I'M GOING to the Socialist Worker industrial conference to get support for the working class to overcome the capitalist system of this Tory government and to overthrow by whatever means the Industrial Relations Act," says Ron Connor, AUEW shop steward at Con-Pech in Woking—scene of the battle for union rights that has led to the £76,000 fine on the AUEW.

Ron added: 'We desperately need to form a rank and file movement to put the leaders of the unions on their right and proper course—that is, less red tape and chats with the Tories and more action.'

Ron Connor is not alone. In the last week, many hundreds of workers have decided to join the coaches, trains and cars all heading this Sunday, 11 November, to:

The Socialist Worker Industrial Conference
Belle Vue, Manchester

So far, more than 2000 trade unionists have taken credentials for the conference and several hundred more are expected by the time the conference opens.

Such is the demand for seats, that an extra coach has been added to the special train that will take London delegates to Manchester.

Focused by soaring prices and profits, anti-union laws and conspiracy trials and union leaders in mortal fear of fighting for their members, the time has never been more urgent to begin to lay the groundwork for a mass rank and file movement of industrial militants. That is the aim of Sunday's conference—open to all trade unionists, not just members of the International Socialists.

The conference runs from 11am to 6pm. chaired by well-known AUEW Manchester militant Wally Preston, the first session, The Struggle Ahead, will be opened by IS executive member Tony Cliff. The afternoon session will include a discussion on Building the Rank and File Movement, opened by Roger Rosewell, IS Merseyside organiser.

Admission to the conference is 10p and credentials can be obtained at the door on Sunday morning.

Belle Vue has every facility—so why not bring the children along too? A nursery will be open all day and there is a zoo in the grounds.

There will be three bars, open during the lunch break for drinks and snacks from 1pm to 1.50 and a restaurant will provide meals from 11.30 to 3pm.

The editorial board of Socialist Worker looks forward to seeing you there, at one of the most important and significant gatherings of militant workers in the last 10 years. The Glasgow firemen have given us a tremendous boost this week. They have shown that militancy pays and have bared a hole through Phase Three.

A united rank and file movement can provide the energy and the driving force to smash Phase Three completely and bring down the Tory government.

That's what the conference is all about.

See you on Sunday!
Chile casts shadow at CP congress

by Jim Higgins

THE COMMUNIST PARTY, which meets for its 33rd national congress this weekend, will be unable to report any great advance in its progress or success.

The decline in circulation of the Morning Star has been halted and in two years membership has increased by 1,000. This is a fairly feeble result of party activity in a period in which there has been an unprecedented upsurge of workers, unemployed and large-scale recruitment by the revolutionary left.

The executive committee’s resolution for Left Advance is a simple repetition of the old commitment to the peaceful road to socialism. With minor amendments it could have been written at any time in the last 10 years.

Political advance is still in the section of a Labour government and in a continuation of the “left” to the TUC General Council and trade union offices. Not one word of socialism is levelled at the dubious alliances of these same trade union and Labour “left”.

Some 28 branch resolutions are submitted to the section of Chile and the lesson for socialists in Britain. There can be no doubt that the government’s road to socialism has been seriously derailed by the aggressive Committee against Chile and their fellow party members. It is a truth that Action Works branch offices are performing a sped-up version of the mass meetings of the left’s march against Chile.

Campaigners have correctly called on a surprise offer: scrap the Phase Two £1 plus 4 per cent agreement, stop the run from 1 October, and replace it with a deal that, dressed up, might look as if it were some relative to Phase Three at a top limit.

This deal is similar to the first phase of a £2.50 rise for the 5 per cent rate allowed in the “second half” of the “target” rate at a top limit. As Sunday morning’s meeting, all but two of the 51st strike committee voted to return to work, Jim Flockhart, chairman of the strike committee, said it was a small step, a day ago that the nationalized whole would not apply to firemen, policemen or nurses. This obviously does not refer to striking firemen.

Firemen also get a further overall 1 per cent rise under a bogus “flexibility” plan. There are no pay subventions of any sort. Firemen have been forced to pay subventions in a cutbacks plan, and a further subvention in a separate plan, for “travelling expenses”.

29 hours (to mid-month) 56 hours
56 hours (to mid-month) 56 hours
35 hours (to mid-month) 56 hours
45 hours (to mid-month) 56 hours
60 hours (to mid-month) 56 hours

There are three main drawbacks to the offer. Firstly, firemen will get the increase from 1 October when the old agreement expired and November when the new one comes into effect.

EXTENDED
Secondly, the Cunningham report in 1971 proposed firemen 56 hours (to mid-month) 56 hours
But the implementation of that agreement was impossible. The firemen won two months or that Phase Four won’t work. The final agreement is for 48 per cent, which was agreed to in the Government’s committee, and it is the final against the “second half” of the “target” rate at a top limit. There is no guarantee that Phase Four will have another one for the first 12 months or that Phase Four won’t work. The final agreement is for 48 per cent, which was agreed to in the Government’s agreement, and it is the final phase of the “second half” of the “target” rate at a top limit. There is no guarantee that Phase Four will have another one for the first 12 months or that Phase Four won’t work.

And, as a further attempt to improve the level of Marxist under

We’ve got to get together to do something about prices, says Elaine Lobbitt. &‘t’s no good housewives just grumbling among each other.’

Elaine Lobbitt lives in Grimsby with her husband, John, who is a shop stewards’ convenor at a chemical firm in town. She has three children and she is driven to distress every week when she has to shop and clothe her family in middle of Edward’s “shop”.

John Lobbitt brings home £9.63 each week. £7 goes into the bank to pay for the mortgage on their house, bought 10 years ago, and for furniture here purchase.

Essential

This bank account will not be increased in January because the Halifax Building Society cut the rate of interest.

John takes £4.63 for maintaining his car, limited fuel, the Grimsby bus services have meant that there is no public transport to work. Elaine gets £18. Before she starts to buy food, Elaine has to spend the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£1 for insurance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£1.20 on television rental</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50p on 90p on electricity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total £4.60

Elaine Lobbitt: ‘We’ve got to get out of this pain and try to do something about it.’

Five weeks ago, at the end of September, Elaine started to write down the price of everything she was paying for food and groceries. Each week she has written down the comparable prices. The results are horrifying.

Elaine reckons that she cannot spend more than £3.90 a week on food and groceries. She must keep £1.20 aside for newspapers, special pack meals when John goes on night shift, and ‘emergencies’, like her clothes and John’s.

Last week Elaine divided up her £29.63 as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groceries: £5.46</th>
<th>Meat: £2.16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fresh vegetables: 3lp</td>
<td>Milk: £1.045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total: £17.15</td>
<td>Total: £21.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Food and grocery prices have gone up by 9.5 per cent in just over a month—an annual rate of increase of more than 70 per cent.

Two dozen eggs cost £1.50p more. Four pounds of sugar are up 5p. A packet of tea is up 25p. A pint of milk is up 25p. A pound of eggs up 5p, a pound of meat up 5p, a bottle of Fairy washing-up liquid up 25p, a bottle of orange juice up 5p, and a bar of chocolates up 5p.

The result for Elaine is brutally simple. Over the past five weeks, she has had to cut out 87p worth of goods from her family’s food and groceries.

‘This is a first to go,’ she says. ‘It’s just impossible to go on buying it. I went down from a pound to a half pound and then cut it out altogether. I used to buy much more fresh vegetables. A pound of apples and half a dozen oranges every week without fail. Gradually, I’ve had to cut them out, and the children’s diet suffers all the time.

Every week the situation gets worse.

Last week, the woman who runs the corner shop showed me a list of new biscuit prices which she got from the wholesalers. In two and a half pages of listed prices only three packets have not gone up in price over the last month. This week—since I gave you the figures—Robinson’s baby food has gone up 11p per packet—which means another 12p per week on the EEC.

Organised

Elaine has noticed that in the street company workers are giving them a hard time, but do very little about it. ‘We’ve got to get the women our protesting.’

It’s up to the government that the government is feeling us all. We’ve got to do something about it.’

The 44p under the ‘target’ price paid for the Great Heath Price Swindle and How to Fight It: We’ve got to get the government to put the people who are profiting by higher prices.

