Miners' victory vital to stop total freeze

NEW TORY PAY THREAT

AFTER THE LOCKOUT and election frauds, the Tories are now planning massive cutbacks in the living standards of working people.

Both Edward Heath and Chancellor Anthony Barber have given strong hints that they are thinking of introducing a total wage freeze. The Times newspaper has said that Heath plans to introduce Phase Four of his wages policy—including a freeze—on 1 March.

But prices are going to rise even faster in the next few months. Fuel and raw material prices for industry are rising at an annual rate of 54 percent and 66 percent each at present.

And these increases have still to work their way through to the shops. In a few months, prices are going to rise by at least half as fast again as the present rate.

Under such conditions the wage increases allowed by Phase Three mean a fall in the amount you can buy with your wage packet. A wage freeze means a massive fall. And this would not be a fall for a few months only. Sir Gordon Richardson, governor of the Bank of England, predicted last week 'some years of austerity, stretching perhaps to 1984, with little scope for improvements in personal standards of living.'

ONE WAY

Every financial and economic expert is now predicting a recession later this year, with factory closures, 'rationalisations' and rising unemployment. The government's cuts in schools and hospital building have ensured that unemployment will rise even more.

In this situation there is only one way for working people to protect their interests. It is by resistance to every aspect of the Tories' plans—the kind of resistance which tens of thousands of miners are already putting up.

Yet the established leaders of the working-class movement, the general council of the TUC, have, to a man, run away from organising such resistance. The 'compromise' they offered Heath over the miners' claim amounted to this: to let Heath cut all their members' living standards with his Phase Three proposals, providing he gave the miners a little extra.

Instead of calling on other workers to back the miners by fighting Heath's wage cuts, they are offering them as sacrificial lambs on the Phase Three altar.

Instead of demanding that the miners' pay increase is paid out of the 25 percent increase in company profits last year, the TUC leaders have suggested the miners should come from their members' wages in order that profits can grow still higher.

Such treachery in the working-class movement has not just come from the right wing. The 'left-wing' leaders of the unions have been willing accomplices to it. Jack Jones has already instructed all his Transport Union officials to settle within Phase Three.

And Hugh Scanlon, after promising to make his engineering union settle on Heath's terms, has offered to try and arrange a sell-out of the miners' claim. He told the Weekend World television programme on Sunday that the TUC was prepared to try and arrange a deal between the miners and the government short of the miners' full demands.

New TORY Pay Threat

Neither the TUC leaders nor the Labour Party leaders are talking about real resistance to the Tories and a working-class solution to the crisis. They take it for granted that capitalist 'solutions' should be accepted. At best they are willing to haggle over the details—just how big a cut in real wages, just how many millions out of work.

Yet such compromises are in no way weakening the determination of the Tories to continue their onslaught. Heath has contemptuously dismissed the TUC 'peace plan.' He is not frightened of an opponent who begs for mercy before the fight has really started.

What should be done? There is nothing inevitable about the massive defeat the Tories are planning for the working class. They can be fought. The Tories can be beaten. The crisis is not something beyond our control, like the weather. The working-class movement has the power to impose its own solution: the first steps are obvious.

Organise massive support for the miners, not as a 'special case' but as a spearhead of the working-class struggle against falling living standards.

Press the NUM leadership to turn the overtime ban into a national strike. This is the only certain way to win.

Refuse to accept lay-offs. Occupy the factories and workplaces when they are threatened.

No support for Tory policies, no compromise with the Tories. Kick out the Tory government by a wave of working-class action.

The trade union leaders have proved incapable of fighting for the policies adopted at their own conference and at the TUC itself. They have abdicated their responsibilities.

The growing rank and file movement must shoulder its responsibility to build, and to build rapidly, the fighting alternative leadership that can turn the tide.

A funny way to help the coal 'crisis'...

