided the racist basis for the 1971 Immigration Act in their 1968 Act.

There is no more to the omnitourism than in their pockets in the national movement. They live off the profits of the economy, making profits off the profits of the economy, but black workers could paralyse public transport in the big cities, much of the car industry, much of the health service and other occupations.

But that requires anger and dedication to the fight. Not the claying of the hands...
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN
CHRIS HARMAN
On the importance of socialist ideas

‘USING our traditional institutions and rights we can transform parliament into the effective instrument of the people’s will, through which the legislative measures of the change to socialism will be carried out.’

This is from the Communist Party pamphlet The British Road to Socialism, but such ideas have been the most common on the left in Britain.

The key assumptions: that the working-class movement can take control of parliament through an election, that parliament controls the state machine, and that the state machine can be used to change the rest of society.

Most people take all three for granted. But all three are wrong. Let’s examine each in turn.

CAN THE WORKING-CLASS MOVEMENT TAKE CONTROL OF PARLIAMENT?

Socialists who rely on the parliamentary system start with an inbuilt disadvantage. A majority of workers may want a complete transformation of society and would be able to bring this about if they relied on their industrial strength, but in parliamentary elections, with the middle class and ruling class voting against them, they would lose.

Some people will insist that this is only fair and ‘democratic’. In some Arab states there are still slaves, although slaves are not a majority of the population. Would anyone argue that it would be wrong for the slaves to rise in rebellion before the new constitution—incorporating the slave owners—voted to free them?

In the case of the US, there is no reason why the men and women whose labour creates the wealth should not run it on the same principle as the state: they are and elect a small, privileged minority because of the way in which the system works—by, among others, landlords, property owners, business owners, directors and shareholders.

Even if a majority of voters decide they want to change the system, it does not follow that they can automatically elect a new government. They have to wait until the old government decides the time for an election—and in the meantime the employers can victimize whom they want on TV, in press and TV witch hunts, drive one set of workers against another, until the working class is demoralized and disillusioned.

There is no guarantee that socialist MPs will keep their election promises. But what if the wishes of those who voted for them, they still have five years in parlia-
mement. But by that time most people will have forgotten their promises anyway.

CAN A SOCIALIST PARLIAMENT CONTROL THE STATE MACHINE?

The army, the police and the
civil service all work on the same principles. Orders are given by a small, carefully-selected group of people at the top and have to be obeyed by those below. If a rank and file civil servant disobeys orders it means the state of the army, and file soldier disobeys, it means a court martial and

Those who give the orders—the army officers, the heads of the civil service, the chief constables, the high court judges—come from the same privileged class as the financiers and businessmen, go to the same public schools and universities in the same social circles.

Such people are no more able to put into action genuinely socialist measures than a wolf can turn itself into a sheep. They are part of an exploiting ruling group and act automatically in its interests.

History has many examples of the forces of the state doing away with parliament rather than carry through policies opposed to the ruling class. The most recent was in Greece in 1967.

In has happened in Britain too. In 1912 the Liberal government put forward a moderate Bill promising a strictly limited degree of independence for India. It was supported by some sections of big business and was passed by parliament. But other sections of big business overwhelmingly supported the Tory Party. Bonar Law denounced the law as ‘unconstitutional’ and the government as a ‘revolutionary conspiracy which seized by fraud upon despotic power.’

Those who ran the army ‘got the message.’ Fifty-eight senior officers announced that they would not obey any orders to enforce this law in the North of Ireland. Their action helped ensure that, despite a parliamentary vote, Ireland remained divided even today.

It is not difficult to imagine a genuine socialist government being denounced as ‘unconstitutional’ by the Tories and army officers deciding that their duty was to ignore its orders.

CAN THE STATE CHANGE THE REST OF SOCIETY?

In Britain today, the state is not all-powerful. The major decisions affecting most people’s lives are not made by the state but by the owners of industry. The giant international companies move enormous sums of money and materials from one country to another every day. If one country begins to follow policies which they do not like, it is easy for them to apply massive pressures to make it change its policies.

A moderate Labour government was elected in 1964, its major promises to the workers were too big for big business which moved hundreds of millions of pounds overseas. Even Harold Wilson admitted: ‘We had now a situation where a newly-elected government was being told by international speculators that the policies it had fought the election on could not be implemented.’

There is no doubt that the election of a genuinely socialist government would bring a much more active response from big business.

If that government relied on its parliamentary strength alone, it would be able to do nothing. Its civil service and police chiefs could not be expected to act on ‘unconstitutional’ actions against its relatives and friends in the world of finance and industry.

The present government, millions of workers would suffer, and the government would become unpopular long before any laws could be passed to change anything.