Throughout the winter, Socialist Worker will be running from shop to shop with this article above the Great Heath Price Swindle and How to Fight It: We’ve got to get the government to put the people who are profiting by higher prices.

Mocking the cost of living in the face of their employers, the government and the Fire Brigades Union executive.

The union special conference had been called to isolate the Glasgow strikers. But the undemocratic treatment they got them even greater rank and file support.

Action continued to spread by Friday Wembyean station in North

GLASGOW FIREMEN have won a great victory in the face of their employers, the government and the Fire Brigades Union executive.

The union special conference had been called to isolate the Glasgow strikers. But the undemocratic treatment they got them even greater rank and file support.

Action continued to spread by Friday Wembyean station in North

by Steve Jefferys

London was effectively on strike on Thursday and all the London firemen had all had enough. They wanted an end now to the dispute before a rank and file strike started to spread nationally. An emergency national Joint Council meeting was hurriedly called.

The local politicians came up with a surprise offer: scrap the Phase Two £1 plus 4 per cent agreement, stop from 1 October, and replace it with a deal that, dressed up, might look as if it have some relation to Phase Three.

This deal gives them the 7 per cent maximum rise allowed plus a 2.6 per cent for all the ‘normalised hour’ rate as well. As Sunday morning’s meeting, all but two of the 51st strike committee voted to return to work, Jim Flockhart, chairman of the strike committee, said it was a small step, a day ago that the domestic hours provision would not apply to firemen, policemen or nurses. This obviously does not refer to striking firemen.

The firemen also get a further overall 1 per cent rise under a bogus “flexibility” plan. There are no pay subventions of any sort. Firemen have been forced to pay subventions in a cutbacks plan, and a further subvention in a separate plan, for “travelling expenses.”

Marchers in Hove: IS member Richard Noss (right) greets NF Beckers. Picture Peter Harris (Report)
'GESTAPO COPS' ATTACKED IN PIC多项报告和新研究

'THE WAS like going in front of the Gestapo. Mr H James was described in his police report as a "sweaty" Switherspoon last year. It was their intention to smear anyone, accosting a few workers at the factory."

Mr James was giving evidence in the trial of a group of workers at the factory on charges of conspiracy to intimidate workers. He was questioned by the defence about his reaction to the events at the factory. The defence claimed that the workers were not involved in any conspiracy and that the police were only there to protect the workers.

Under cross-examination it turned out that the defence had not seen the police statements by a detective involved with the case. The defence then claimed that the police had been biased in their investigation and the reports were not accurate.

The defence also claimed that the police had broken windows, thrown stones and threatened the workers. The defence identified Des Warren as a 'leader' from photographs and claimed that he had been involved in the attack.

Another witness, Mr Roberts, said he had seen Connelly and others who had tried to come to the aid of the workers.

The court was adjourned until tomorrow.

Flying picket

There were numerous copies of photographs taken at the marked factory. The workers viewed with horror. The police had broken windows, thrown stones and threatened the workers.

Clyde Crockett, 30, had a corder, he said he was working on a scaffold in the factory. The police never asked him to move.

A few minutes later, the number of workers doubled. They were prepared to defend the factory.

Clean sheet

BLACKBURN—Members of the Shetland Industrial Workers’ Union have been asked to form a new branch of the union. The union has been accused of being a "front" organization and of engaging in illegal activities.

The union is trying to get workers to support the new branch and to stop the activities of the old branch.

Union officials failed to get their re-election. They have been accused of being "front" officials and of engaging in illegal activities.

They were persuaded to work with the new branch and to support it.

The new branch has also received support from the workers.

Women fight for union

READING—70 workers at the Ware’s plant at nearby Thet are said to have launched a "major struggle for union recognition". It started with a petition signed...
Election shock for the generals

by Janice Grant

The recent elections in Turkey saw the first attempt at a return to capitalistic democracy, with the victory of the generals in March 1971. The elections themselves were forced by popular pressure—though they can hardly be called democratic since the Labour Party is banned and an alliance between the generals and the Turkish military has been declared.

The results proved a shock for the Turkish ruling class, for the next government is likely to be a coalition of the Republican People’s Party and the National Salvation Party with a limited nationalization program, which is a far cry from the state’s previous policies of economic growth and development.

Cabinet

Whether the RPP has the will or the ability to carry out reforms remains to be seen. It has already shown that it is unwilling to make any concessions to the left-wing parties and that it is determined to maintain the status quo.

Argentina, Egypt, Turkey

EGYPT, as the largest and most powerful Arab nation, is one of the most important factors in the Middle East situation. The war aims of the Egyptians can be understood only in the context of the country’s economic problems and the contradictions between these problems and the political pressure to redeem the national honor and regain occupied lands.

One of the greatest crises of the Middle East is that it serves to justify the bureaucratic military excesses of the Egyptian leadership.

Egypt presents a classic picture of underdevelopment. Every year more than $425 million must be spent on development just so that the economy will not go backwards in the face of the population explosion. More than $700 million—a quarter of the gross national product—is spent each year on armaments.

This is not cost-cutting in the interest of the people; it is not cutting cost, but only the cost to the society. It is the cost of the war, the impact of the war on the economy, the impact of the war on the society, the impact of the war on the people.

Peron has drawn the lessons of Cuba, in his own way: avoid the danger of a new military coup by forming alliances with the middle class, by opposing the revolutionary left, by opening the country to foreign capital and foreign trade and by limiting the workers’ movement. By the same token, the call for the workers’ movement must learn from Cuba too—the lessons of the failure there to build and defend the revolutionary alliances, the importance of the middle class.

The full compensation paid to those who lost land by the land reform of 1962 resulted huge funds for the wealthy to speculate. Such was the extent of speculation that all of Turkey’s political prisoners, 40,000 people, were released and no new prisoners were taken. The RPP led by Bulent Ecevit, has shown that in its attempts to appeal to a majority he can move to the right.

One thing is certain about this government: it does not represent the working class. The main loser of votes was the Justice Party, which held power for more than a year. It is the only party which had grown rapidly and disintegrated with its political and economic policies, and steady growth in the left-wing students’ and workers’ movements. Its attempt to pass anti-trade union laws was met with a mass demonstration of workers in Istanbul in June 1970. Foreign capital and its Turkish allies became concerned. Turkey no longer had a government capable of producing the required laws so they could expand and increase the exploitation of Turkish workers. The growing left-wing movements were a threat to the power of the United States and this important NATO bastion of the Middle East.

It is questionable whether the coup was inevitable, but it certainly added the problems of the Turkish ruling class. The radical nature of the slogans produced by the generals even managed to halt a movement of radical nationalism within the ranks of the army. The junta then set up the government as a proxy government of the generals has been led by Erm.

The military junta, as before, the Palestinians, denied any status inside or outside Israel, they are to be sold in the post-Cold War settlement. As one leading Palestinian told me: “Now we are both dead and they are waiting for the lid to fall.”

Argentina, Egypt, Turkey

by Jim Higgins

In 1961 the banks were nationalized to prevent speculation against the Egyptian economy in the conflict with Israel.

The radicalism of Nasser—more often expressed in words than actions—has been muted under his successor, Sadat. Sadat is a thorough-going bureaucrat, presiding over a society in which popular control is minimal and the real decisions are restricted to a small circle of leaders.

Apparatus

As with all tightly-controlled bureaucratic machines, paranormally imperfect is the result. If the top man is not there to make a decision then no decision is made. This simply reflects the penalty paid for mistakes. The estimated 20,000 executed officers of the Second and Third Armies in 1967 could testify.

Workers in Egypt are doubly controlled. Practically all enterprises are effectively owned and controlled by the government, while the trade unions are part of the Arab Socialist Union, the only legal party, which is itself part of the government apparatus. Wage restraint is a permanent part of their lives.

Whole Egypt is caught in the dilemma of trying to develop economically with limited resources, this is made worse by Israeli military pressure and the Egyptian demands of a period of peace. Political pressure demands a show of military force.

Trying to avoid the contradictions in this situation requires all Sadat’s talent for acute diplomacy, propaganda and bureaucratic manoeuvre. Egypt’s initial military success in taking the Israeli Bar-Lev line on the east bank of the Suez canal—and it was a considerable achievement—has united the Arab regimes behind Egyptian leadership. It has unlocked the oil revenues and made the military “weapon” through the Arab regimes are not prepared to use it to the fullest.

