Strike action can stop fine

THE CON-MECH DISPUTE at Woking—over which the engineering union has been fined £100,000 by the National Industrial Relations Court—is about elementary trade union rights: the right to organize, the right to recognition by management, the right to elect shop floor representatives, the right of collective bargaining.

Everyone of these is denied by the arrogant anti-union boss of Con-Mech, Robert Dilley.

The NIRC fine is only the first step. There is no limit, under the Industrial Relations Act, to the fines for 'contempt of court' that can be imposed on an unregistered union.

The AUEW executive council has correctly declared its support for the strike.

This provides the legal basis for a 'contempt of court' case. A fine of £250,000, or £500,000, or any amount, could be imposed. There is no legal limit.

But there is a limit in fact. That limit depends entirely on the amount of industrial action that can be developed to support of the AUEW. This is not a matter of cost.

In the case of the five dockers imprisoned in Pentonville in 1973, the government was compelled to stop the attempt to enforce its law and the ruling of its court. It was compelled to do so by the widespread strikes led by thousands of rank and file trade unionists, in spite of the almost total lack of leadership from national executive at the TUC.

CRIPPLE

This present dispute is every bit as vital. If the NIRC gains with crippling fines on a union because it supports its members in a recognition dispute, then the Industrial Relations Act will really become a ball and chain around the necks of the trade unionists.

No union and no trade unionist will be safe. The Tory government will have succeeded in reversing its 1973 defeat on the Act and every anti-union employer and every Good and Loyal Citizen in the country will get the green light for further attacks on the very basis of trade unionism.

The union voices are calling for surrender. John Boyd, the leading ringleader on the AUEW executive, has been reported as saying that the dispute is not worth the cost to the union. In other words, it is better to yield to extraction than to fight.

But union general secretary Hugh Scoulon, if he is correctly reported, is also taking a very dangerous line: 'We still express a willingness to talk to the company and we hope that common sense will prevail'. But the right 'to talk to the company', to negotiate without victorisation is precisely what the strikers came out for and what Dilley has rejected.

CORRECT

An AUEW executive statement on Tuesday, referring vaguely to action by the members to defend the union's funds. This is not the time for vague statements that can be interpreted in different ways.

The only correct course for the executive of the AUEW is to mobilise its members for action in defence of basic union rights and against the seizure of funds and to call on all trade unionists to support it. If done so, NIRC president Sir John Donaldson and his masters will be forced to back down.

Whatever is or is not done by the AUEW executive, the militants in every trade and industry strike for a general stoppage is in support not simply of the AUEW but of basic trade union rights. It has to be got across to the rank and file that the NIRC's attack on the union is an attack on the labor movement. If ever there was a case of an injury to one being an injury to all, this is it.

KODAK ON MARCH

Another vital fight for union rights: on Tuesday Kodak workers from Woking marched through a rain-soaked London to the firm's head office to demand recognition of their union, the ACTT. Management refused to see them. Full report on page 16. Picture: Peter Harrap (Report).

KICK OUT PHASE 3

Socialist Worker Industrial Conference

OPEN TO ALL TRADE UNIONISTS

Belle Vue Manchester
Sunday 11 November
11am to 6pm
Admission 10p

Full facilities available: cafes, bars, small rooms for group meetings, nursery facilities and zoo for children. Details of coaches and trains: page 14.

Please send me credentials and details of the Socialist Worker Industrial Conference

Name: ..................................................................................................................

Address: ...............................................................................................................

Trade union: ........................................................................................................

Send to: IS Industrial Department, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

WHY THE NIRC DIDN'T DILLEY DALLY: SEE PAGE 8
by Paul Foot

LORD CHIEF JUSTICE WIDGERY, hero of the British Army after his justification of the Bloody Sunday murders in Derry, has now taken up the cause of the Keep Britain White brigade.

On 9 October, he and two other judges had found Pravind Jugnauth, who was thrown out of Uganda last year because he was an Awan and went to Austria on a Red Cross permit.

His British passport, which he held because he had not applied for Ugandan citizenship when he became independent in 1962, was taken from him by force.

According to all lawyers up to now, and even according to the British government, Mr Jugnauth and all in his position, can hardly have British citizenship. British pass- port had an absolute right of entry. Lord Chief Justice Widgery dis- agrees. In his interim judgement (the case will finish on 23 October), he declared that no British citizens can enter Britain on the Act of British under the Act that unless they can prove they are not of birth or blood or birth. In other words unless they are white.

Mr Jugnauth – and a few others now in transit camps in Austria may still be able to come in because he applied for entry before the Immigration Act became law. But Lord Chief Justice Widgery’s racist doctrine will now apply to about 300,000 Black people in Africa and 8000 in India.

They have British passports, they are part of a persecuted minority and now they will not be able to come to Britain for which country they gave their citizenship.

‘Osscene’

The decision will be greeted with gloom in the Tramshackles transit camp near Verona, where about 200 East African Asians are staging an indigent’s rally to protest that the Home Office will allow them to join their fellow countrymen.

Mary Dines, secretary of the Joint Committee for the Welfare of Indian Asians, earlier this month, described the situation there. ‘Helpless.

She told Socialist Worker: ‘Almost all the people there – every other member of his or her family in Britain. Some are elder sons, some are eldest parents, all are bullied and abused by the British and are是我们的.

‘In an intolerable situation that these people should be allowed to rot there until they die: If ever get a job in Austria, they are immediately disqualified from entry into Britain.

Mary Dines is not impressed by the speech of Robert Carr, Home Secretary, at the Parti Conference in which he spoke of the government’s ‘compassion’ towards Asians with British passports.

‘A Carr is not possible,’ she says. ‘They don’t call him Securicor Carr.

Mr Carr is a former director of Securicor. While he has been Home Secretary, Securicor have obtained a number of Home Office contracts connected with the ‘trafficking’ (harrasing) black people at airports.

Whitewash

Widgery aids the racialists

by Steve Jefferys

GLASGOW’s 700 firemen now, in the third week of a work-to-rule and ban on overtime, voted for a strike next weekend. Their action, taken in support of a claim for a £5 a week rise, has meant that Glasgow’s fire- fighting capacity has been cut by a third.

The firemen’s employer is Glasgow Corporation.

March backs Arabs

Eight hundred people marched in London on Sunday in solidarity with the Palestinian Arabs and against Zionist aggression in the Middle East. They marched from Hyde Park via the American and Israeli embassies. Speakers at a rally included several anti-Zionist Jews who declared their support for the dispossessed Palestinians.

by Jim Nichol

Tory mortgage ‘laid’ is a swindle

Scandal

The scandal of the scheme is that £1,000,000 mortgage will cost an additional £82,000.

The Mortgage Sell to the Torry to per- suade young couples that the new mortgage scheme will help them is a costly fraud. It casts doubt on the hopes of many young couples who have no alternative but to try and buy a house.

The scheme has two main problems. First, interest is paid at a lower rate than building societies would normally give. This lasts for a period of five years.

Today, with interest rates of 11 per cent, you pay only 85 per cent of the mortgage over this period under the new scheme. The unpaid interest is added to the mortgage so that you owe more after five years than was borrowed originally. There is no security at all, only a temporary and costly deter- rence.

The second feature is that payments can be suspended for up to five years. This results in considerable extra interest being paid, and less 30 years to pay off. The extent of the fraud is shown in the table.

And business rents boom

THE announcement of business rents last Monday and Wednesday set in motion the value of eight property companies increased by £123 million in the week.

The Economist. ‘Commercial property- companies are being themselves with profits.

Hast said that the government were unprepared for the move in stage from May 1974.