A socialist movement trying to change society using parliamentary means would be trapped behind its back. Parliament, the state and the constitution are all part and parcel of capitalism.

APPLES STOLEN BY THE CENSOR

STOLEN APPLES, by Vergeny Yevtushenko

A POET in Russia is more than a poet,’ said Yevtushenko, meaning that political situations shape the content and style of all writers and artists.

For Yevtushenko, who for several years has been writing exciting and violent attacks on the official Soviet establishment, the problem seems to be different now. Stolen Apples is his own selection of poems, with an introduction explaining where he stands today.

Alongside it makes very sad reading. It includes little of his early poetry and none which hit the hardest against the regime. It is, however, a Russian society—poems like ‘Zima Station’, ‘Babushka’ and ‘Red October’. It was for nothing that he was violently attacked.

It is a call to arms against the contemptible dishonesty of most writing which deals with the realities and problems in Russia. Failing lines to the song is wrong. Proving to them that lies are true

SAY objectives exist they must

Sorrow happens, hardship happens.

If the government, the intelligentsia, the churches, the trade unions, the education system, the retailers, the printing businesses, the newspapers, the film industry, the music industry, etc., all call for the police, the army, the court system to keep the lies of the spending power, they can also take the responsibility for the lies of the spending power.

The themes of Stolen Apples are unemployment, hunger, poverty, greed, the falseness of government, the paralyzing of the media, the paralysis of the intelligentsia, the paralysis of the police, the paralysis of the courts, the paralysis of the education system, the paralysis of the film industry, the paralysis of the music industry, etc.

The introduction shows a Yevtushenko love of work and an apolitical and vague statement about the poor and the rich, the rich and the poor. These lines were used to begin his work for being ‘more accepting of the system, for being more accepting of the system, for being more accepting of the system.’

I am not saying that Yevtushenko is a great poet. But the cradle of his work has always been a socialist society, and he shows how and why he has chosen socialist, soldier he works for the organization of the arts in Russia.

I am not saying that Yevtushenko has its union, and its members will receive work for free. But Yevtushenko’s works are in tune with the official art policy, ‘socialist realism.’

GRANVILLE WILLIAMS

You’ve forgotten Uncle Joe

FOR THE SOCIALIST CAUSE, by Eric Pountney, Lawrance and Winter

This is a remarkable book. The author, the British Labour Party’s Foreign Secretary, will soon be the US ambassador to the United States.

With scanty detail, he recounts his career from journalist to trade union official, to a job as a clerk, then as a trade and shopfloor official, and finally as a minister in politics. The account he gives will be well known to trade unionists in Britain. It will spur on other pieces of working history.

While Eric Pountney’s narrative technique is literary and evocative, it is not because elderly people can recall events accurately. It is because until recent years working people had no way of recording their most recent happenings—or perhaps his narrative technique is not because elderly people can recall events accurately. It is because until recent years working people had no way of recording their most recent happenings—or perhaps his narrative technique is not because elderly people can recall events accurately. It is because until recent years working people had no way of recording their most recent happenings—or perhaps his narrative technique is not because elderly people can recall events accurately. It is because until recent years working people had no way of recording their most recent happenings—or perhaps his narrative technique is not because elderly people can recall events accurately. It is because until recent years working people had no way of recording their most recent happenings—or perhaps his narrative technique is not because elderly people can recall events accurately. It is because until recent years working people had no way of recording their most recent happenings—or perhaps his narrative technique is not because elderly people can recall events accurately. It is because until recent years working people had no way of recording their most recent happenings—or perhaps his narrative technique is not because elderly people can recall events accurately. It is because until recent years working people had no way of recording their most recent happenings—or perhaps his narrative technique is not because elderly people can recall events accurately. It is because until recent years working people had no way of recording their most recent happenings—or perhaps his narrative technique is not because elderly people can recall events accurately. It is because until recent years working people had no way of recording their most recent happenings—or perhaps his narrative technique is not because elderly people can recall events accurately. It is because until recent years working people had no way of rec...
From man to machine

THE mills and factories built during the Industrial Revolution are a powerful physical reminder of the exploitation of the men and women of the past.

Drum them though they were, they have a confidence and style which have quite vanished from modern urban sprawls.

The machines themselves, now polished in museums, gave bloody birth to the modern working class. The Lancashire Times said 'mutilate the worker into a fragment of a human being, destroy him thoroughly and you have the apportionment of the machine, make his work such a torment that its suicidal meaning is destroyed and cast him off from the intellectual potentialities of the labour process.'

Against these machines and factories the 19th century working class fought an unремсtfiпd и nd окheяя problем.

Inside these factories - early manufacturers imposed discipline by strict timings, threats, fines, humiliation and direct physical force. Beatings were common, especially of women and children.