If Egypt can get a settlement which includes Israeli withdrawal from the east bank, it can get on with widening and deepening the canal. Plans have already been drawn up, in co-operation with a Japanese consortium, to enable it to take ships up to 300,000 tons. Egypt would also be in a position to develop its union with Libya, filling out Libya’s underpopulated tracts with Egyptian farmers.

Advantage

Projects like these can provide the cash that cannot come from within the economy and will not be provided by the superpowers.

The “oil” of the Egyptian armies after taking the Bar-Lev line was partly because of limited equipment— the Russian military installa-
tions in Egypt were destined for defence, not offence—and partly because the Egyptians calculated on the diplomatic advantage that this military success and the oil weapon would bring.

The costly and dangerous price of following up the initial victory had to be offset against US refusal to accept a greater defeat for Israel. A deal had to be done, and Brezhnev and Nixon cobbled up an agreement that would maintain existing power relations in the Middle East together with the client status of both sides.

In all this shadow boxing and manoeuvre the generals are, as before, the Palestinians, denied any status inside or outside Israel, they are to be sold in the post-Cold War settlement. As one leading Palestinian told me: “Now we are both dead and they are waiting for the lid to fall.”
Byrne, baby, Byrne

OWN BRISCOE, who has shocked the right-wing leadership of the Yorkshire pits by winning the first round of the election for Yorkshire general secretary, and who has now, at a wide margin, been postponing this protest about a half-time's pay for contract work for outside contractors for £15 a day. The protest has been distributed to miners in the Doncaster area by the Yorkshire Coal Board, a coal engineering firm. It refers to works for the National Coal Board near Worksop, where the money offered is more than twice that earned by miners who work for the Coal Board.

Private contracting in some Coal Board areas has become almost a habit. The Coal Board turns a blind eye while the contractors hire miners. Specific Coal Board jobs, like digging new tuns, are then farmed out to the contractors at fat prices. It is a foul, corrupt practice and is only being encouraged in areas like Yorkshire where the right-wing of the union has been accustomed to control. In Derbyshire, for instance, private contractors working for the board are completely uncontrolled by the union.

But the most interesting aspect about this latest leaflet is that it is the latest leaflet that is circulating in a subsidiary of the big property company Trafalgar House.

A subsidiary of Trafalgar House, Charlton Contractors, was mentioned along with an important corruption case last summer at the end of which Maurice Byrne, a former member of the union, was arrested for 30 months for accepting bribes from contractors in exchange for council contracts.

Ever the man about town, Byrne, and the company that employed him, Charlton Contractors, are still there, running a bribery operation which, although confined to Yorkshire and the North East of the country, amounts to four leading local authorities. The four leading counties in Yorkshire and the North East of the country, with their councils' approval, are allowed to contract out work to private contractors.

When he was asked on whose instructions he sought these bribes, he replied: 'I can never do that on my own. It's been going on for years. We've made a lot of money out of it.'

Raising a fire from the ground up, the Direct Labour Act is the giant building firm which is another subsidiary of Trafalgar House.

At the end of the case, Trafalgar House sent a big bus to Leeds to plead with the judge to let him leave and said that Trafalgar House knew nothing at all about any of this corruption.
GLASGOW'S FIREMEN have gone back to work after their short, sharp battle with government, local Labour council and their own union leaders. Their militant stand has flung down the gauntlet as the workers prepare to challenge the government's Phase Three policies.

GLASGOW'S FIREMEN TALKING

Frank McAvoy said: 'My奁s just what we need. We're not going to be pushed around by the government. We're going to stand up for what we believe in. We're not going to be bullied. We're going to stand strong.'

Frank McAvoy is a long-time union activist and has a history of fighting for workers' rights. He has been in the union for over 30 years and is a well-respected figure in the community.

'Some 70 firemen left the service last year in Glasgow and we're now about 200 under strength. Five more are also due to be paid off soon for health reasons—and that's something people don't know too much about.

No choice

'The health hazards in this job are fantastic. Firstly there's the smoke. We go into smoke every day. Most times it's worse for you than years of cigarette smoking. And the government's supposed to be trying to get us to stop that.'

Frank McAvoy spoke about the pressure on the men's nervous system. 'When the alarm bell rings you only have to put your hand to your heart to feel it pounding away to know the pressure's on. There's a big number of firemen who have heart attacks.'

Frank Simpson and there were hidden dangers in fighting fires in Glasgow's tenements. 'You know what some of these youngsters do before they set them slight? In two cases in our area recently they're actually taken up the floorboards and then replaced the lino. So if you come in with a hose, that'd be it. We always try to check the houses before we go to one of those fires. Glasgow's an old, old city and in some ways that must make our job worse than elsewhere.'

Frank McAvoy added: 'If the authorities were really concerned about us—and the city—then they'd get all those old chimneys buildings taken down. But the corporation has treated us like idiots for years.'

And we're not treated much better by the union. We pay £1.10 a month dues and this includes accident benefit. A whole back, I was off work for nine months with torn cartilages after I twisted my kneecap running down an embankment at a fire. For that nineteen months I got £2.10s accident benefit from the FBU.

The union national executive say they're all for the working class. I certainly can't see how.

James Harte observed dryly: 'As far as Paddy [general secretary Terry Parry] is concerned, he's not a member of the firemen's union. He must be a member of the firemen's union—and he's sold us down the river that often. We certainly don't want to get out of the FBU. But I can tell you one thing—we want to get rid of the present crew that's on top.'

Frank McAvoy said: 'By its actions, the government is forcing experienced Glasgow firemen to leave the job because they can't continue living on the meagre wages we've paid. So it's Glasgow corporation and the government that are responsible for any risk, not us.'

The strike is 59 per cent about money.'

Frank McAvoy said: 'The thing that really made us aware of how low our wages were was when we compared our wages—and we all earned the top rate with more than 15 years' service—with those of the watch room girls.'

They're the girls who take the emergency calls at the fire stations. 'We think they're fully entitled to their wages,' Frank added, 'if anything they deserve more. I think there's a lossey job. But after the £1 plus 4 per cent increase, they'd actually earned more than us over the full 48 hours we have to work.'

But Frank Simpson didn't think that was the chief cause of the strike. 'The main thing is the fact that Glasgow employs firemen at the airport who earn between £8 and £11 more than us. But if there's a fire out there then they still call us as well.'

Frank McAvoy got Frank Simpson to show him his wage slip. 'He's been 22 years in the service and that's his wage for a full 48 hour week—£34

Entitled

'Outside industry gets shift allowances,' James Harte said. 'Take this business of superannuation. What it means is that, we're paying more than £32 a week towards our own pension. When we do finally retire at 55 or after serving 30 years, we get two-thirds of our last three years' annual pay as a pension, but it doesn't go up to keep in step with prices.'

'And our pension is also taxable,' Frank Simpson added.

'The reason many of us don't get round to quitting,' Frank McAvoy said, 'is that once you get past a certain mark you wonder whether you should get out and jeopardise your pension. But there's also a lot of dedication in this job. I suppose you could sum it up in two words—dedicated idiots.'

I asked them how they replied to people who accuse them of risking lives by taking strike action.

Frank McAvoy's reply was short and to the point: 'We say that it's the government who are putting people's lives at danger.'

Frank McAvoy said: 'By its actions, the government is forcing experienced Glasgow firemen to leave the job because they can't continue living on the meagre wages we've paid. So it's Glasgow corporation and the government that are responsible for any risk, not us.'
THE GREAT REVOLUTIONS: Part Seven of Duncan Hallas’ series

On 2 September 1870 the French Emperor, Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, surrendered himself and 104,000 of his soldiers to the King of Prussia at Sedan near the Luxembourg frontier. It was the end for the French Second Empire. Two days later a new republic was proclaimed in Paris.

The war between France and Prussia had been provoked by Louis Napoleon's government on a frivolous pretext, 'on a mere point of etiquette, said an English paper. But the underlying causes ran deep.