Controls were to be eased only from May next year and to be allowed to rise by 3% a year in real terms. When the government were having that it seemed pretty restrictive. In fact it was open that even the property men were flabbergasted.

Property investment is calculated on a 30-year basis. As a result of the Phase Three measures the investment value of properties will rise regardless of rents meeting capital gains in excess of the £250 million added to share values this week.

The government promises for rents to rise to December 1972 levels is another one trick. December 1972 was the highest peak of the property boom.

There are strong suspicions that these inevitable drop from that high point.

Hast in his press conference, suggested that the property companies were suffering a heavy burden of taxation in that rents increases are in some way justified.

The recovery is in the top 20 properties. The concern central assets worth no less than £200 million now stand on the pounds on which they paid only £3 million tax last year.

Every increase in business rents is paid to the shareholders. Every tax dodge of the property speculators is met by an equal reduction in working-class living standards. If such rents increase by 5 per cent, as the Financial Times calculates, the value of Centre Point will be raised by £2 million.
EDINBURGH: A big mobilisation by local trade unionists and socialists stopped an attempt by the extreme right-wing National Front to hold its first meeting in Scotland since the 1930s.

MF organiser Martin Webster was due to speak at the Dowgarie Lady Birkenhead meeting of the Monday Club, which is dominated by landlord landlords and black immigrants.

Right-wing fascists marched into the hall and took over the meeting, hurling abuse at the 300-plus supporters who were organised to counter the NF.

The local Intersocieties Coordinating Committee and South Edinburgh Marxist Group were also there. When the police came the fascists started to leave the hall, an impromptu meeting was called between the NF members and speakers who denounced the NF as a racist organisation. Many thanked the speaker of the previous meeting, Prakl and Alice Murray of TUS, TUC All Black Lives Matter, National Front leader, Frank Franzetti and Mary Carlin.

Mr Webster was bundled out of the hall and the police station for "protection". The investigators were later described as being "pampered and special". He called for a police investigation.

ON SATURDAY 400 demonstrators confronted a massive police contingent outside the National Front's annual conference. A number of arrests were made in clashes between anti-fascists and police. Picture: Mike Cloke.

Tenants’ leaders attack rent committee confusion

LAST WEEK a body of workers Billy Kavanagh was due to be evicted from his home by the local Labour-controlled council. This was halted when Mr Kavanagh, who had been on strike for ten months in protest against the Housing Finance Act, called off and voluntarily paid his arrears.

The circumstances surrounding these events have been bitterly criticised by Liverpool tenants’ leader Ethel Singleton. She told Socialist Worker this week that she started the long and fight of Kavanagh and strongly criticised the role of the Rent Action Committee.

She explained that Billy Kavanagh had decided to settle his arrears after he had been explained to him that while the Tower Hill, Old Swan and many other Merseyside tenants organisations had pledged to support him in resisting any eviction attempt, this was the first time he had not bothered to consider ways that the council were seriously intending to throw him out of his home.

Until then he had been under the false impression that this was not the case. And he had not bothered to consider ways to defend and protect his home against bailiffs.

The cause for Kavanagh’s confidence that the eviction notice was not serious and was not going to be implemented by the council was the statements of Sam Watts, leader of the Bootle Rent Action Committee. Ethel Singleton and Mr Watts had repeatedly assured Mr Kavanagh—and any organisation that he had nothing to fear.

Among the most amazing of these assurances were ones to the effect that a Manchester Labour MP had promised to prevent the eviction and that the local council had applied only for the eviction order for public show and did not intend to use it.

When Billy Kavanagh learned that these assurances were not as definite as Watts had insisted, he went to see the Labour council offices. He asked for absolute guarantees that they would not evict him. Of all these he saw, only one offered such a guarantee.

Instead of a year on rent strike, this was not good enough and Mr Kavanagh decided to act.

Ethel Singleton commented that the Bootle Committee’s proposal was to allow Billy Kavanagh to run the risks of losing his home just in the hope that something might come of it. What is so shocking is that this was done without telling Billy that the only risk was his own and that there was no involvement of the risk that was involved. It was a disgraceful thing to do to another worker."

programme which if adopted would reduce injury and death in the industry by 75 per cent.

It was a joint programme by two unions, the Transport and General Workers Union and UCATT and it is in this respect that the union presented a new and unprecedented proposal to its membership.

Mr Butler replied: "I didn’t hear that said. I’m not interested in unionists."

Mr Butler added: "Did you bother to look and see what was going on?"

Mr Rainham replied: "No, I’m not interested in unionists."

Another union witness, Alan Morris, on the site manager’s work contract, agreed with Mr Butler. At the site office he was called and rational and as usual as anyone in the situation.

On Monday two defence counsels mounced

on an all-out attack on one prosecution witness. He was Mr Michael Mackenzie, a lorry dumper on the site. Mr Mackenzie gave evidence that during an interview with Mr Rainham he had been asked if he had camped on the site. He replied: "I didn’t think that was anything to do with what was being said."

Mr Butler asked: "You mean you don’t think of any other way of getting a result?"

In reply to the witness’s evidence that none of the pickets had suggested that workers were being stopped, Mr Platt insisted that his client Des Warren had drawn workers’ attention to this bad conditions, saying: "Look at this bloody man. It is filthy, smelly and pokey—only to have a match put to it."

Tenants’ leaders attack rent committee confusion

JUSTIFIED

In the wars of 1956 and 1967 more Arab land was taken and more Palestinians became refugees. These people, and their children, now form a large refugee group within Israel. They have every justification for demanding the right return to their home towns.

Because the state of Israel was established as an armed camp on a racist and colonial foundation in the midst of hostile territory, spending about two-fifths of its budget on arms, it necessarily became dependent, militarily and economically on the Western imperialist powers, above all on the US.

Today Israel is a major instrument of US policy in the Middle East, a reliable anti-revolutionary force. That is why the US government is providing the aircraft and armaments lost in the war of 1973. That is why US money and, if need be, US ships, aircraft and navies, support the Israeli cause.

Of course it is also true that the states of Syria and Egypt are no more socialist than Israel, whatever they claim. Neither are they fighting for the interests of the Palestinian Arabs. Their rulers are out to recover territory they lost to Israel in 1967—or as much of it as they can.

They are quite capable of a deal with Israel that would lead to the displacement of Palestinians to roth. Nevertheless, in the present situation, a victory for Israel would lead to a strengthening of US imperialism all over the Middle East and another Sharon to replace Arafat. A defeat for Israel would have the opposite effects.

The Palestinians demand an end to the illegal occupation of all Palestinian land by Israel and the right to return to their homes, without any discrimination, in the West Bank in which Jews and Arabs have equal rights. No socialist can refuse to support such an elementary demand.
**BRIEFING**

**Test case for new hard line in Spain**

by Mike Gonzalez

WITHIN the next few weeks, 10 trade unionists are to stand trial in Spain. The outcome will probably have a dramatic effect on the future of the far-left Workers' Committees, which are the leading body of the Spanish Communist Party. The Workers' Committees were formed in 1936, under Francisco Franco's rule, as an alternative to the traditional trade unions. They were abolished in 1975, but have now been resurrected as a radical organization.

The Workers' Committees are currently facing a series of legal battles, including a number of court cases involving allegations of terrorism. The Spanish government has accused the Workers' Committees of organizing illegal strikes and other forms of industrial action.

In response, the Workers' Committees have vowed to continue their struggle, and have called for a general strike to protest against the government's actions.