This miner has just finished a shift at Glaspwell colliery in Derbyshire. There are seven million tons of coal waiting to be mined at this one pit. The Tories tell us there is a desperate coal shortage—yet they are allowing the Coal Board to go ahead with plans to close the pit and move the 700 miners elsewhere. FULL REPORT CENTRE PAGES.

MINERS: STRIKE TO WIN: PAGE 16
Union leader blasts Tories

JOAN MAYNARD, an executive member of the Agricultural Workers' Union, launched a savage attack on the Tories in a speech in Brighton on Sunday.

British capitalism is in serious crisis and as a result the workers are bearing the brunt of the attack on the backs of the workers. Most hard hit are the pensioners and the low paid, in other words the weakest and poorest in society who live in the weakest to the wall.

But the working class are fighting back more strongly than ever. The miners are in the forefront of the battle, closely followed by the train drivers and ambulance men. Many other workers are lining up for the fight, the engineers and the teachers. One of the signs of the times is that while collier workers become more and more militant.

This is happening because they are getting up more clearly than any government since the war the clear class divisions in our society. From the country to the town it has sought confrontation with the workers. It has handed out wages below inflation in tax relief to the rich whilst robbing working-class children of school meals.

Profits have never been so high, inflation is raging, whilst wages are either frozen, or restricted.

It is this government which has the cheek to call for unity in the national interest, what a con trick. If Heath and his gang are so keen on national unity what is he doing about the land speculators and the property speculators. We know he is doing nothing. He is too busy knocking hell out of workers.

Nothing has gone up so much in price as land and this has absolutely nothing to do with pressure from wages. Agricultural land went up by 6 per cent between 1964-1971, in 1972 it doubled in price. The price of land for development like food prices has gone crashing through the ceiling. Here in North Yorkshire where I live a one-tenth of an acre was sold for £11,000.

Exploitation

If you were rich enough to buy a house for £8,000, by the time you paid for it, it would have cost you £54,000. The difference between the £8,000 and £54,000 is interest charges—how's that for exploitation.

Let Heath and the Tory government justify the tactic they are supporting, let them just the fact that the MPs who are going over to water the Scottish MPs. Dempsey and getting more in the tax-free expenses each day than the miners, or farm workers are getting for digging coal or producing our essential food.

The miners are taking the full brunt of the attack of the capitalist system, we must support them to the hilt. If they go down, we all go down. The TUC should stop pussy-footing about and going to see Ted at No 10, he only wants them to get him out of the pit he has dug for himself. It's their job to mobilise the 10 million trade unionists in support of the miners to smash Phase Three and get back to free collective bargaining.

It's not what runs the country, it's whose interest is the country going to be run? The land and property speculators and big business or in the interest of the majority of the people.

I do not accept the miners are a special case and that the rest of us should accept Phase Three. The trade union and labour movement is committed against a statutory incomes policy, we elect them to carry out our decisions, not to try to help the bosses' government out.

It is a rare pleasure to hear such tough, moral language from a union leader—especially a union leader who sits in the Labour Party's executive. Perhaps he hopes she will campaign in the labour movement to carry her words into action—she will mean taking up the cudgels with her 'comrades' in the Labour leadership.

'Prentice Will TWGCU act?'

IT IS high time that the Labour Party and the Transport Workers Union took steps to rid themselves of a danger to our movement. The Rt Hon Reginald Ernest Prentice, PC, MP, JP.

He spoke at a lunch on Sunday, Prentice openly attacked leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers, who are currently banning over 5,000 TWGCU members.

He singled out Michael McGahery, vice-president of the NUM and one of the few miners' trade union members who openly argue for militant action. Prentice conceded reluctantly that he supported the miners' case, but said that he would add 'some lowEnglish to the miners,' while he supported their 'workers' rights to engage in collective bargaining.'

McGahery responded, 'It is as much my political enemy as is Edward Heath.'

Prentice thinks that Prentice's scurrilous attack on a union leader in the national press, which actually led to an industrial dispute action showed a lack of trade union experience.