Louis Napoleon had been elected president of the Second Republic at the end of 1848. He posed as the champion of the peasant and the working man, as opposed to the middle-class republicans who had organised the slaughter of Paris workers in June 1948. At the same time he promised 'law and order'. In 1852, with the support of the army and the police, he declared the republic abolished and proclaimed himself Emperor. The workers, savagely resentful of the June massacre, did not lift a finger to defend the middle-class republicans. From then on flag-waving and drum-beating about the 'glories of France' under the first Napoleon and military adventures abroad became more and more the mainstay of the regime.

The Second Empire,' wrote Frederick Engels, 'was the appeal to French chauvinism. Hence the necessity for occasional wars and extensions of frontiers.'

Desperate gamble

Louis Napoleon engaged in wars in Russia (the Crimean war), Italy, Africa, China (along with the British in 1860) and Mexico where he attempted to establish a puppet 'Empire'. In 1870, in a desperate gamble to ward off the growing opposition in France, he undertook his last adventure—war with Germany, which was now the strongest power in Europe.

The gamble ended at Sedan. A republican Government of National Defence was formed to 'resist the Prussian invaders'. Soon the Prussian army arrived outside Paris.

The new government organised 'a mob defence of Paris... General Trochu was the worst of the useless sorts, maimed and disorganised the National Guard... That this policy was deliberate was shown by later discoveries of correspondence.'

In 1872-91 the revolutionary forces had beaten and driven out the Prussian, Austrian, British and Spanish armies, as well as crushing a massive domestic counter-revolution. New armies had been built with former NCOs and civilians as commanders.

Revolutionary Committees were put alongside the generals, old and new, and by a liberal use of the guillotine and the firing squad large numbers of treasonable officers had been eliminated. The entire resources of the country were mobilised in defence of the republic.

That was 88 years earlier and in those days the republic became 88 times more conservative. There was no revolution to make it possible.

Conflicts

Paris,' wrote Karl Marx, 'was not to be defended without arming its workers; a revolutionary army was needed to provide effective force, and training their ranks in the traditions of the French Fédération armed was the revolution armed. A victorious Paris was the apogee of the Bonapartist aggressor would have been a victory of the French working class over French capitalism and his State parasites.

In this conflict between national duty and class interest, the Government of National Defence did not hesitate for a moment to turn themself into a Government of National Defection.'

The siege of Paris lasted from mid-September to near the end of January 1871. 135 days of the worst winter within living memory, a winter of Siberian cold, with famine and epidemics.

No serious attempt was made to organise forces for the relief of the city because, as Marx had noted, the backbone of the defence had come to be the armed workers organised in the battalions of the original middle-class National Guard.

The 'state patriots', republican government, while proclaiming in public we will save an inch of our territory, not a stone of our fortresses was concerned, before anything else, to arrange the surrender of the capital city and a peace at any price, by the Prince of Prussia.

It succeeded. On 27 January an armistice was signed which provided for the occupation of Paris. A peace treaty was agreed, a treaty that

involved the ceding to Prussia of two provinces that had been French since the seventeenth century.

But the treacherous republican government, now established at the old royal capital, was unable to arrange for the immediate disarming of the Paris National Guard 'Armée Paris,' in Marx's words, was the only serious obstacle in the way of the counter-revolutionary conspiracy. In February the National Guard had reorganised itself on the basis of elected officers, subject to recall, and established a central committee with a socialist majority. The Bonapartist officers fled or were dismissed.

In March the Versailles government sent troops into Paris to seize the 400 pieces of artillery in the hands of the Guard. The attempt failed and the central committee took full control of the city. It ordered immediate elections for a democratic commune.

This took over on 28 March, Marx's classic description of it can hardly be improved:

Attributes

'The Commune was formed of the municipal councillors, chosen by universal suffrage in the various wards... responsible and revocable at short terms. The majority of its members were naturally working men.'

The Commune was to be a working, not a parliamentary, body, executive and legislative at the same time... the police was at once stripped of its political attributes and turned into the responsible and all at once revocable agent of the Commune. So the officials of all other branches of the administration.

From the members of the Commune downwards, the public service had to be done at the state's wage... Having got rid of the state army and the police, the physical force elements of the old government—the priests were sent back to the recesses of private life... Like the rest of public servants, magistrates and judges were to be elected, responsible and revocable.

This revolutionary, democratic régime which, as Engels said, 'must necessarily have led in the end to communism,' was however isolated in Paris. A member of the Commune, Milliere, shrilly noted: 'In Paris and some other great towns the working class is sufficiently prepared to attempt [the revolution] successfully; but in most small towns and villages it is as yet incapable of it. There lies the great danger to the revolution that has begun in Paris.'

France in 1871 was still predominantly a peasant and rural country and the peasants, unlike those of Russia in 1917, were predominantly conservative since they enjoyed the fruits of the great revolution of 1789.

There were riots or attempted risings in support of the Commune at Marseille, Lyon, St Etienne, Limoges and a few other places. But there was no national revolutionary movement. The Versailles government kept control, helped by the Prussians who returned ten thousand of French prisoners to help the counter-revolution.

On 2 April the Versailles army began its assault on Paris. Until the end of May the National Guard maintained a heroic resistance. The Parisian workers throughout the struggle did the impossible. In the end weight of numbers and superior equipment enabled the Versailles government troops to break in. A large part of central Paris was destroyed in the fighting and after the last pockets of resistance had been destroyed the forces of 'law and order' exacted a most bloody revenge.

The massacres of Communards by troops in the last days of the Commune: 30,000 died.

This was dynamite!

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Special offer for 15 branches: see column one, page 6

Next, in two weeks time, The Russian Revolution
PARASITES

ORGY THAT'S AN INSULT TO WORKERS

Next week's orgy of bedding, boozing and buffoonery—otherwise known as the Royal Wedding—is an insult to the working people of Britain.

It is a ruling-class celebration to mark one year of that blatanet swindle, the "counter-inflation policy:" Phases One and Two.

And it will be the victims of that policy who will have to foot the bill for the celebration, a bill running into hundreds of thousands of pounds.

The assorted gaggle of drones, spirs and children waders have something to celebrate. The last 12 months has been for them a bonanza of soaring profits.

While working families, their wages held in the vice of a total freeze or £1 plus 4 per cent, have seen their living standards slashed by a flood of rising prices and interest rates.

And so on Wednesday the champagne corks will pop and the cavars will be spread extra thick as that sick sleight of all sick jokes, the capitalist system, notch up another milestone in its over-long history.

NO PLANS

Not that it's been altogether an easy year for our rulers. There have been a few internal problems along the way.

"In fact, until the beginning of the summer it seemed we might be spared the prospect of the splitting of Princess Anne. After all, as Buckingham Palace pointed out on more than one occasion, the princess and her fellow saddle pointer are "good friends." There were no plans for marriage.

But suddenly the system hit crisis. In quick succession we had the Lomelo scandal and the Lambton-Jellicoe affair.

The first gave a revealing insight into the squanderman world of big business and high finance. A boardroom squalour showed how the astronomical salaries of the top directors, free perks such as Rolls-Royces and country houses, back up £100,000, backed by vast tax havens in tax havens.

The second showed the after-effects of those "born to rule" Lords Lambton and Jellicoe, members of a class constantly preaching the sanctity of marriage and thundering against the sin of promiscuity and pornography, were discovered frequenting high-class brothels where the charge for one hour's sexual love was the equivalent of three weeks' wages for one of Lord Lamton's farm workers.

With that remarkable solidiarity that is the hallmark of the British ruling class, ranks closed and the Gracious Majesty was prevailed upon to organise a squalid diversion from the sordid goings on of Lomelo and Lambton. She was happy to oblige, for a member of her own vast family, Angus Ogilvy, Mr. Prince Alexander, was a former director of Lorcho.

And so the marriage was arranged and all next week the Fleet Street press will be deluged by a welter of flattering words and pictures.

If a fraction of that press coverage were devoted to the plight of old people faced with the prospect of death from lack of food and warmth this winter or the plight of the thousands of British children in sub-standard housing, then the might平时 free press would be fulfilling some purpose.

The exploits of a rich, haughty princess and an aristocratic junior army officer are considered to be far more worthy of our attention.

PURSUIT

It is a nauseating spectacle. That brilliant writer Oscar Wilde once denounced the country gently who engage in fox hunting as "the unspeakable in pursuit of the unspeakable".