**SNIPESCR**

**COLONY**

During Nazi rule in Germany many thousands of Jews fled to Palestine as a result of the persecution of Jews. In 1948, after a campaign of terrorist activity in the territories under British administration, the Arab states were set up, and the war with the Arab states followed. The war was fought in the forcible removal of millions of Palestinians from their homes. In these camps in neighbouring countries.

Israel was a colony, but unlike most other colonies it did not aim to exploit cheap native labour – it simply expelled the original inhabitants. The Jewish settlement was a thriving and flourishing one.

In 1947, the United Nations passed a resolution calling for the partition of Palestine into two states, a Jewish state and an Arab state. The Jewish state was to include all of the land west of the Jordan River, and the Arab state was to include all of the land east of the Jordan River.

The Jewish state was established in 1948, and became the state of Israel. The Arab state was never established, and the subsequent conflict between Israel and the Arab states has continued to this day.

**OVERTHROW**

The crushing of the guerrillas by King Hussein in 1969 has meant that the present war is being fought by Arab regimes which, although they are generally fighting imperialism in the Middle East, are also fighting for survival within their own countries. Israel can only finally be defeated by a revolutionary alliance of Arab workers and youth, who can overthrow both Zionism and the Arab regimes that support it.

**Caetano pulls democracy's strings**

The Portuguese dictator Marcelo Caetano has declared October as an open season for democracy, until the parliamentary elections held on 333 days of the year. The main event, the elections for the dictatorship, is to be held on the 333rd day.

Caetano also aims to stabilise the elections, so as to avoid providing a platform for the serious political problems of Portugal. It is important to note that any talks of elections are far from being set in stone, and Caetano's vacuum of power is as much a threat as an opportunity. Caetano is a man of little vision, but he has succeeded in democratic terms. He is a man of little success, but he has succeeded in maintaining power through his own means. Caetano is a man of little power, but he has succeeded in maintaining his position through his own means.

The elections will be held on 333 days of the year. The elections will be held on 333 days of the year.

**Caetano's tinkling of the electoral opposition...**

Caetano's tinkling of the electoral opposition...
Bitter taste of Maxwell's House

TORY SAY THAT only one thing smells more than a dead toad: a resurrected toad. The saying has been proved to the hilt by the political resurrection of Robert Maxwell.

Three years ago Mr Maxwell seemed to be down and out. Thrown off the board of Pergamon, his shady business deals exposed by the Sunday Times and by the Department of Trade and Industry, and his seat at Buckingham lost in the general election, Maxwell, it seemed, had retired forever into his millionaire's mansion at Hatfield, Hertford.

Now he is back in the driving seat at Pergamon, and has once again got hold of the prospective Labour candidate at Hatfield. He has no trade union troubles.

To gaps of horror from all over the hall, the news of the recent Labour Party Conference. On the final day he moved his constituency party's resolution on equal pay. In the middle of a passionate speech Mr Maxwell took up the case of the Winter Gardens bar girls, who were receiving less than £1 an hour. His pouring breeze drove the gallants of the Labour Party pouting.

Maxwell described this as 'too blatant a piece of discrimination and exploitation against women as we are likely to see.' He urged the party executives not to pay the bill for the Winter Gardens until the wages were increased.

Reading Mr Maxwell's speech, I remembered a dispute which came to the committee of the magazine and Book Branch of the National Union of Journalists at Hatfield in late summer and autumn of 1971. About 25 members of Pergamon Press, Hatfield, Cambridge, turned to the branch with a number of complaints.

Appointees

It was not simply that they were earning very little below the union rate and the job. Other aspects of their work in the offices at Pergamon, where the managers and directors were all younger than Mr Maxwell, also worried them.

Celia Wathen, the Mother of the Chapel (shop steward) at that time, now works for the Open University. She has told me of what it was like to work for Pergamon.

'The editors had a room in an open-plan office,' she said, 'and set to work sub-editing highly complicated scientific journals. Almost all the editors were young people just down from university. Most of them were earning less than £50 a week, and the secretaries, clerks and typesetters were earning much less than that.

'A tame system operated at the room. At nine o'clock a voice would chant, "Good morning, ladies and gentlemen." It was six o'clock. We were expected to be at our desks, pens in hand, when the light fell.

'It spoke again at 12.45, letting us off for lunch, and again at 1.45 when we had to be back in our seats. If not, we had our pay docked.' All the editors had to work in complete silence. The pressure of work was fantastic. On average, we had to sub-edit 20,000 long pages every month. If we ever fell short of our quota, we had to give a written explanation to the management.'

In all the branch's experience of journalistic sweatshops, the situation at Pergamon was, to quote Robert Maxwell's phrase, 'too blatant a piece of exploitation as we are likely to see.'

Maxwell was temporarily off the Pergamon board during that summer, but he was back again by the time the dispute came to the boil. The union demanded an £1,600-year basic wage but Maxwell would not budge from his offer of an increase of just over £1 a week.

Renowned

The NUJ executive was forced to put in strike notices. Pickets were arranged. When a union official, Bill MacGregor, went to Hatfield, Maxwell greeted him warmly: 'You fellows aren't really going on strike, are you?' he asked. 'Yes,' replied MacGregor.

The day before the strike, when he realised that there was really going to be an official strike, Maxwell conceded £1,750 a year, and the strike was called off. Conditions at Pergamon, I understand, have not greatly improved since.

This story, by the way, is no exception. Maxwell companies all over the country are renowned for low wages, arrogance towards trade unions and the payment of different wages for women than for men.

The fact that this man can masquerade as a radical is a more accurate measure of the real state of the Labour Party than any number of self-resolutions.

Nasty One, Cyril

A STRONG contender for the Robert Maxwell Hypothesis of the Year award is Cyril Smith, Liberal MP for Rochdale. Cyril is the Liberal spokesman on industrial affairs and moved the resolution at his party's annual conference at Southport calling for mandatory workers' participation in industry.

'Industrial relations are in a mess,' he said, 'a mess caused by men who for purely personal political reasons refuse to alter their basic attitudes. Some industrialists fail to understand that people see more broadly and educated and a greater life fulfillment than in the past.'

Mr Smith went on to say that the question of elected works councils 'is going to give rise to one of the major industrial arguments of the next year.'

Smith's resolution called for half the board of all companies with between 20 and 400 workers to be elected by the employees. The other half, it proposed, would be elected by shareholders. As Smith also made clear, trade union organisation is 'not essential' to these arrangements.

One firm which would fall into this category is Smith Springs, of Regiment Street, Rochdale. The firm was founded by Cyril Smith when he left his job as sales manager in another springs factory, Ribey, and built up his own firm with the help of a lot of Ribey customers.

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The average wage of the 42 workers at Smith Springs for the year ended June 1972 was £22 a week. The works have no trade union.

Nor do they elect any of their directors. As a recent issue of the excellent Rochdale Alternative Paper RAFO pointed out, Liberal Party policy appears to work in reverse. The son of a Smith Springs director called Fred Lee recently got a job with the firm. No favouritism, you understand. Just coincidence.

Another big liberal principle is profit-sharing. When the Liberals come to power, I understand that Cyril Smith will be introducing a Bill to enforce profit-sharing in every firm in the country except Smith Springs, Rochdale.
Tragedy of socialist lost in parliament's blind alley

ANEURIN BEVAN was a major figure in British Labour politics from the landslide election of 1945 to his death from cancer in 1960. In a very real sense he was at the centre of events that saw the triumph and the decline of traditional Labour Party reformism.

In the same sense he was the last of the social democrats. Not in the politically illiterate sense of The Times, which counterposes the "misanthropic" Michael Foot to the social democrat Roy Jenkins.