Samuel Coulson told the Report of the Committee on Factory Children's Labour in 1831 that an 11-year-old daughter came home with her shoulder in a rib. The overseer 'had taken the strap and beat her between the shoulder...her back was beaten nearly to a jelly.' But his daughter told him: 'Don't go to the overlooker or we shall lose our work.'

Prison

Josiah Wedgwood started his famous potteries (below) in the 18th century, one of the earliest manufacturers to try to impose labour discipline on his workers, to turn them into a more regular disciplined instrument of production. They were to become literally 'hands' or 'operators'.

Workers fiercely resisted the factory system which seemed to them like a prison. Wedgwood thought that he could rely on a foreman to supervise when he left the workers to go on his honeymoon. But when he got home he found his supervisor drunk with everybody else and production at a standstill.

The visible signs of this transformation, the buildings, canals, bridges, railways, are illustrated in ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION, edited by R. B. M. Luttrell (Pantip £6.50) an impressive selection of photographs, drawings, diagrams and essays. It is a book of great beauty, demonstrating the invention, cunning in design and skill in execution of industrial workers.

The destruction of the old working culture by machinery was a complicated process. An old Methodist preacher, recalling the 1840s, when the old bottle kilns suitable for batches production had not been superseded by a continuous mechanised process, regretted that the pottery workers had not been disciplined like the northern cotton workers.

If a steam engine had started every Monday morning at six o'clock the workers would have been disciplined to the habit of regular and continuous industry.

I have noticed too that machinery seems to lead to habits of calculation. The pottery workers were work-load deficient in this matter, they lived like children, without any calculating. In some of the more northern towns this habit of calculation has made them terribly shrewd in many conspicuous ways. Their great co-operative societies would never have arisen to such immense and fruitful development for the calculating induced by the use of machinery.

Power

Steam power was the key to the transformation's first stage. As long as the sources of power were windmills or waterfalls or horses, the units of production were small and labour had an intermittent rhythm. Steam was pioneered in the Cornish mines since water pumps were needed if the shallow bell-mine was to be deepened by shafts. The first engines were enormously inefficient because of heat loss but soon they were being used to power other machines, and the whole rhythm of work was changed.

A bell-mine coal was excavated by undermining until the danger of collapse made it unsuitable.

Mars quoted Ure, author of The Philosophy of Manufactures and an apostle for the employers, on the question of training human beings to renounce their natural habits of work and identity themselves with the unvarying regularity of a complex automation...

As Marx argues: 'It is not the workman that employs the instruments of labour but the instruments of labour which employ the workman. But only in the factory system this invention for the first time acquires technical and palpable reality. By means of its conversion into an automaton, the instrument of labour confronts the labourer, during the labour process, in the shape of capital, of dead labour, that dominates and pumps dry living labour-power.

The factory, steam power and the new labour discipline affected every aspect of life. Popular song reflects the changes. A L Lloyd wrote: 'The earliest weavers' songs were from the time when handloom workers went from village to village, setting up farmhouses and cottage kitchens to weave the yarn and chat to the weaversfolk while the men of the house were away at work. The invention of the power-loom and the establishment of textile factories brought a great change to the handloom weavers' lives. Much of their bold swagger left them when they were obliged to renounce themselves to drudgery in the mills.

"Our song, lyrical and wry, curiously illuminates this moment of history when the cockcrow of the weavers was losing its confident tone, when the handworkers were finding themselves obliged to follow the girls into the factories to weave by steam, and when country song was changing to town song."

I saw a hand-waiver to my trade. I saw a factory maid. And if I could but her favour in I'd stand beside her and weave by steam.

My father to me scolded said: How could you fancy a factory maid

When you could have girls fine and gay

And dressed like the Queen of May?

As for your fine girls, I don't care,

And could I but enjoy my dear,

I'd stand in the factory all the day

And she and I'd keep our shuttle in play.

I went to my love's bedroom door

Where oftentimes I had been before,

But I could not speak nor yet get in

To the pleasant bed my love lied in.

Are there the girls? I'll tell you plain,

The girls have gone to weave by steam,

And if you'd find 'em you must rise by dawn

And trudge to the mill in the early morn.

The back-to-back housing of the North are perhaps the most familiar aspect of the model townships to attract workers: 'Aesthetically it was a constant problem and many factory operatives tended to be migratory, staying in one job for a few weeks then moving on to work in another factory. Once a good house was provided the threat of dismissal became a successful deterrent... It was generally acknowledged that once a wife had been given a good home she would not let her husband move on.

There were other less measurable benefits for the manufacturer who provided good housing. The labour force was thought of as a sort of living machinery... Good living quarters were a necessary factor in keeping the human machine in a suitable condition for work.'

In other words philanthropy brought a better return on capital.