Turning Wilde's remark on its head, it could fairly be said that the ownership of Princess Anne by Captain Phillips, whose father is a wealthy director of the Wall's food empire, was a case of the unspeakable in pursuit of the unspeakable.

HIGH COST OF ROYAL

The tax dodge

The Queen over the next 10 years, if not already on her Civil list privation, is likely to cost the country a fortune. She has already cost the Royal Family a fortune.

The handsome pensions of the Queen (£57,551 in 1971), the Queen Mother (£42,000 in 1971), the Duke of Edinburgh, (£37,000 in 1971), are all added to the cost of the Royal Family.

The royal household pays out over £52,000 a year for the Queen and her entourage. The Queen's household bills alone amount to £37,000 a year.

The tax dodge is one of the major costs of public money. By this system, the public has no say in who can rent the Queen's life in one way or another.

The world's, or at least the British world's, press and TV projects much news and the British monarchy was a beacon of hope for the world. The world's press, TV and radio projects much news and the British monarchy was a beacon of hope for the world.
THIRTY YEARS AND AFTER

It was 30 years ago this week that the Royal Family was the subject of a financial scandal which evolved into one of the most dramatic and revealing of post-war inquiries. The Royal Commission into the affairs of the Royal Family was established in 1933 after the so-called "Diplomatic Affair" of 1932, which involved the Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII) and Wallis Simpson. The commission, chaired by Lord Lothian, was set up to investigate the financial and personal affairs of the Royal Family and to advise on the future of the monarchy.

Among the key findings of the commission were revelations about the Royal Family's expenditure, particularly on travel, entertaining, and gifts. The commission also examined the role of the Royal Family in charitable and public affairs, and its relationship with foreign governments.

The commission's report, published in 1935, was a comprehensive examination of the Royal Family's financial and personal matters. It provided insight into the complexities of the monarchy and the pressures on its members. The report's recommendations, which included suggestions for reforming the monarchy, were widely discussed and influenced the future direction of the British monarchy.

The Royal Commission's work was a landmark event in the history of the British monarchy, setting a precedent for future inquiries into royal affairs. The commission's findings and recommendations have continued to be studied and debated, and its legacy is still felt today in discussions about the role and responsibilities of the monarchy.

THE ROYAL FAMILY and the nation have been embroiled in financial scandal before. In the 1930s, the Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII) was involved in a financial scandal that led to the establishment of the Royal Commission. The commission's work has shed light on the personal and financial affairs of the Royal Family, providing insights into the monarchy's role in society.

In the 1990s, the Royal Family was again at the center of a financial scandal when the Duke and Duchess of York were accused of misusing public funds. This led to a public inquiry that examined the use of public funds by the Royal Family. The inquiry's findings highlighted the need for greater transparency and accountability in the use of public funds by the Royal Family.

The Royal Family's financial affairs have continued to be a source of concern and examination. In recent years, there have been allegations of financial impropriety and misuse of public funds. These allegations have sparked public inquiries and debates about the role and responsibilities of the Royal Family in society.

The Royal Commission's work and the subsequent inquiries into the Royal Family's financial affairs have provided a window into the private and financial lives of the Royal Family. These inquiries have shed light on the complexities of the monarchy and the pressures on its members. The legacy of these inquiries is still felt today in discussions about the role and responsibilities of the monarchy.

The Royal Commission's work continues to be studied and debated, and its findings and recommendations remain relevant today. The Royal Family's financial affairs continue to be a source of concern and examination, and the monarchy's role in society continues to be a topic of debate and discussion.

THE ROYAL FAMILY has been a central figure in the history of the British monarchy. The royal family's financial affairs have been the subject of public inquiry and examination for over 80 years, providing insights into the monarchy's role in society.

The Royal Commission's work, the inquiries it spawned, and the debates that followed have shed light on the complexities of the monarchy and the pressures on its members. The legacy of these inquiries is still felt today in discussions about the role and responsibilities of the monarchy.

The Royal Family's financial affairs continue to be a source of concern and examination, and the monarchy's role in society continues to be a topic of debate and discussion. The Royal Commission's work continues to be studied and debated, and its findings and recommendations remain relevant today.
In a Glass Menagerie, throwing stones...

THE cumulative effect of many writers on one’s outlook proves it difficult to pick out the one novel or play which, for me, revealed the anti-\-nature of capitalist society.

But I do remember that a TV production of Tennessee Williams’ play, The Glass Menagerie, which I saw as a teenager, crystallised and expressed much of my own inchoate hostility to the Tory indoctrination which I received daily from my own family.

The play ends with The American Dream. Tom is a poet whose talent is suffocated by his monotonous, meaningless job in a warehouse. He envies people living in countries where there are revolutions, feeling that the life of the American worker has been robbed of meaning and that the mass media has become the ‘opium of the workers’.

He says their life can be summed up by the phrase: ‘sitting in a dark room watching other people doing things they don’t want to do’.

In a clumsy attempt to explain his theory of alienation to his mother, he says: ‘Men is just a sort of lover, a hunter and a fighter, and none of these, as we know it, is given much play at the warehouse! Which only proves, if you will, that Tom’s instincts at me. Christian adults don’t work like that. Or at least they don’t quote it as instincts’.

The play is set at the time of the Spanish Civil War and Tom is impatient with the American people for not ‘waking up’ to the real nature of their own country. Boiled stew at work, first as a shop assistant and later as a library assistant, I immediately identified with Tom.

Passive

But the situation of his sister and Tom expresses the mood of Laura, having failed either to find a husband or to complete a secretarial course—which her mother assures her are the only two alternative life-plans for a woman, has retreated into fantasies.

‘Tennessee Williams shows that capitalism alienates women from life even more than it does men, re-\-stricting them to a passive, biological role. The system prevents a full flowering of men’s potential has an even more retarding effect on women, who are kept in a position of inferiority and expected to achieve all fulfillment through the agency of a man. The women in this play are shown to be wretchedly unhappy and so conditioned to submission that they are unable to act to change their lives.’

Existence

The author ridicules the magazines which perpetuate the myths about women in order to preserve them as passive objects for whom there are rules to be exploited: ‘These magazines for matrons are extremely popular in the Companion, the type of journal which features the serialised sublimations of other life stories in terms of delicate cupcake breasts’.

Laura’s mother is an agent for these magazines, which is ironic as her daughter is unable to do the same. She does not admit this because, in terms of her values, she would be neglecting her daughter’s very existence.

The theme of alienation at work is paralleled by the author’s portrayal of alienation as sexual and emotional life. He shows the relationship of men and women under capitalism to be one of mutual exploitation. He exploits her sexually and she exploits him financially. Laura is nauseated when her mother insists she pads her tins, but nevertheless she conforms. Her mother does the cheerful advice: ‘They call them Gay Receivers. All pretty girls are a trap, and men expect them to be’. Tom fails in his attempt to persuade his mother and sister that they have all been dehumanised by the society in which they live and that they ought to act in the world instead of waiting around hopelessly for something else—a man in their case—to do something about it. He runs away to sea, away from the tene-\-ments. One of the scenes which he describes is ‘always burning with the slow and impecunious fires of human desperation’.

Solution

Tom says: ‘I desecrated the steps of the fire-escape for a last time. But he adds that he didn’t really find real freedom through this individual action and continued to feel responsible for those left behind.

This play helped me to realise that the problems that until then I had thought peculiar to myself are generated by the way society is run. The ending of the play left me with the feeling that a private solution to a public problems is never really any solution at all.

Next Week

Vic. Tamburri writes about William Gallegher’s chronic of舫ial and tenant-striker in Glasgow during the First World War, Revolt on the Clyde.
How people are destroyed


Des Wilson’s journalism is a series of these blackwash reports by the press, and as he is usually only really as it really is: heartless, hopeless, useless. For we are all in the back of magistrates courts, knocked on slum front doors, talked to grimey and unmarried mothers and their miscellaneous and the homeless. It is to the endless stories of how the walls are broken, the system’s infinite mal-administration and meanness and spite towards the losers. And it is listened with a care which

A GIRL

In Kingston upon Thames, a 16-year-old convent girl is trying desperately to get off the streets and finally gets a place booked in a treatment hostel. The day before she enters the hostel she is picked up again by the police, stripped, searched, and put into a cell. Later, in the middle of the night, she successfully takes an overdose of drugs and dies choking on her vomit.