Not at all. Bevan was the last of those with any pretensions to the Labour leadership who had a cloudy but firm commitment to socialism. Every so often in his fight of brilliant brilliance, the vision shone through and uneventfully ignited a generation of Labour Party socialists. But if the vision was sometimes clear, the method of attainment was firmly rooted in capitalist institutions and parliamentary procedures.

All of this is made abundantly clear in Michael Foot's second and concluding volume of the Bevan biography*. The book covers the period from the election of the post-war Labour government, through Bevan's tenure at the Ministry of Housing and Health, the resignation in 1951, the hectic days of the TribuneBrains Trust and the final riddle of the H-bomb debate, to his death.

Discredit

During the war Bevan had been a considerable irritation to the Churchill coalition, particularly the great warmonger himself, and it was a matter of some surprise that he found a place in Attlee's govern-

mental machinery. Behind the appointment may well have been the desire of the influential fluorine to have an intimate detail of the housing problem and the inauguration of the health service, which would curb his ability to talk and, if he failed, discredit a potential nuisance.

In the event Bevan took to the work of administrative detail like a duck to water. He was kind to his

senior civil servants and charmed various downy birds off the trees.

Bevan's guiding principle was the sovereignty of parliament. For him the state was not an instrument of class oppression with parliament at its democratic facade. Bevan revered the democratic mandate which he did not think could be filled without a democratic context. Not, of course, at once, but gradually by reforming capitalist structures.

In his long and bitter struggle with the British Medical Association after the introduction of the health service, his talent for manoeuvre was deployed to the full, but in the process of winning he also managed to make a number of damaging concessions. Private practice was enshrined, fee-paying beds permitted and the highly-paid consultants appeased. The elements for the present disgraceful condition of the National Health Service were implicit in the manner of the service's birth.

But that is the way it is done, if you try the job through parliament. Parliament is the executive arm designed to lust out and suppress the essence of class antagonism. Its whole procedure and form is calculated to submerge such differences in a process that rules out the possibility of reform. This Bevan never understood and this makes nonsense of Michael Foot's claim of faith in the House.

"Capitalism," Bevan said, "proudly displays medals won in the battles it has lost." He was suggesting that reforms capitalism opposed at their inception came to recognition as of value and would do so in relation to the health service.

Devotion

That is true but in a very limited way. The clashing of the NHS to the bottom of capitalism is a function not of the raised moral tone of the system but a recognition of the need for a healthy working class society. In the same way the nationalisation of the mines and railways by a successful Tory administration because coal and transport are vital to the profitable sector, not a commitment to public ownership.

Devotion to parliament and its compensations resulted in Bevan finding himself in the mouthpiece for Labour's continuing charges for spectacles and false teeth. Bevan was showing a high moral outrage that was somewhat undermined by the fact that it was Bevan himself who actually put the principle of charges on the statute book.

It was Bevan himself who had remained in the cabinet that decided to go ahead with the construction of the British nuclear deterrent. It was Bevan himself who had defended the £400 million arms programme in his first major speech as Minister of Labour.

It was Bevan himself who as Minister of Labour permitted the arrest of the seven leaders of the striking dockers under the wartime Order 1305, Bevan in the interests of unity in the party and the govern-

ment could stand for all this but

the imposition of £13 million in health charges was too much. As someone said "He could swallow the H-bomb whole but gagged on a set of false teeth."

The period following the resignation and the defeat of Labour at the polls was the high point of the so-called Bevanite group. Wilson, Crossman, Freeman, Foot himself, Mikardo and a host of others formed the group of eager scythes at the feet of the master.

Built up in the press and by the Labour right wing as a collection of weasels and crypto-communists, they enjoyed a reputation for left-wing fervour that was occasionally belied by the defection of the greatest brethren, such as Harold Wilson, who left to occupy a seat in the Shadow Cabinet vacated by Bevan himself.

The contrast in the Breivites meant strength in the constituency Labour chamber. Bevan clothed in the grizzly garb of mass destruction had come home at last.

The final irony of Bevan's last years was that he died too soon. Indeed he lived a little longer he would almost certainly have succeeded to the leadership at Gaitskell's timely demise. As it happened, Wilson picked up the job by default, but the record of 1964 to 1970 would have been little different.

Bevan told the story of how in the aftermath of the defeat of the General Strike and the miners in 1926, he sought power so that he could give it to the workers.

He sought for it in the local council and it was not there. He sought it in the county council and it was not there. Finally he sought it in parliament and saw it disappear round the corner.

Power

In this illuminating anecdote the real tragedy of Bevan is found. He was a man with unusual talent, a spell-binding orator and a not inconsiderable intellect. Power was what an individual sought, grasped and then gave away to the working class.

But you will not find it in councils and parliaments you cannot grasp it and give it away.

Socialism, workers' power, has to be taken and held by the working class itself not bestowed by benevo-

lent natural aristocrats.

Bevan has gone and there are no successors, although Michael Foot in his new statesman-like posture is clearly emulating the last days of his idol. The vision of parliamentary socialism has lost its shine and its credibility.

The lessons of Bevan and his life are of the futility of attempting to bend capitalism and its institutions to socialist objectives. Capitalism does not bend and the futile exercise bakes the individuals who try.

* Aneurin Bevan: 1945-1960, David Poynter, £6.50

Price 50p, plus 6p postage
16 BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road, Frambury Park, London N4

Review by JIM HIGGINS

The Meaning of Marxism

by Duncan Hallas

20p plus 3p postage
8 Books
8 Cotton Gardens, London E2 8DN
'Bosses' sinister conspiracy

THE ENGINEERING EMPLOYER'S FEDERATION is one of the most powerful movements of working people. Throughout its 77 years' history it has organised lockouts, cut wages, demanded dictatorial powers and conspired with various governments to attack the basic rights of trade unionism. In 1896 the president of the TUC called it: 'A mammoth combination of militarised capital, whose object, as openly stated by its leaders, was to cripple, if it could not crush, the forces of trade unionism.' This remains its purpose today.

The Engineering Employers' Federation is the biggest and strongest of its kind in Britain. It has an extremely large number of members firms employing more than two million workers. Its board of directors consists of delegates from most of the industry's giant companies and its influential committee of vice-presidents is almost like a kind of Who's Who of two tycoons. But the inner workings and affairs have always remained a closely-guarded secret.

There is a special reason for this. For years the federation and government have skillfully manipulated a vast propaganda machine in order to try and portray workers as 'greedy' and 'irresponsible'. In order for this to be achieved, it has been necessary to conceal the full extent of their own activities.

For if these were made public, a very different picture would emerge - a picture of a bosses' battle organisation with vast resources and wealth and dedicated to preserving its own privileges and power.

Fortune

Ever since its formation in 1896 the EEF has been ready to fight working people. To this end it has undermined the trade unions and paid out large sums of money from its so-called Indemnity Fund. Every firm that joins the Federation is required to pay into this fund. Its purpose is to compensate companies for losses of profits during strikes.

It has paid out millions in recent years. In 1970 it spent £1,600,000, in 1970 £200,000 and in 1972 the biggest amount in history.

According to the fund's revenue account for the year ending 31 December 1973, its income was £241,151 and its expenditure a staggering £2,276,975. The fund's balance was a high £414,664 in 1972, £27,319 in 1973 and £79,911 in 1974. Despite this, the fund has paid out millions in recent years.

The Federation has 22 local associations, giving it the appearance of being a national organisation, but it is in fact a rich man's club.

The total wealth of the Federation and its 20 most important associations is £2,214,584. They also have a combined annual income of £2,238,347.