Devoid

Robert Owen's factory at New Lanark was an early example of this. At Lanark growth of capitalism was swift and sudden. Another, later, when labour was available. The employers left it to the jerry builders. With the railways in the 1840s came the factory towns where the local community became a different kind of town for different grades of workers. For Titus Salt's Saltaire was the most ambitious. It was built between 1853 and 1863 and epitomises the mid-19th century desire to raise the moral tone of the working classes.

The railways themselves devised much human labour and life. The accident rate was high and the Irish navvies who came over and built them lived in camps under very rough conditions. They created their own personal rituals. A marriage in a camp meant you carried your woman over the heath, 'jammed the broomstick' for the night, and that was it. Everyone watched while you bedded down. One relief was regarded with horror by Victorian moralists who tried to conform, despised their sexual customs rather than the suffering and violence which went into the tasks.

The workers whose labour made the growth of capital possible die unknown. Their monuments, plaque, stonework and records, with us. Ironically their only memorials are the instruments and property of the masters.

Dave Widgery

and Sheila Rowbotham
WHAT WE STAND FOR

The International Socialism is a democratic organisation whose membership is open to all who accept its main principles and who are willing to pay contributions and to work in one of its organisations.

In Europe, the Common Market has been formed for the sole purpose of increasing the trade and profits of these multinational firms. The international power of capitalism can only be overcome by international action by the working class.

A socialist state cannot be built unless workers of other countries actively come to its aid by extending the socialist revolution. In building a revolutionary socialist organisation in this country we also believe in the necessity of forming a world revolutionary socialist international independent of either Washington or Moscow. This is to enable us to work with other socialist organisations throughout the world.

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

We are for:

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

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

For 100 per cent trade unionism and the defence of this right.

Against trade union leaders and their controls on the trade unions, where the strikes are called are called "official" or "unofficial".

For real and equal pay for a better deal for young workers.

Against control by the weapon industry of trade union unity and joint shop stewards committees both in the plant and on a combination level.

For a minimum wage of at least £2 5s. per week.

Against unemployment, redundancy and lay-offs. We support the demand: Full employment at fair wages.

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

Against the police protection of black workers.

Against immigration restrictions.

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

For real, social, economic and political equality for women.

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

Against worst diplomacy.

Against all forms of imperialism. We unconditionally support to send solidarity and solidarity with all genuine national liberation movements.

For the nationalisation of the land, banks and major industries without compensation to the landowners.

We are opposed to all ruling class policies and organisations. We work to build a revolutionary working class in Britain and to end this support the unity of all revolutionary groups.

The struggle for socialism is the central conflict of our time. Workers' power must rise on a solid basis of human solidarity, on the rising of men's power over nature, with the abolition of the power of man over man, is certainly won.

We are for:

For no state just talking about it. More than a century ago Karl Marx wrote: "The philosophers have merely interpreted the world. The point is to change it. If you want to help us change the world, build socialism, join us.

THERE ARE BRANCHES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS

SCOTLAND

Ayrshire

Buchanan

Cambridge

Cumbernauld

Dundee

Edinburgh

Dundees

 Kirkcaldy

Glasgow

Greenock

Glasgow

Greenock

Glasgow North

Glasgow South

MILITANT members of the Transport Workers Union under the autocratic reign of Ernest Bevin were said to be worshiped the ground that was coming to their feet, said of many militant workers by Jack Jones. They hold him high.

Jones' performance on his home ground, at the TGWU delegate conference last week, is nothing short of massive. There is nothing automatic in his manner or his style. The craft has many people's aspirations, but his leadership helps him win the votes without any window waving argument.

In his speech on Tuesday last week when he was fighting for a mandate to continue Tom Watson's left wing policy and to call up the agenda and discount the trade union's interest in the autocratic decisions of its government, it would have been allowed to go the union's view to the government of the British Industry bosses.

He has won the day in spite of many of the workers' suspicions and misgivings because he was not properly challenged and got on the underlying assumptions of his argument. The left militants failed, and in some cases did not try, to get across the fact that this was not a situation of talking to the Tories as equals but of one organisation party pleading where others can command. Nor was there any meaningful strategy put across.

The leftists who showed that carefully-very carefully Jones paraded the fatal flaws in his position. In the same speech Watson got his majority. Why is it that he must go to the talks, he asked his left wing opponents, would mean that the government policy and then said that in 'the present circumstances of great gloom inflation there could be no deal on an insufficiently issues.'

CONTRAST

What are the other circumstances? More important, why have the present circumstances come about? There was not one single word of explanation.

And, said Jones, the prices commission's policy was even more of a bar to the working class, through its set that it was "almost a farce" of a policy. No wonder that its sister commission on wages would try to "freeze" the price of everything, not a word that the contrast is not accidental.