A BOY

A 14-YEAR-OLD boy who ran away from his home in Hackney after a family row, leaving a note saying: ‘Nobody loves me and I am going away’, is caught fleeing. The local super reports: “The only time the defendant showed emotion was when his father’s letter was read out in court and for a few minutes he cried. He is found guilty and sentenced to six strikes of the broom.

A WOMAN

In Holloway hostel for discharged prisoners a woman tramp, arms already scythed with deep wounds from her years in the streets, is arrested for sleeping tablets. Her 37 years have been a trek from Dr Barnardo’s through approved schools, prisons, hospitals and innumerable overdoses until she reached the hostel. She then invented crimes at police stations just to get sent back to prison.

Books

Marlowe gets MASHed

RAYMOND CHANDLER wrote thriller fiction in a style that at times bordered on literature. Many of us are still at an age where we remember the pleasure, character development, even if not the plots of Chandler. It was a different world, a different time.

In the late 1940s Hollywood latched on to the central character, Philip Marlowe, and started filming. It was a marauder. Whatever the demerits of these earlier films—and Chandler went on record to say he despised them all—their tinkering with the text and editorial rent was as nothing compared to the distortion of the latest film. The Long Goodbye, to be going by filmic cineremonium.

That is summed up in his comment on the town of Hollywood: ‘One day it was a big sunny spot where with ugly homes and no style, but good-hearted and cheerful. The next day it was a strange place, a monstrous personality more than a paper cut.” He had no faith that it would work, that his protest was expressed in an individual expression of personal and integrity. Now that is not the stuff of social revolution. It is the stuff of character development, and belief, as well as by negative example.

Mr Altman’s film has none of this. The Marlowe character in it is played by Elliott Gould, played like an extrovert. This is a movie that was made to look like Bernt Levin with the glasses and cutting edge removed. This Marlowe is a slow, strikingly mismatched and unattractive picture of another woman’s furniture. He is flip

FILMS

Where Marlowe would be witty, and more often than not, Marlowe was verbally decoholic and damaging.

A Marlowe involving himself in the case because he cannot believe that a dear friend died without Marlowe discovering that the dear friend did in fact murder the wife and then, guilt-ridden from murder, the chump.

In between we are treated to Nina Van Pallandt, late of folk-singing duo Nina and Frederick and of the

How does this relate to the overall narrative of the film? The film, with all its clinic and its parts, is not character or a paper cut.

PREVIEW

SATURDAY: BCC-2, young International Socialists talk about their politics on WEBSITE, which is released on Sunday.

SUNDAY: ITV. The oranges and Lemons series of plays about the East End of London seem quite promising. This week’s is BRENDA by Susan Priest.

THURSDAY: BCC-2. Duncan Halpern, political secretary of the International Socialists is talking part in the appallingly named REDS UNDER THREAT, a rabid anti-Communist show for the left in Britain. Since it is introduced by Woodrow Wilson, we can be sure it is indeed an American show.

BCC-2. One of the most interesting English films of the early 1960s was THE ENTER-TAINER, starring Laurence Olivier as seedy comedian Archie Rice. It deals with Rice’s crack-up coinciding with the East mainc in 1956 and the end of the British Empire.

JEFF HIGGINS

Viliness

The war to break out of the vicious circle is not by shaming capitalism into changing. It is by making it clearly see that its policy is not working—its war is not working—and that its war is not working.

It is not by running for parliament—its war is not working for the middle class, for the working class.

DAVID WIDGERY

The review of Sheila Rowbotham’s HIDDEN FROM HISTORY, the book on the Soviet -Social Worker last week, was written by Juliet Ash. Some name was on a note to the

WHITE AND BRILLIANT

STYLES used to work for Ford/Rover starts work in a textile factory. Tell their stories—the stories of black workers in South Africa.

The trains which he devised the play Sigue Banzi is Dead are playing their last, and a new one, the theatre workshop in the shows at Port Elizabeth, South Africa, has been on at London’s Royal Court, and is now on at the Round, Bath, Rome, Lancaster, Sterling, Cardigan, Birmingham, Liverpool and Dubai.

As the characters in the play tell their stories, they reveal the realities of life under apartheid more than any newspaper, report and group of politicians or ministers in the state press put together.

The play focuses on the total control which the system maintains over the lives of black workers, a constant threat to the pass law system, the deliberate creation of vast pools of labour in the 'independent' homelands and an organised and insane labour force in the cities.

Styles gives a superb account of the work of the Ford’s in the plant, the sharply different appearance of safety inspectors, cleanliness, a slow production line and happy smiling faces for the appearance of the 'big boss' and the immediate revenge to production slaves by racist or liberal wooliness to see.

ALAN BALDWIN

Madness

In fact they are simply trapped in the same poverty and by the same lack of a system which has been thorn in the same way for years and years and years. But it is but one in a million that is in the same position as this man.

It is but one in a million that is in the same position as this man.

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It is but one in a million that is in the same position as this man.
WHAT WE STAND FOR

The International Socialist is a democratic organisation whose membership is open to all who accept its main principles and who are willing to pay subscriptions and to work in one of its organisations. We believe in independent working-class action for the abolition of capitalism and its consequent classlessness by a classless society with production for use and not for profit. We work in the mass organisations of the working class and are firmly committed to a policy of internationalism. Capitalism is international. The giant firms have investments throughout the world and no alleviation except to themselves and the economic systems they maintain. 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 of the working class. A socialist state cannot consequently survive unless workers of other countries act in its aid by extending the socialist revolution. In addition to building a revolutionary party, a mass socialist organisation in this country we also believe in the necessity of forming a world revolutionary socialist international independent of either Washington or Moscow. To this end we have close relationships with a number of other socialist organisations throughout the world.

The necessity in the unity of 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.

...AND WITHIN THEIR OWN UNION

EVER since the war, the Fire Brigades Union has played a leading part in the "left" battle within the TUC and Labour Party. It was in the campaign for the French and German re-armament in the mid-1950s and in the CND campaign after the Communist Party had decided to support CND in 1958.

The FBU's general secretary from 1939 to 1964 was John Homer, a Committed Party member for most of his adult life, whose passionate rhetoric became one of the most observable aspects of trade union conferences. After he left the Communist Party, he and the union stayed firmly within the "left" sphere of influence. When he left the Communist Party, he was heavily involved in the trade union movement and worked closely with nuclear disarmament.

John Homer's policy of "left" talk and it became talk, talk, and simple. Homer had to be seen to be heard; to be heard, he had to keep to the "left" frame of mind. He was convinced that if the government did not agree to his "left" ideas, then there was no point in having a government at all. He was convinced that if the government did not agree to his "left" ideas, then there was no point in working for the government. He was convinced that if the government did not agree to his "left" ideas, then there was no point in having a country at all.

OPPOSE

In the last year, there have been a number of attempts to "left" the government. These have included attempts to influence the government's policy on nuclear disarmament, the"left" policy on the CND, and the"left" policy on the government's budget.

The Fire Brigades Union leadership also supports the Industrial Relations Act and entrance to the Common Market. In 1972, Enoch Powell, the new president of the FBU, faced an organised campaign against the Industrial Relations Act at the TUC. The union movement has shown it is prepared to defend by its union action the rights secured for workers. It is fighting for the rights of workers, and for their right to organise and to strike.
Arabs: are we crude and petty?

STEVEN MARKS' report on the Arabs is so crude and petty that it reminds me of the old joke about the Soviet Jews who fall all over themselves to prove they are just as anti-Zionist (which in Russia really means anti-Jewish) as their purported oppressors. Soviet Jews must have driven many Russian Jews into the arms of Zionism.

Could the real Mr Marx (Karl) please stand up and give his analysis of the present situation in the Middle East? Could the noble Germans attack Britain to liberate the Danes and the Bulgarians to liberate the Bulgarians (their stooges) from the Turks? Does anyone else want to get rid of the Bulgarians? Or did they leave all the real revolutionaries in the UK, not the British prime minister.

Postal points: God, Chile, chickens, Palestine & more...