One of the major battles this winter will be to stop a Tory Government and pay for the engineering workers' pay claim. In the next few weeks, Roger Rosewell will analyse past struggles by engineering workers, and review the current strengths of the unions involved. In this first article, he looks at the former rich, powerful and arrogant Engineering Employers' Federation.

Sir Arnold Hall

Tom Carroll, managing director of Babcock and Wilcox.

In 1973 Carville was a member of the committee of inquiry into the Post Office. Workers strike and the first deputy president of the Federation. In his first capacity he helped down turn the postal workers' claim for more money and in the second he saw the EEF employ the strikebreaking London Dispatch Service to deliver their mail during the dispute.

Victimise

The EEF fully supports the Tory wage cuts of the current "incomes policy". In March Tom Carlile told the Coventry employers: 'I suspect that for many years to come collective bargaining as we have known it will not return. This may not be a bad thing. There was nothing free about collective bargaining other than that the unions were virtually free to do as they pleased.'

Active trade unionists have always known that the EEF operates a blacklist and a policy of trying to victimise militant workers. The constitution of one of its most powerful local associations, one method of writing to its members is: 'It is expected that the normal courtesy between member firms in regard to the engagement of labour will be pursued through the use of the telephone.'

In addition, the method of blackmailing many workers of the EEF's member firms also uses the sinister services of the Economic League. In 1972, Mr. Edward Wells, a director of this organisation, told a meeting of Sussex businessmen: 'The Economic League was capable of exposing subversion and any member of the league could ask them for information about a suspected subversive.'

Another body that also offers a similar service and which is supported by many big engineering companies is the extreme right-wing Common Cause group. In recent years this has received money from Vickers, GNK, Hawker Siddley and the British Aircraft Corporation among others.

And recently the EEF has been taken an active interest in the affairs of the International Socialists and others. On 19 September, Richard Chaterwood, reactionary "expert" on the left, spoke to the West Midlands Engineering Employers' Association on 'Revolutionary Politics and Industrial Disputes.'

No details of this meeting have ever been made public but no one should have any doubt as to its purpose.

Defend the North Wales 24 Picket on Trial

As the Shrewsbury 'conspiracy trial' of the North Wales 24 drag on, solidarity support and action throughout the trade union movement is vital.

This new IS pamphlet is invaluable. Outlining the background to the trial, the sinister politics of the government line-up and its implications for the whole of the working movement, it sets out the facts and the background in 30 pages: 12 cores or more post free from Industrial Department, International Socialists, 6 Cottoneer's Row, London E2 8DN.

Donations

Among some of the other big companies that are influential in the federation are: British Aircraft Corporation, Rayneville Parsons, Birrend Quedell, Philips Electronic, Standard Telephones, Vickers, Ferranti, Dunlop, Westland Aircraft, EMI, and British Oxygen.

Many of these also give large amounts of money to the Tory Party. Some of the biggest donations from federated firms have been:

Birrend Quedell: £9,500

Ferranti: £5,000

Joseph Lyttleton: £12,000

Dunlop: £5,000

British Oxygen: £3,000

Defend the North Wales 24 Picket on Trial

The past few years the Engineering Employers' Federation has been in the forefront of every attack on working-class rights. It is a strong supporter of the Industrial Relations Act and the current Tory wages policy. It has campaigned for new legal shackles on the right to picket and has been among the most insistent of those demanding the cutting of social security benefits to strikers.

Their aim: cripple trade unions

The current president of the EEF, Lord Stokes, has announced that the federation will fight to the bitter end. This is the real meaning of their action. They are fighting to maintain the present system of exploitation and oppression.
DILLEY GETS NO DAY BY NJC
by LAURIE FLYNN

Conditions at Con Mech are just as you would expect in a non-unionised factory which must be among the front rank competitors for any ‘Swathop of the Year’ award.

Typical is the guillotine Dilley operates for cutting lengths of steel to size for making construction machinery parts. Dilley installed this particular delight early in September.

Dilley was a bit stuck for space. Deciding against installing it in its own luxurious office, he put it in the workers’ car park. Workers were told “to park elsewhere.”

Whoever operates the machine is left to get on with this hazardous job: come rain or shine in the open air.

The machine is wired up from a power source inside the main factory shed. The stop and start buttons are also inside the shed. So if someone wants to stop the machine he has to leave the ground on which the operator has got caught in it, then he has to climb in through a factory window to get to the stop button. If the worker struggles according to the NJC rules to nip round the back of the factory and round the office windows.

Each and every part of Dilley’s operation is identical along the same lines. Ijas Ahmed, one of the pickets, summarises the situation thus: “Very bad, unacceptably bad. This is why we must have a union, our union, so, where and how we choose.

Ron Connor, one of the two victimised stewards who have worked at Con Mech for five months prior to the strike says: “It was appalled when I came here, appalling to see the factory, but the human beings who are subjected to these conditions are subjected to these conditions.

“We work up to 70 hours a week for a pittance while Mr Dilley and his kind are deciding which Rolls Royce’s and which night club to go to tonight.”

Not surprisingly this kind of attitude finds little favour with Mr Dilley. Since the strike for union rights was launched he has accused Ron Conner of being a “Communist plant” sent to ‘dump’ his ‘happy’ workforce.

Mr Dilley has said the same of Lindsay Greg, another Warwick University student, in which the pickets were standing ground when he was taken on. He was made a union executive in the plant that he too has been trying to stop.

Thanks to the Tory government a threatened proflitee like Mr Dilley now has another weapon apart from red scores and intimidation. Dilley’s use of the NJC enabled him to get an order against the NJC, an order instructing the union to get the members to return to work.

This important new pamphlet is an outline of the policies of the International Socialists, the development and nature of modern capitalism—and the urgent need for a workers’ party to overthrow it. Its 40 pages are essential reading for Socialist Worker readers and all IS branches.

This powerful and honest speech was made from the dock in Harris Street, Manchester where around 100 people were present for the trial of a Jewish man for murder.

The speech was delivered by John Rees, a member of the Revolutionary Communist Movement, in response to the charge of murder.

The speech is a powerful analysis of the historical context of the conflict in the Middle East and the role of Zionism in the struggle for Palestinian self-determination.

Rees begins by discussing the role of Zionism in the history of the conflict in the Middle East, and the way in which Zionism has been used as a tool to undermine the aspirations of the Palestinian people.

He goes on to discuss the role of the Israeli state in the conflict, and the way in which it has been used to maintain its control over the Palestinian people.

The speech is a powerful analysis of the historical context of the conflict in the Middle East and the role of Zionism in the struggle for Palestinian self-determination.

The speech is a powerful analysis of the historical context of the conflict in the Middle East and the role of Zionism in the struggle for Palestinian self-determination.
IN ISRAEL FLAYS THE ZIONIST REGIME'S TERROR AGAINST ARABS

The exploitation and the oppression—the government accuses us of "teaching violence".

Thus I, a member of the Revolutionary Communist Alliance, which is a legal organization known for its political work amongst the Jewish and Arab masses, met in August 1970 a man who was introduced to me as a Palestinian socialist. This was a political meeting, during which we discussed the political developments in Israel, in the Arab countries and in the Palestinian movement.

The charge presented against me is based on false confessions, exacted through mean extortion. After nine days of investigation, which were full of beatings and throughout which I defended my right not to make any declaration—be it true, they took my friend, who is close to me as a brother, and tortured him with electricity and cold showers and simply announced to me that they would not stop until I was ready to talk.

I talked, I told them I was still willing to say whatever they wanted—and I truly 'incriminated' myself, apparently, and signed whatever they wanted me to.

I had gone in innocence to hold a meeting with a man who was introduced to me as a Palestinian socialist. The sole purpose was political clarification and delusion.