Jones was shown through the debate on the lump in the budget and other matters that the lump was a 'major challenge to ordered, reasonable, civilised con- dition in industry', said Jones. The idea of gold being sold irresponsibly was an "immense" loss of confidence, and safety being endangered, and /laws being carried out, to protect the very reasons that the employers resort to this crisis and ensure its spread.

But in the debate on participation and industrial democracy the politics of the working class can be seen through. Not only is it useful rhetoric but it reaffirms the creeping road to the ILO, which prohibits officials from receiving any payments from any company—Professor Walker was getting 590 a day from ICI.

Under such conditions the result of the survey was predictable. Only a quarter of the staff were in favour of unionisation.

A few weeks later the company announced a 5 per cent redundancies, 1000 in Organics Division alone. Naturally the company decided the decision had been delayed until after the survey and was not something that the staff would not have been influenced had the redundancies been announced earlier.

Since then the trade unions have been holding more determinedly, and the company has devoted more time and resources to opposing them.

Only a few days ago The Guardian and The Times reported a report anti-trade union circular issued in ICI's Meron Division instructing senior managers on how to persuade the staff to reject trade unionism.

The more the unions in ICI make advances the more the company resists it by another in its attempt to thwart them, but it seems there is something in them that wake up and take action themselves. Last week the company, in an attempt to plastic a fight and ICI London headquarters was picketed, demanding the resignation of directors to be represented by ASM.

In March there were company-wide stoppages lasting a month and the ICI London headquarters was picketed, demanding the resignation of directors to be represented by ASM.

If there are all ICI workers for multinational: They do not always use a public platform to speak and thus their ends but also use underground methods as legitimate business techniques.

How union officials deal with those who insist on participating to the full of a highly controversial issue was well illustrated by the action taken to kill any debate on the crisis in Ireland.

PROTEST

A carefully worded 'neutral' statement was issued by the TGWU's Irish section. Jack Jones rose to the task of ICI's Irish situation there and moved that conference adopt a protest. The motions on the agenda calling for the withdrawal of British troops and a bill of rights were to be passed over.

Delegates protested. The chairman said next business when they protested again and then there was a compromise. The resolutions would not be debated, they would be remitted to the executive, the well-known funeral undertakers.

The TGWU leadership is geared to the platform's sway. Full-time officials do all the speaking for the executives. The TGWU leadership are as decorative as the clothes on the back row.
So much for the "terrible twin..."

The whole of British capitalism has been built on the limited-liability company, a device that has enabled men to turn hundreds of pounds into millions. It is a device that means the creation of a special group of "victims" put forward by capitalists' supporters that profit is merely the reward for risk taking.

There are many grotesque examples of how "limited liability" has made people rich. Office Cleaning Services, a company built on the backs of the low-paid night cleaners, has turned £200,000 into more than £7 million for the family that owns it, in this way. The capitalist's right to receive a portion of a company's profits is determined by how much he owns in the company, and these represent the money that was originally put up to start the business. If the business goes bankrupt, the shareholder stands only to lose that money; he cannot be asked to find any more to meet the debts of the company.

Taking a chance with simple terms is this: the liability of an owner of a business for the debts of that business is limited to the amount he originally put up to start it. The capitalist's right to receive a portion of a company's profits is determined by how much he owns in the company, and these represent the money that was originally put up to start the business. If the business goes bankrupt, the shareholder stands only to lose that money; he cannot be asked to find any more to meet the debts of the company.

Although obvious, it is possible to start a company with £200, this wouldn't provide much plant and machinery, property or any of the other things necessary to run a business. What the rigged entrepreneur, raking all the money, will be able to do will be to pay a bonus, get into debt, and pay the bank and borrow money. Although the bank will receive a fixed return on the money it lends, it has no right to receive any share of the profits that have been paid its fixed rate.

Failure

This is possible, for example, to start a company with £200, thousands of pounds of worthless machinery, and if the whole venture is failure, the bank will lose money—depending on whether or not they have adequate security. But if it succeeds the man who put up £200,000 of his own money, if the gamble comes off, then it is flurry.

This very operation, which is the way the system works, and is being manufactured by the capitalist, has been successfully carried out by a family known as the Goodchild's. In 1969, they had a company known as Office Cleaning Services, which had £300,000 in its coffers. But when one extra penny has been put into the company, the other family, who still own all the shares and hold a majority on the board that runs the company, will have a different opinion. The company's business is off again, on to new interests. The film is, among others, Smart Law Firms and London Court Cleaners.

Going to court is not enough

Sociologist worker is a device without the power to make a difference. The goal is to make the courts, which are theClay Cross municipal tribunal, to dispense with the actual jobs of the workers.