PALESTINE... what are we doing? We are watching the Mother of Exports jockeying for advantage of the market, the US & the UK or the USSR have the interests of the world at their whim. The US has no illusions about the Arabs amounts to a voting of moral war credits to one side doing the dirty work. KENNETH SZELE, Massachusetts, USA.

CHILE... is it not parliamentary democracy to allow anyone's class' ability to compromise in order to stay in power? The situation is desperate... total failure of the working class democratic machine? No, they can't get us! We are socialist granted to us by another socialist who presumes to say that the ruling class might in some way or another be socialized in parliament close factories and use the armed forces before any 'socialist' government had a chance to 'legalize' the revolution by passing a bill?... Michael F. O'Farrell

CHICKENS... My local butcher tells me that poultry farmers are at this moment screwing in their chickens and throwing them away. Apparently there is a 'plague' of them. Somehow I was frightened the price will drop. I would think it would stay up... recently... JOHN BIRKS, Hillingdon.

ORDINARY WORKERS... very often phrases like 'ordinary working class people' used in the paper, is there then a superlative class of people? The people who are forever telling us we are 'ordinary' and many workers feel so in their minds inferior - language plays a very important part socially and psychologically and words or phrases which undermine working people's confidence have no place in Socialist Worker. IAIN BROWN, Luton.

UNITED ACTION... has given us a 40-hour working week and much improved economic and welfare conditions. If we value past efforts and the future existence of trade unionism we should call shop-floor meetings at every factory to let our leaders know we trust on united action to get a living wage. IMMIGRANT WORKERS potentially have enormous power because the pliability of capitalism cannot, in 'boomming' conditions continue without pliable immigrant workers who in depressed economies of Western Europe are clamouring for employment. At present immigrant workers are at the mercy of capitalist governments only because they are not organised to defend themselves. SHAILISH, ADALIA, London WC1.

CHRISTIANITY... as a Christian I feel able, to a large extent to square social justice with Christian social teaching. I believe it would be helpful if the International Socialists could put forward some views concerning the relationship between socialism and Christianity. P J CAMPBELL, Manchester.

We have, and hold of Chris Harnan's article in Socialist Worker, August...

The Daily Express glasshouse in Fleet Street is crawling with strange little men in navy blue suits and rolled umbrellas. For the past few weeks they have been clambering stones at anyone who might commit the awful sin of breaking the Tory government's laws, is of one 50 firms chosen by the Pay Board for scrutiny.

There is an air of expectancy at the Express and the surrounding pubs echo the one question that everyone is asking: 'Have the books been well enough cooked?'

If they haven't, then Sir Max Atkin who is fond of boasting that he is in touch with everything that happens in his empire, might have to excuse the plebeian offices for a spell in Her Majesty's prisons.

But he should be in good company. For if the Pay Board's enquiry at the Express events anything amiss, the beady little eyes of Pay Board spies might turn in the direction of all the other management.

And if the spies do their job well, they will discover that while the right hand of Fleet Street has been prancing the 'fairness' of the law, its left hand has been dishing out a little extra to printers and journalists alike, since the birth of Phase Two.

While the press millionaires were not prepared to rock the capitalist boat in their papers, they have all been willing to pay more in salary to their workers with their own employees. To cover up the illegal activities, they have made the occasional statutory visit to the Pay Board with some scheme or the other.

TRAP

And when the Board has turned down their request to be allowed to pay more money, or to honour threshold agreements, the employers have simply paid their workers to work out elaborate schemes for extra payments.

The unions, of course, have fallen into the trap, and accepted the payments which have been 'justified' on paper as increases through upgrading, extra overtime essential to the running of the newspaper or anything else that any bright boy might think up.

So who has been in, in effect, conned the Pay law. But they have also had their troubles, as agreements which have been due to them.

Miners: we're with the 24

The CONNIE branches of the National Union of Miners (File) have passed the following resolutions.

A recommendation supporting the Shrewsbury 24 and calling for industrial action should any of the

24 be imprisoned. Connie branch donated £20 and pledged that a pit head collection would be held.

This resolution was passed at the Scottish National executive who noted the resolution and donated £100.

A resolution condemning the banning of the Ligue Communiste and a resolution of support of the Brunswick firemen. This was passed to the branch committee that a pit-head collection should be held.

T MCQUINNESS, Fife.

The money's better in jug...

I'M ANSWERING Mr F. Ford's query the 'very strangle' (Socialist Worker, 27 October).

I am a war disabled man who has had six years' unemployment, but I no longer complain about it. I make more than most people for their stupidly.

The Social Security pay out £50 a week, yet it costs £20 to keep a man in jail. If people like you are sheeple then the jailors will have your face.

I say that if the people of this country won't force the Tory and Labour parties to give us work, then the public must pay for what they have done and they make them pay, each and every day. Even if I am charged how can I lose when it will cost the tax-payers £30 old per week and not just the social security pitance?

If this country acts unsympathetically by punishment alone, then this bloody country can only expect blind anti-social destruction from the rank and file.

While this country denies me a fair deal, I have the right to give them the scrap-heep, then this bloody country can only expect blind anti-social destruction from the rank and file.

One of the employers didn't win the engineering union strike this week which shut down Fleet Street presses for 24 hours.

For what the papers saved in precious newspaper, they lost many times over in sales and advertising revenue.

But where, oh where, was union strength when the statement made by the Newspaper Publishers Association came off the presses in all offices?

Our 'leaders' concerns were, kept the NPA, 'represent about 4 per cent of the total labour force in the Labour Movement'. The absence of these individuals, however, renders it impossible to produce newspapers.

This is the tithed daily loss of publication that employers are two years due to industrial action, and that management has been forced to honour agreements made before Phase Two.

Much more important, the had wasted the militancy of their members - which is precisely what the employers wanted.

And as negotiations for new national agreements get under way, there is every sign that the unions will accept the restrictions laid down by Phase Three, believing that the employers will see them slighted in the end through more back-door tricks.

Leonard Hill

This book documents in detail the history of political prisoners in Turkey, and the staggering brutality they suffer. Written by law students and lawyers and many ex-prisoners, it gives them access to papers and political reports which saw been published for the first time. If you want to know what is going on, it can help you.

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STRIKING FIREFRAN PRAISES IS

RONNIE ROBERTSON, leading member of the firemen's union Glasgow area committee which led the recent strike against the freeze, chanted a 'Support the Firemen' meeting in Iona House, Clyde Street, Glasgow, attended by more than 100 people. Ronnie is pictured at the meeting and on organising support for firemen throughout the city.

The fire officers' question, at the question time organised by the union's recent sell-out, Ronnie replied that such a move would isolate the Glasgow men from the militant trade unionists all over the country.

The way we need to form a reform committee inside the union to fight for the people and stand up to kick out the bourgeois politics. We need a whole new organisation in the city.

The meeting ended with much support for the MIFU and the 30,000 men in the Labour left.
MINERS’ BAN ON OVER-TIME SPREADS

Miners at Lee Hall Colliery in Trafalgar Square were on strike on Sunday, demanding an overtime ban in support of the full pay claim, following a stormy meeting on Saturday.

Feeling was growing that the National Union of Mineworkers had been shilly-shally over the 1973 claim. Last Thursday Joe Gormley, NUM president, spoke at the Lee Hall Lodge meeting and indicated against any unilateral action.

He told the meeting there was still no date for a national overtime ban and indicated that the NUM leaders had decided to see if the Tories would make any amendments to the proposals.

At Sunday’s meeting two motions were moved against the ban, but an amendment was defeated.

But the top table, supposedly out of favour with the national union, refused to allow the two motions to be put together so that some miners who wanted an immediate overtime ban locally in their area, when they had to vote against the executive recommendation if they wanted an immediate local action.

INFORMED

Lee Hall miners voted by 89 to 47 to reject the executive position on an immediate overtime ban. That they voted to do next, and how they voted, was left to the local committee to decide.

The meeting was going on in a situation where the police had been called by some miracle, and management had been informed.

In Warwickshire too, traditionally a strong NUM area, miners were on the move in support of the full pay claim and against the one-day stoppages. They were in dispute over a demand for a two-week strike. The miners were announced two weeks ago that, in retaliation, they would not be paying full wages.