The meeting held was an orgone of the legal political activities of the Revolutionary Communist Alliance. That meeting was held in pure innocence. I did not break the law and there was no intention on my part to break the law nor to harm the security of the state.

Our position and our way of ensuring the security of the people in Israel is the realisation of massive political struggle.

I am standing here today because I am an uncompromising fighter against the existing regime. What leads me and my friends in all our activities is the true interests of the Jewish and Arab masses.

While I am completely innocent, there is nothing in the world that can stop me fighting, struggling with my friends, for the sublime aims of communism.

International Socialism

Trotsky on Terrorism: a magnificent essay that counters the politics of mass action to the blind alley of bombings and assassinations. That is just one of the many fine articles in the new, revamped monthly journal of the International Socialists. Don't miss it.

20p inc post, £3.10 for a year.
Iliff Journal, Bridgwater Works, Corbridge
Chester-le-Street, Durham DH2 9DS
UNDER THE INFLUENCE is a new series, starting this week, in which militants will take another look at the books that made them socialists and revolutionaries. Everyone has a different approach to the present system too high but education and upbringing blinds people to this. Often direct experience opens our eyes, but sometimes it takes a novel, play or poem that makes things suddenly fall into place.

In the next few weeks militants will be writing of this moment of discovery and the books that made it possible. They include Galagach's Revolt on the Clyde, Sinclair Lewis' Jungle, Oscar Wilde's Soul of Man under Socialism, Howard Fast's Spartacus, and the plays Clybourne Court and The Glass Menagerie.

The new IS Bookshop has copies of all these on order, and will make special ordering for bulk orders from IS branches. Write to 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

POLITICAL WRITINGS OF WILLIAM MORRIS, edited by A L Morton, Lawrence and Wishart, £1.


The Sunday Demonstration was a direct protest against repression. In Ireland, an MP who had spoken out against British rule had been thrown in prison. In England unemployment had been rising for months and meetings of the unemployed, held daily, were being cleared by mounted police.

That Sunday the two came together, backed by socialist groups from all over London, for a massive demonstration in Trafalgar Square. The police bade it--"in the protest that those 'Crown property'--but the demo went on.

It never reached the square. All over London police rode down and baton-charged the demonstrators. The few who reached the square were mercilessly beaten.

It was Bloody Sunday 1887. Three people were killed and hundreds seriously injured. It was, as A L Morton writes in his introduction to this volume of William Morris' writings, "one of the most violent political happenings of the 1880s."

I've been watching Bloody Sunday from all the events in Morris' life--the attitude towards him of Morris, who was there, A L Morton, and his biographer Philip Henderson make their politics very clear.

Henderson writes: "The scene was set for a full-scale massacre. But thanks to the generosity of Warren, in dispersing the columns at the approaches, to the square, only those did it.

It's obvious where his sympathies lie, and he is not with the socialists. Anyone who wants a fair judgment of Morris' political beliefs read his book.

Morton himself writes: 'London has been put under martial law, normally on behalf of a party, but really as behalf of a class'. The mask is off now, and the real meaning of all the petty prosecution of our open-air meetings is clear as a day.

No more hunting need be talked about obstruction and the conscience of the public: it is obvious that those meetings were attacked because we displeased the dominant class and were a threat to its power.

Morris, though he is better known as an artist and designer of wallpapers, was a revolutionary socialist--from an unusual sort of public school to Oxford University, the easy life of an owner of a country house to socialism because as an artist he saw the destructive power of capitalism: where Marx saw that capitalism robbed workers of the wealth they created, Morris saw it robbed them of their very humanity, forcing them to live in conditions of poverty and hunger for animals and turning them into mere commodities.

This volume of Morris' political writings is a major work.

Morris was no theoretician. His arguments against the logic of the economics of exploitation, but as a seaman he was close to the working class, and his writings are sometimes tedious, much concerned with the fine points, but the latter ones show the experience of speaking to hundreds of socialist meetings in pub backrooms, workingmen's clubs and in the open air.

TONY BARROW, ex-sailor, Transport Workers Union shop steward at Ford Leanington and member of the Ford National Joint Negotiating Committee, writes about The Floating Republic, The Mutinees at Spithead and the Nore by G E Manwaring and B Dobbs. The former book is a modern one, but still available in hardback published by Frank Cass at £3.25. Get your local library to buy a copy, then it's on the shelves to make a few more socialists.

PETER MARSDEN

Running an occupation

IMAGINATION IN POWER, by Andre Hoyles, Spokesman Books, £1.

SIP and factory occupations are an important weapon in the workers' struggle. In the last few months, from May 1965, when 10 million workers and factory workers in the United Kingdom were on strike, the vast majority of experience from which to draw.

Unfortunately far too much of what has been said so far has rested on the constant picturesque strikes of the leading factories. The real question is the supply of socialist thinkers. The great merit of Hoyles' book is that it looks at what was happening in the factories.

The author draws attention to the importance of the occupation of factory buildings in running an occupation day-by-day. It looks at the real problems that face the factory workers in the factory.

One factory, committees were set up in each shop. Each shop-floor committee had a specific duty, such as organization of duty rota, safety, guard and so on. The organization of the collection of food, petrol coupons and so on. The organizing of proper pockets was another vital role. In some places they were armed, only with sticks, spade handles and plastic hammers.

What is most important are the looks at the important problems of political and economic control. Where strikes started "spontaneously" at a factory, they were broken up early, but in the factories which had small groups of political activists it was a completely different story.

The book is the process of this step forward.

As the important role played by workers' families. For if there was an economic interest of the workers to the factories to drag their husbands home, there were other cases where the worker who went home of his own accord was punished, so that his place in the factory and he would be the one to go.

She also shows the limits of most workers' ideas. Even though they had taken over the factories from the bosses, they still had a deep respect for them. She tells what happened in one railway sorting office. The manager's office was finally occupied only because the key were found; large amounts of French currency and shares which the strikers presented being from being exported were stored carefully in a safe and actually guarded; suggestions that the locked office should be broken into were strongly opposed; the money the labourers could not be requisitioned and used by the strikers was simply thrown away.

In short, this is a book which can be read and understood by any worker without the slightest word of warning. If you already have a copy, buy another; if you don't buy this book. For apart from a short statement of history, it also contains a list of names and addresses as in the Register.

All books mentioned in Review can be obtained by post from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (phone 01-802-6146). When ordering books, please add 7p to cover postage and packing.
The three sisters of the West Riding

If you've never read any of the Brontë sisters' novels you've plenty of chance to catch up on the mid-Victorian era and its sisters today. On Sunday nights there's Yorkshire TV's Brontës of Haworth, and in BRB's serialisation of Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre.

Neither series is too good, yet there is so much behind what they wrote. The Brontës were daughters of a clergyman and their family. Among the sisters are Charlotte, Emily, and Anne, each of whom became famous in their own right.

Mrs Bronte was the son of a Irish peasant whose name was Bronte. He came to England and rose in the world by means of the church. In an attempt to wipe out his lowly origins, Bronte changed his name to the more fashionable Bronte. He fired a pistol every morning, a tribute to the power of the weaving and spinners who represented his reactionary views, and he died as a result.

When his wife died of exhaustion and preoccupation with her family, she travelled to London and became a charted boarding school student, especially since she was not clever enough to be a governess. This school appears in Jane Eyre—a place where the children were all to be taken to school and where disease was rife.

The two eldest Bronte girls, Maria and Elizabeth, died of TB before they had been at school very long, and they were only 10 and 11 years old. But still Mr Bronte sent the others back there, and they never forgot.