T H Rogermore

This look documents in detail the story of political power in Turkey, and the staggering brutality of the state. It is not meant to be a guide to the political climate in which the device enabled to make political power, but it is a limited business in the land. The only people taking any interest in these are who—unlike the bank—have no claim against the company for their losses...
**Accused phone men fight for jobs**

**LONDON**—Telephone operators threatened with the sack in what the press has been calling the "great £1.5 million phones' swindles" are getting union backing behind their fights for their jobs.

There may have been an organised ring using the telephone system for private profit, but most of the 50 or so operators seemed to have only been putting in place to their own families. The operators themselves consider this one of the possibilities.

Post Office investigation department officials had heard that operators at the West House international exchange, 55, had been suspected of defraying payments without pay and some but some of these were not unconnected, others have been told they face criminal charges and the rest will be recommended for dismissal.

Not all are to be charged with selling calls for personal gain and from enquiries by the London Overseas Telephone branch of the Union of Post Office Workers (UPOW) appears more as only being put through calls to their families for themselves. The Post Office and union headquarters consider there is a need for a clear case on all.

**Central**

"We do not want to see this growing into the selling of calls by operators for private profit," a UPOW branch chairman, "but we do object to men being threatened with the sack for their jobs for taking the rest of us as regards the work schedule. In our view there has been no threat to union headquarters."

A Post Office investigation department official police officers seconded from Liverpool.

All telephone exchange switchboards run on a profit margin, according to the Post Office, though the Post Office says this is only necessary to ensure the efficiency and quality of service and the person observing cannot always see the profit margin.

In letter and parcel sorting offices there is an increasing suspicion there is a way of looking at the way in which an investigation department, which is called a "profit" office, is run and which is not endorsed by the Post Office.

In both sorting offices and telephone exchanges, there is a feeling that the investigation department is not doing enough to prevent the Post Office operators from making a buck.

Circulation manager Margaret Rann said reports that since had been going strongly until the end of the university term, but that the fall in orders had been much smaller than expected. She compared consistent. The report said that the weekly print order had dropped from 34,000 to 30,000 issues.

**IS forms 27 new factory branches**

TWENTY-SEVEN factory branches of the International Socialists have been set up since the IS annual conference in March, membership secretary Tony Cliff told the group's national executive meeting on Monday. He said that the organisation had underestimated the potential.

Cliff reminded the committee that the conference had set a target of 19 branches by the 1974 conference. It was clear that the organisation had underestimated the potential.

More than 50 new members have joined 14 new branches. Cliff said that the first new one in its history. This was recruiting industrial workers, including younger, white-collar workers. The new recruits, 112 were members of the Transport Workers Union and 115 of the Engineering Union.

The committee agreed to recommend 13 new branches.

Cliff told other members that the rate of recruitment would pose serious problems for the organisation and that the need for improved schools and educational meetings for new factory branches on the existing towns branches.

The development of local leadership is an important task for the organisation in the next few months. The committee set up a special sub-committee to start work immediately on the problems of both national and local organisations, and to make recommendations for improvements.

Nigel Harris, reporting for the representatives sub-committee, said the Labour Party was decided on the "socio-political" basis of the organisation in the next few years.

He added that the paper had also to put together a report for the autumn meeting, which was more suitable for discussing the paper and making important organisational changes.

It was essential that IS branches make a real drive to recruit black workers, stressed. We could not leave it to the existing black pressure groups, which were concerned to love up to the Race Relations Act.

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**Unstable**

Introducing a discussion on political perspectives, Chris Harman said that despite the problems, the experience of the struggle was still unstable.

The government had held off some workers, such as nurses and health workers, while the trade union movement as a whole had suffered no serious defeats. The most recent wavering by the union leaders were driving small but key sections of militant to the left of John Stonehouse and the Communist Party—and trend towards some recent union conferences.

Rising prices could not be stopped by the government's plans to continue to make a profit. A growing number of unions wanted to take action, but with the government trying to turn the engineering industry into a "flying bulldozer", wages are already relatively high and there is little chance of any real conflict.

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**NEXT MOVE FOR THE ENGINEERS**

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**Strikers battle with union-basher**

TAMWORTH—Workers at Poly- matic Engineering are on strike in defence of their newly-bought industrial works.

There had been no union at all in the factory for several years and workers put on work time while staff did their work, according to a statement from the Engineering Union.

The company, the Engineers, had been put into receivership, said the union.

"Wage was on strike or were you employed" she added, and said they were given notice to quit. The members were sympathetic with the strikers and the company.

The strikers are involved in the industrial relations of the company, and the strikers and members of the union are satisfied with the action of the company.