Miners at all five Warwickshire pits immediately slapped on an overtime ban, which has now been in force for two days. At Daw Mill the pit was closed for two days to make sure that they were paid for their work’s week. Their action gained immediate results as management had to climb down, and they have kept the overtime ban since. They have not permitted the national claim and do not intend to lift it.

In Yorkshire too militants are pushing hard for an area level ban to force the hands of the national executive. At Houghton Main Colliery, near Barnsley, the rank and file voted in support of the ban on 1 November.

ACTION

Two Houghton miners, Tommy Delemer and Alan Parker, told the meeting: "The union is back-pedalling on our claim. As it was yesterday after the ironclad meeting we are not going to take action. We’ve started a campaign and are not going to shut our eyes because we want to push the union into action. We hope to get a lot of support.

Support has not been coming from the local leaders. Arthur Scargill has attacked the move as a ‘tragic mistake’. He has got his head in the sand and won’t be hurting for a moment. Yorkshire into a unilateral overtime ban until the government acts and enforces its own resolution imposed from 1 November.

BOLTON-The 250 workers at Hick Haygroves, one of the town’s oldest engineering works, have been occupying the factory for two weeks.

The management had to close in a local financial crisis, demanding their outstanding wages, soon after they had been on one of the many strikes the workers had been involved in over the last two years.

Despite the fact that the Bolton Evening News was “management’s gift of £100 for strikes”, the workers had been involved in a previous strike.

When the strike settled the workers had refused to pay the wages paid the Monday after the Wednesday because the management had not paid the wages.

Not for long. The pickets came...

STEWARDS ALLOW RENT INQUIRY TO GO ON

CLYDEBANK—About 200 shop stewards and employees of the inquiry in Clydebank Town Hall—into which the council had not in the Homing Finance Act—to continue the inquiry into the overwhelming wages of the workers of John Brown Engineering who had been for two weeks on the job on Monday.

The stewards were very resistant as the workers had been when they heard of the inquiry. At one point John Brown Engineering was asked to attend the council meeting, but the management refused to attend, saying that they would not attend the inquiry.

The stewards allowed their protest to be reported in a letter given to the stewards of the JRE Joint Shop Stewards Committee. The stewards also took action and stopped the workers from moving.

The general feeling was that the Clydebank shop stewards had pushed their chance of making a strong protest against the government.

I would like to join the International Socialists

British justice at work

BIRMINGHAM-Mr Justice Ashworth, a wife and hericious intelligence officer, did a good job for his class last week. He was winning up the trial of the Coventry Seven at Birmingham Crown Court.

"The world was on the verge of a new round to handing out the sentences.

After a four-month trial the jury, which included a woman and a criminal damage to buildings and evidence of a ban on police and profits from explosions, decided the warders were guilty on 30 counts.

All the defendants confessed to the statements they had "made under duress" and were arraigned last April. They insisted that they had been unaware of their legal rights, had been given access to a solicitor, had been warned of his legal rights, and had been threatened. The jury all claimed that the statements were products of police fabrications.

Frank Sturgis, one of the defendants, told the court: "I was told by my solicitor that I only had to sign a seven-year sentence for confession.

Verdict

After the verdict of the jury, the judge ignored all defense appeals for light sentences.

Justice Ashworth said: "The police have been acting under the law and rule of law and order in this country has been endangered by the criminal activities of the IRA, and it is important that those who engage in such means of terrorism are brought to justice.

To commit arson and criminal damage.

Pat Burke, Tony McCormick and Frank Kelly were all guilty of all the charges against them, the trial of which was adjourned.

All the defendants confessed to the statements they had "made under duress" and were arraigned last April. They insisted that they had been unaware of their legal rights, had been given access to a solicitor, had been warned of his legal rights, and had been threatened. The jury all claimed that the statements were products of police fabrications.

The judge said: "I am surprised that Kelly’s bomb was not intended to be used in this country. I am also surprised that the bomb was only discovered by accident and that it was only discovered by accident and that it was not planted in British territory.

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Three hundred and fifty thousand engineering workers struck work for the day on Monday in protest at the latest savage fine on the AUEW by the National Industrial Relations Court.

The rank and file response in most areas was magnificent and was in greater numbers than the strike of September last winter.

The improve was striking and marked by a determination with their union which, after a defeat to call for strike action on Monday, is the only major union that has put up a principled opposition to the NIRC and the Industrial Relations Act.

Where the local AUEW district or the Confederation of Engineering Unions gave a clear and the workers responded.

In Bridgwater, 1,000 workers went out. In Stockport, Rotherham, Basford, and the Avesford plant in South Africa were also blacked by the TGWU. In Hull Hall Island and also reported magnificently, 8,500 on strike, with 10,000 americans a similar meeting where they apparently passed a resolution congratulating the workers on their stand against the Act, and demanding, in the event of failure, an all-out strike.

RESPONSE

In Oxford and at Longbridge British Leyland workers were the first to take action with a strike call for the removal of the clause from the agreement which the government that the stoppage had stopped the $4 million fine that cannot have ended — a report that has broken the strike. In Liverpool some 40,000 strikers and 1,000 striking in the South of England, in Manchester nearly 50,000. That was an indication of the demonstration that the miners were prepared to strike.

In Southport, Wirral, Salford, and Huddersfield, where the number of the district was poor, although Stockport has been well maintained for the miners. In London, the red London District was not stopping the national papers, but the London Demonstration was not. There is no strike.

Events later in the same week, which it is hoped, will show whether in exactly what condition the AUEW are to pay.

Late last Thursday evening the pickets and their supporters were again stopped by police who were in attendance on the foreside of the National Industrial Relations Act, in an attempt to strike for the miners. The police were again very effective in stopping the miners where police were waiting. The two police were not arrested but the men of the Act. But the two police were waiting. They are. The life of the miners, as at the previous week, may either to strike for the miners. The miners were waiting.

Throughout both incidents, the police apparently respected their importance.

Given a clear lead they responded. It is extremely right for the AUEW to refuse to recognize the NIRC. But passive opposition is not enough and will not stop the fines.

Where leadership is lacking and no clear direction given, the district committees are effectively defeated. Their right in a number of areas acquired a false cover of militancy by rejecting the one-day strike call in favour of a false demand for an all-out strike.

The one-day strike can only be justified as part of a coherent strategy, which must inevitably develop politically. The decision to join the workers and the government, 100% of the time, to fight the miners, is a real political decision to join the workers and the government, 100% of the time, to fight the miners.

If that is what the AUEW leadership intends, let them say so and let them recognize that leadership involves the development of policy as well. Sir John Donaldson and his court are front men.

The main enemy is the Times and their system. Outside strikers alone will not remove the Tenants. A real strategy must develop mass support for an all-out offensive against the bosses and their government.

FIGHTING FUND

£100 came into the Socialist Worker fighting fund this week—and the events of the past weeks show more than ever the need for the fund. The Glasgow Tenants, under attack from their employers, the national press and television, and even their own tenants, get all the support that Socialist Worker and the International Socialists could muster.

Extra copies of the paper were sold outside the fire stations and down the country, and special effort being called for support from other Tenants. The Glasgow Tenants were given out in London, Coventry and major cities.

But to work as quickly as this Socialist Worker needs more and more resources — help the money raising in the mind of the Times and the fund.

Support for the 24

Kirkaldy and Dundee Workers’ Support Committee set up to help the strikers of the Shrewsbury 24. They decided this week to ask for the financial support of the Local Government and the 24 Defense Committee would be invited to look for up to the funds for pit level and factory gate meetings.

Freeze causes blackouts

The first pinch of cold weather has brought the inevitable power cuts and blackouts — and the unexpected, a combination of the Central Electricity Board and the National Power stations with the unexpected cold spell. At the start of the week, 18,000 engineers were on the job. By the end of the week, 18,000 engineers were working to meet the demands of the system, and the number of workers working on the job is expected to rise to 18,000. The board made clear that there was no intention to restore power to all areas.

The government has been under pressure from the workers to take action against the power stations workers. They were stopped through Phase Two and are now being stopped in Phase Three. The government has announced a reduction of 10% in electricity supply in the central area, and the payments were stopped.

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Anger

The mood of the nation has changed substantially since the EPA was introduced. The power station workers’ strike to work to rule at December 1970. Last year the government executive was restored to union elections. In most cases unions resisted the farmers’ moves.

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