They wrote out their dreams and longings in fantastic home-produced stories and newspapers, copied out in their script to look like print; some of the pages only as both a half and a square. And late at night they read their stories to one another and dreamt of becoming writers.

But they were women. It was not the usual lot of the family who carried his father's ambition, and the girls were forced to become governesses in order that he could go to college in London.

In fact, Brontë spent all his money on books and music, never began his studies, and eventually died of his misery and excesses. But not before trying to kill his father on several occasions. Once he set fire to Mr Bronte's bed, and the girls put out the flames.

For a girl to be a governess was not necessary to pretend to be men, they said. They did not want to be Miss Eyre.

Watching Jane Eyre on TV, you may think that you're seeing something new and unusual. But it's a story of those times and even now does Haworth Potted and cleaned up as it is.

Judith Condon
AMONG the many sites all over the country which went on strike on the first day of the Shrewsbury pickets' trial, the Shrewsbury Socialist Worker editorialised:

"The trial of the workers in the Shrewsbury Socialist Worker, the Hill & Higgs trial, was purely a public relations exercise. It was an attempt to create a climate of fear and intimidation in order to silence us." The trial was a victory for the trade unionists. The workers were supported by a large number of people, including many who had never taken part in a strike before. The trial was a clear victory for the workers, who were able to demonstrate their solidarity and resist the attempts of the employers to break them.

The United Kingdom is a capitalist country, and capitalism is fundamentally opposed to trade unionism. The bosses want to break the workers, to prevent them from organizing and fighting for better working conditions. The bosses want to keep the workers divided and weak, so that they can exploit them more easily.

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Try arguing Chile in power. TWO: Factories and communities were taken over by the workers themselves, and THREE: the economy then was rained and the army took over.

Now this mistaken view, influenced by the media, perpetuates the problem that is affecting Chile, in the areas such as York, means that socialists must put the present views there in their true light. What happened was that the strikers' union was broken up, the strike was put down, and a party not far removed from the present Labour Party took over. As Attempting to build socialism in one country through parliament by enlightened representatives of the working class is the road to defeat.

It is different to the self-sacrifice of workers in creating their own international socialist society bearing the present unequal set-up.

Readers of Socialist Worker must attempt to do it fully to their works. What the parliamentary road to socialism means, what happened in Chile, and to stress that Chile never had what could be described as a workers’ revolution.

I HAVE been buying your paper recently, and I think it is very good. I think the stories about the strikes that are taking place are depressing. I am not sure what your policy on my copy all my friends.

I think it is very important that they get to know what goes on in the factories where the men (and some women) work. None of us will ever say (like the workers at the Evening Standard): “We’re fed up with the situation.” But if the bosses in the factories didn’t have the workers ready they would not be able to make all that money.

Everyday in the industry there are lots of disputes and conditions of work are often terrible. There are hazards and the health of the workers is getting worse, worse, worse than animals.

You have articles about history and socialism by Chris Harman and many others, and I really do feel this is very good. I think it’s very good because it’s written in a very honest way. I am not saying this is a socialist who understands why it’s all women’s work. I think it’s very good.

Not just British Airways

A FEW comments on last week’s strike at Heathrow Airport. I believe the statement that shift workers at Heathrow are innsensed at the long-drawn-out talks on shift pay. We started out with the same script which was scrapped. A new one was then given to me based on the basis of a percentage of a trade’s previous earnings. Heathrow prefer.

My friends are supported by our own national officials—back to square one. A matrix system we do not want. We will be cheaper, but we will be cheaper. We will obtain a decent shift allowance. We have to fight British Airways and this so-called government. Then we will have a strike. I can’t see, our own national officials, the FAS/SAW and BA. No, we will have a strike. We will have a strike. We will have a strike.

My friends support the queen but I do not. I believe in International Socialism, I am for the workers. The government are selfish and do not understand workers in labour. Our freedom is not for sale and we will not allow it.

Fun from the Lord Chancellor

IT’S RATHER fun to have the Lord Chancellor making all the arrangements for you. This was the case when the Prime Minister asked the father when he was interviewed on royalty, who he was going to ask to the wedding.

Unfortunately not everyone has other people to rely on. The majority of us have to go through the hassle of trying to get things organized and worrying ourselves silly that nothing will go right.

It is a pity that we all can’t open our homes to the public. If we could, then maybe at 50p a time we could manage to raise enough money to set up a home of our own. But considering the state of things nowadays, I suppose some people could say that the future Mr and Mrs Phillips have been lucky in getting a home at all. I mean to say who would want to set up on their first home in an army barracks? Although I’m sure we would all like to be able to rent a house like the one they have, and at the relatively modest salary they have to pay. I think £8 a week was the figure. It is obvious that they don’t have the under the fair rents act most of us do, or else the figure would probably be nearer £18 a week.

If more people could see through the masks of the Labour Party, I believe they would realize that they are themselves, who are paying for this ‘socialism’. But this is exactly what has been happening ever since royalty has arrogated, and until we come to realize it we will go on paying.

WOMEN: NO HISTORY OF THE BIGGEST INDUSTRY

Left

LIETERS

Socilist Worker wants to hear from you. What you like about your job and what you don’t? Your thoughts and comments on problems facing women workers? Please be brief. We receive so many letters now that we cannot publish them all. We could only hope to publish the views of women restricted themselves to 250 words.

Letters must arrive first post Monday. Handwritten letters must be in long-hand. Names in capitals please to avoid con-fusion.

Unfair to the Israelis?

I AM disappointed at your total uncritical acceptance of the Arab case. There is, in any case, nothing revolutionary or fair about Arab governments at present. In Libya, Algeria, Tunis, are to be stoned in public. There have their hands cut off.

Jews have a right to live, and whatever the Palestinian issue, there is no justification in approving of a sneaky attack on a small, albeit strong country, and to try blackmail against the whole world by a com- munist Arab sect to block oil supplies. One can only hope this joint Arab effort will remain as pany as previous efforts at all-Arab action.

The rich oil-producing countries of the Arab world could solve the problem of badly housed poor refugees ‘at a stroke’ if they provided for homes, land and capital. There is no need to attack Israel. That country has had to live under constant threat since its founding. No wonder some one under attack turns back and counter-attacks.

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Not just British Airways

A FEW comments on last week’s strike at Heathrow Airport. I believe the statement that shift workers at Heathrow are innsensed at the long-drawn-out talks on shift pay. We started out with the same script which was scrapped. A new one was then given to me based on the basis of a percentage of a trade’s previous earnings. Heathrow prefer.

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STEP UP the solidarity campaign for the North West Wales miners to put the strike as a strike to stop the seizure of the engineering union's funds—these were the two key demands at last weekend's meeting of the national committee of the International Socialist News. 

Laurie Flynn told the meeting that the union's call for a strike was to take action against the seizure of the engineering union's funds, and for support from the Socialist Worker industrial conference to be called.

The strike is being called to stop the National Union of Students from seizing the union's funds. The union members are demanding that the union's funds be returned to them.

The meeting was well-attended, with many members from the North West Wales miners present.
Films pile up as Kodak strikers vote 'we go on'

by Greg Douglas

ROTHERHAM—The inquest into the death of steel erectress Leni Leppe, who fell from a temporary scaffold on the British Steel Corporation Parkgate Aldwarke site, returned a verdict of 'accidental death'.

Leni, a 29-year-old man who had two children, fell from a scaffold in a routine inspection work, where he was 46 feet above the ground, with no handrail or fall arrest system. He was thrown to the floor 20 minutes before he was due to be rescued and airlifted to hospital, where he died.