The company had the support of the union because of its action in cases of industrial relations, and the strikers are involved in the industrial relations of the company. The company has been officially recognised, and the strikers have the support of the union.

Union officials are involved in the industrial relations of the company, and the strikers are involved in the industrial relations of the company. They are involved in the industrial relations of the company, and the strikers have the support of the union.

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Family of six given one day to leave tied cottage

ECCLES, Lancashire: A driver trying to break through the picket line at Salford Electric Interchange Station was injured when a woman striker, dragging her 100 yards and injuring herself in the process.

It is the second time in the seven-week strike over equal pay that someone has been injured in the picket line.

The police refused to take action against the driver, claiming that the incident took place on private property.

The third picket on Friday, received even less support. As one of the engineering workers who work on the nearby Gomersal factory said: 'I came to support the strikers, not to hurt them.'

Harry Tonge, the factory's AUEW convener who is still working, said he had seen his attempts to negotiate with the strikers knocked back.

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HELP

He did not even attend the next main picket himself. Fellow members of the Communist Party explained that he was ill, although he 'recovered' sufficiently to attend a funerary later in the day.

Police stand guard as strikers cross the official picket line.

100 SPARKS

STIRLING: The 100 electricians on the new Scottish side being built for Scottish Timber Products at Cowie are picketing this week.

On Tuesday last week the men were given two hours notice that their contracts were terminated, but they refused to be paid off and were released.

Their services were no longer required, they were told.

But a new electric service contractor has been operating. Shugart, who is the only contractor who is not a member of the AUEW, has also been issued with a restraining order.

Police stand guard as strikers cross the official picket line.

SACKED

Joint Industry Board scheme for electrical occupations.

This reactionary scheme forthcoming site local union and other sights of shop stewards in many other occupations was introduced on the site that Scottish Timber has been struck.

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The pickets are demanding a reinstatement of employment for all the sacked men and are insisting the new contractors must meet the wages which Woodall Dukinham was paying.

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Wives march over prices

SALFORD: More than 150 wives, mostly housewives, marched through the privately-owned city shopping precinct last Saturday. Many of them were their first demonstration, but the message came through loud and clear: Price! Pay down! Wages up!

There are more than 4000 families living on the present estate in 40 blocks of houses. One householder said: 'We are getting nowhere. We've tried prices down, wages up!'

The demonstration was organized at a meeting in the workers' club of the Salford International Socialists.

I would like to join the International Socialists

Name

Address

Trade Union

Send to: IS, Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN
Perkins mostly withdraw ‘no parity’ statement

PETERBOROUGH: Workers at Perkins Engines voted two to one to return to normal working on Tuesday, ending 11 weeks of disputes.

The men accepted management’s retraction of their industrial relations director’s statement that the company had definitely not conceded parity.

The company has been shaken by the solidarity and militancy of its employees and has clearly instructed supervisors to stop provoking the men.

Whether the same attitude continues after the coming two-week holiday remains to be seen.

Shaken, the company may be, but it has given little away, whatever A.W.U. with a five million membership like Bob Wright may claim. One senior steward said of the agreement, “We all achieved a vagus commitment. Whether it is in the company’s what or what we are going to have to fight and next time we must be clear on what we want. The claim needs to be much better formulated.”

Of the present settlement, he said: “This only a first step. The issues of different factories may be agreed in other words they may not.

Nowhere in the agreement is the word ‘parity’ mentioned nor, more important, is there a time table for closing the gap between Perkins’s rates and Massy Ferguson’s at Coventry. Whether the men can close the gap depends not upon the agreement of the future settlement.

The recently-formed Perkins branch of the International Union that the men had to share on Tuesday for the first time the opportunity to keep the issues of parity before the workers and to do everything to strengthen shop-floor organisation. Next time the willingness to fight must be squandered by the manoeuvres of full-time officials.

Heath fools print unions

LONDON: Few things expose the real motives behind the government’s economic policies more starkly than the Fleet Street wages dispute.

Under a deal pushed through last October, Fleet Street workers should have a wage increase due this October of 50 per cent. That is, if prices have been more than the increase, the workers will have been robbed.

For the past two months, the conditions in the agreement has not been met.

But the Pay Board ruled that this would be the “no inflation” law, other words, wages must be held back until the increase is recovered.

If the print union accepts this situation, members lose out in two ways.

First, they lose any one per cent wage increase for three months—on average £4.00 each.

This £4.00 a head will go to help newsprint printers in the UK and cut down the recuperative profits of the past few months. The “no-inflation” papers (Daily Express) have trebled, of one year. The sale of News of the World) by £9 million, and has made 8.4 million.

Second, the union is likely to lose out over the government’s scheme to stop workers getting more than one wage increase a year. So much prices rise is government 50 per cent increase, so far there has been no second increase until October next year. The procedure is, if the union rules that the method is found to be paying the £4.00 better than the £9 million, the workers will be allowed to lose out.