By verdict of coroner P. Gills, aided by L. Lester, foreman for subcontractor Lodge Controls, there was no surprise in the coroner. Nurses have no experience of the construction industry and are not taught the responsibilities of employees' safety and their role in the implementation of the Factories Act, which led the Sheffield Factory Inspector to inspect the construction sites as virtual death traps.

These attitudes are typical in the construction industry. Until we build a strong rank and the organization to speak for the men on the sites and protect them from such threats and from the blackmailer who knows whose name will next be recorded as 'accidental death'.

Scaffold death fall ‘an accident’

Busmen to strike

LEEDS—Busmen have decided on a stop work action following the weekend's 11-hour protest against a series of vicious assaults on drivers. The drivers have refused to come to the bus's service after attacks on three busmen last week. The union's branch secretary has called a meeting next week at which the proposals will be discussed.

The strike could lead to a service reduction and the possible closure of some routes.

Strike for equal pay

OXFORD—Women workers at Pears' Shampoo have decided to strike for equal pay. The women have been working at the factory for 16 years and have been in dispute with the company for six months. The company has refused to make any offer to the workers and the strike is to begin next week.

Black's anti-racism strike is victory

NORTH LONDON—Roderick Adams, the black steel worker, and his colleagues in the Steelworkers' Union have won a victory in their long running battle against the company's policy of racial discrimination.

The Black's anti-racism strike, which started last year, has won a victory and half-failed to get the company to accept the Black's call for a meeting and to discuss the matter further.

Threat to 1000 workers

LONDON—Nearly 1000 workers have received notices that they will be made redundant by the end of the year. The notices were sent to the workers last week, following a meeting with the company's management.

The management has rejected the workers' demands for a meeting and has stated that it will not accept any further negotiations.

I would like to join the International Socialists

Name:
Address:
Trade Union:
Send to: IS, 6 Cottons Gardeens, London E2 8DN

OTHER CINEMA/LATIN AMERICAN FRONT: Two films from Latin America—'The rebel peasants' (1972) and 'Pedro Pintos' (1972) not to be missed. Special screening on Tuesday 21 December, 7.30pm, Cinema, 144 Lexham Gardens, London W12.


BRITISH TRAVELERS OUT OF IRELAND: Public Meeting Speakers: Peter Harkness, Pauline Harkin, Earnne McNamara, Eamonn Redmond. Location: Dublin, Derry and Belfast. Date: December, 7.30pm. Time: 7pm. Details from: Irish Travel Workers' Committee.
FIGHTING FUND REACHES £433
- 11 DAYS TO GO

A GOOD response from readers and supporters brought in £47 this week—enabling the October Socialist Worker Fighting Fund to £433. But there are only 11 days left to hit our monthly target of £1000—so don't let us down. We urgently need extra cash to meet all our overheads: an improved paper, more pamphlets, full-time organisers and conferences.

Yes, we know there's Phase Three ready to take another slice out of your income. But the best way to blast off the Tories' attacks is to help spread our ideas and build a fighting, full-time workers' organisation. Keep the cash coming in to Tim Nicholl, 8 Concorde Gardens, London E2 8BN.

GILBERT HUNT, Chrysler's chief executive in Britain, the man who hired convicted criminals to break picket lines outside one of Chrysler's factories last summer, has been complaining to the Society of Motor Manufacturers about 'troublemakers'.

Not the troublemakers in his own boardroom who have been harassing their workers ever since Chrysler came to Britain six years ago. Not the ever-increasing band of white-collar hysterics and foremen who clutter up the Chrysler plants. Not the company's measured daily work agreement—one of the most inhuman documents ever produced in British industry.

No. Mr Hunt was talking about the workers who produce all Chrysler cars and Mr Hunt's fat salary into the bargain. Mr Hunt was paid £443 a week, that is £11 an hour, by Chrysler. On 1 April the government introduced legislation giving car workers the same concessions for the higher paid. The result of these for Gilbert Hunt was an annual increase in his take-home pay of £350—more than the increase demanded by Chrysler electricians, who are still on strike. An 'independent inquiry' is investigating their claim.

Mr Hunt referred to agitation by 'international Socialists backed by the university'. He was trying to pretend that there are no socialists among Chrysler workers, but that 'agitators in the USA and Europe' are trying to 'steal away' his profits.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Socialist Worker has been in contact with workers at the Chrysler plants at Linwood in Scotland, and at Stokes, Coventry. We assure you, Mr Hunt, you can be assured that we agree. We are all going down the pan, he said misguidedly. If we refer to the strike of workers at motor manufacturers, managers and their shareholders who have created so much misery to so many workers, he is absolutely right.

WILLY LEE, AUEW senior shop steward in the press shop, Linwood, Scotland,Almost 3000 march, 20,000 out in protest at arrests

SHEFFIELD—Last Friday 3000 engineers marched through the city behind an impressive display of shop stewards' committee banners.

In total 20,000 engineers were out on strike for between one and 24 hours. They struck in protest at the arrest and trial of eight trade unionists including AUEW district secretary George Cawson, on a mass picket line outside Footprint Tool Works three weeks ago. George Cawson was found guilty and fined £5. The others came to trial soon.

The strike at Footprints is for the reinstatement of the leading AUEW steward sacked 17 weeks ago.

Since Monday all have been quiet down at the picket line. An attempt last week to get talks between the General and Municipal Workers Union and AUEW shop stewards to resolve the question of GMWU members doing AUEW work during the strike has failed.

Although all parties, including management, have agreed in principle to an inquiry, this still has not been arranged. Clearly, without further pressure in the form of more widespread strike action being exerted by the AUEW in Sheffield, the issue looks like remaining unresolved.

COVENTRY—Dennis Poole and the otherbatch men involved in closing down the Triumph motorcycle factory at Menton, near Coventry, moved one step nearer their goal last week.

Last week 2000 motorcycles were 'locked in' by round-the-clock pickets. At this point Leslie Healfield, Labour MP for Nuneaton, and Bill Leppington, Transport Union district organiser, produced their 'workers' coop' plan.

At the time, although some workers were on the coop couldn't possibly work, that it might act as a diversion, most of the scheme as one way out of a difficult situation.

What has happened now is disastrous. In the last place the time has been taken out of the hands of the shop floor. It is now being handled by full-time officials and stewards, with a refusal to involve the shop floor properly.

Also, in the name of saving the coop idea, the workers have been shown series of the bikes 'in order to buy them'. And interminable squabbling over the coop is further confusing matters.

To release the bikes, whether in response to demands or to buy more time, would be disastrous. 'Locked in' is the only course if the shop floor is not to be wasted.

We are dealing with a militant company encouraged and supported by a militant government.

THE witchhunt habit started by Gilbert Hunt at Chrysler has spread to Halsteads factory at Whitefield, Manchester, where workers recently staged a successful strike over conditions.

Thetufting machine manufacturers ran the private sector of a worker who is a socialist and international Socialist and sent an internal scheme which gave the tufting machine workers the right to comment on all aspects of the struggle and Poole has won.

OFFICIALS

Only a few days ago, the mass strike protest event through Coventry. Factory workers, who have been the object of official 'advice' from Poole and the members of the Holiday Works, the movement is on the retreat.

Despite his reputation, he has been under a lot of pressure last week to prove how genuine his role really is. So much so that the Manpower Services Commission (MSC) contacted him about the Triumphant name and next year's models. The workers have then all begun to say, 'Mr Hunt is not likely, he is not likely as long as they can raise the money to pay it, that is.'

The Footprints banner on last Friday's demonstration. (Morning Star picture)

Triumph plans brings axe nearer

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