For the union to be doing its best to work out a compromise. There are trade union leaders who are talking to the Printers’ Union Fund or the federation of extra daily unions in the New Year.

The unions, which last week seemed the most militant, N.A.T. covered, had an agreement that they would not run any more money on paper by paper basis. But this means that unless workers are willing is likely to get a lot more of a union. All workers will be more careful when making a deal with a government they can make up their minds to what words are on the conference platform.

Double pay to ditch pro-Caetano leaflets

THE advertising slogan of the London employment agency which the Portuguese government has been using to give out pro-Caetano leaflets during the dictator’s visit to London this week is “Get a happy job.”

Thanks to Roy Brock shop steward and the Wednesday of the 100 students who were stupid and poor enough to sell their labour to the agency did.

Tony Delaney, a director of the agency, himself explained Monday and struck a deal with them. He assured them that they would get their double paid and promised they agreed to throw the leaflets away.

The agency, embarrassed by press publicity, agreed to pay higher rates, instead of an agreement made with the T.G.U. and the T.U.P. a director of the agency, stated: “I do not discriminate and make deals with any person who is a member of the T.G.U. or the T.U.P.” Anthony Delaney’s would pay £1 an hour for the six hours worked on Monday.

Mr. Marks was unaware that the work involved more than a few quick visits to a large dentist on a nearby building site.

Tony Delaney told Socialist Workers: “I gave me great pleasure to organise these people to get higher wages for chucking fascist literature into dustbins. It was a small gesture in support of the people of Mozambique Angola and Guinea. Members of the International Socialist supported the demonstration, pictures: Christopher Davies (Report)

Field—providing strike breakers.

Two of the major tinned fish suppliers for Seabrook, British Brazilian at Shillingford, London, and Chingford Fish Packers of Woolwich, were hit by strikes. The companies contacted the Alfred Marks Bureau, which quickly supplied scale. They were put £6 an hour for nightwork, without insurance cards, just like the Caetano leaflet distributors.

Victor to victory

The Black Workers Movement contingent on the 10,000-strong march through London on Sunday protesting at the visit of Portuguese dictator Marcel Caetano. Inset: Francisco Salgado, a deserter from the armed forces, who told the marchers: “Assassinations, torture and atrocities were part of everyday life in Mozambique, Angola and Guinea. Members of the International Socialists supported the demonstration. Pictures: Christopher Davies (Report)

Fine Tubes: The cash-in

UNION members should not lift the blacklist of Fine Tubes, Plymouth, although the strike is over. Harry Urwin, Transport Union deputy general secretary, told the union’s conference at Brighton last Friday.

Members should stop blocking the strike and put the firm out of business, he said, proving for the executive against the Government’s protection of a dense core of the executive’s lack of a lead to win the three-year-old dispute.

Such a militant speech would have been a bit more authentic if made before the strike was defeated, thanks largely to the union leaders’ refusal to organise a real campaign against Fine Tubes.

Many delegations were not fooled, although even though the motion of the executive was not carried. Wally Beecham, from Ford, said Fine Tubes was a ‘lot in the TWU’s history, Charlie Tomlinson, from I.C.I. Selmestone, insisted that his plant would go on blocking.

NCB explains away mine disaster

SOUTH WALES: The disaster at Cynhubre Colliery at Pontyberen near Llanelli had hardly happened on Monday before National Coal Board spokesmen were busy explaining that it was no dangerous pit and the incident in no way resembled the disaster at Llansadwrn, where several men died.

Donald Davies, the board’s area director, said, the two mine victims, 35-year-old Frank Evans, must be presumed dead. He added that the pit had no ‘loss of acci
dents, but added: “This is not easy territory geologically and by evidential standards the number is reasonable.”

On Thursday Michael Williams, one of the two men presumed dead, walked alive.

PRIVATE PATIENTS BAN BECOMES STRIKE

PORTSMOUTH: Hospital workers walked out on strike on Tuesday when trade unionists operating a ban on private patients were threatened with the sack. The hospital secretary of St Mary’s Hospital had tried to break the four-month ban by picking out individual workers and ordering them to work with private patients. When they refused they were threatened with dismissal.

Members of the public employees’ union, N.U.P.E., immediately began a sit-in, which continued up to the time of going to press. A delegation of Portsmouth and the St Mary’s Hospital workers met the hospital secretary last night. The workers against the priority given to private patients put them at the mercy of some unknown authority. The workers are being asked to give up by hospital workers through their representatives.

Messages of support to: Sid Perkiss, NUPE Branch Secretary, 29 Minstead Road, Eastney, Portsmouth.

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