They would be wrong. Mr. Prentice has no trade union experience. He was not even a trade union bureaucrat all his working life. He joined the staff of the Transport and General Workers Union, London Sáo, in 1936.

He was one of the hand-picked 'coal miners'—workers of every section, especially those of the American government, who are up key positions in the trade union movement in the 1950s and 1960s.

Havoc

When his union was in favour of unilateral disarmament, Prentice was against it. When the country should be prepared to defend our country, Prentice was against it.

In 1962 he became Labour number two on the National Executive Committee and was the first to condemn pro- ducitivity deals, which wrecked so much havoc among his union's members under the Labour government, when Prentice was in full power.

Prentice started as a minister in the education department, and even promised to abolish the public school system. The promise lasted for six months, until he ditched it along with all his other promises he had made to the East London workers.

During his long stint as Labour spokesmen on industrial affair, Prentice has kept up a barrage of abuse against any unionist who stands up to the employers.

The two TWGCU members who were sent to prison by the Industrial Relations Court in the summer of 1972. He consistently criticizes the AUEW when it refuses to appear before the Industrial Relations Court.

Prentice must go. Transport Workers Union branches throughout the country must demand an end to Prentice's affair and an immediate end to any payment to him from union funds.

Strikes spearhead students big grants battle

by Simon Turner

THE NATIONAL UNION of Students' grants campaign has got off to a good start this term.

Rent strikes in 36 colleges are now in progress. The position needs to be consolidated. Rents strikes must be strengthened within a few weeks to avoid victimisation and to ensure that those involved do not become isolated.

It means arguing for support from all students in the college and regularly discussing the rent strike at union meetings. It is also important to keep the local area of NUS informed of the rent strike and if possible involve college clubs who do not have rent strikes of their own.

With the burst of publicity from the NUS executive, the work for the student centre demonstration seems to be proceeding well. Despite the refusal of British Rail in several areas, notably Scotland to allow the chartering of special trains, most colleges are booking transport to bring large numbers to London.

Last week a number of colleges and IS societies supported the Students National demonstration. Some colleges, including the Enfield branch of Middlesex Polytechnic had a half-day strike so that the maximum numbers would attend the demonstration. All colleges should send donations to the Shrewsbury defendants.

Picnics fight sweatshop

by Judith Condon

ART CASTINGS in Nuneaton, where 83 Indian workers have been on strike against victimization since 10 December, is an almost unbelievable sweatshop. The factory is made up of a series of dilapidated sheds with split and ragged corrugated metal roofs hanging down over the road.

Each bears a different name but they are all owned and controlled by A I Dunne Ltd. Process workers whose pictures are splashed on his eye while he was working in the die casting shop. He was taken to the nearest hospital. The metal was removed, his eye was stitched and he was back at work within 18 hours.

But for him and 40 others who had similar accidents a week or two weeks later, there is no surgery and no qualified nurse. There is only a box with some bandages, TCP and one pill for all seasons.

People in Nuneaton are fed up with the original group of union activists who were victimised before the strike. He has worked at Art Castings for almost ten years.

Two years ago he was working as an ordinary process worker when his mouth was splashed in his face and left eye. It was two hours before management got him to hospital. Pawitwar lost the sight of his eye.

How did the company compensate him? In just the way you would expect from such sweatshops of labour.

Pawitwar was demoted to the job of knuckling out castings at a third less pay. Then just before the strike he was sacked for "being too slow.

But then Pawitwar had the check to be active in the union, fighting for better conditions. So much criminal abuse of workers' health—and yet the fat shucks of Dunne's have put notices in the plant saying they will screw workers. The employers want to be told every time the scales are spoken to by any of the TWGCU pensioners.

One such report led to Teji Singh being charged with a breach of the peace for six days after the incident was supposed to have happened.

Meanwhile the list of charges on injuries to the pickets mount up: Gurmail Singh knocked over by the worker's managers car and now facing a charge of assault and actual bodily harm; Satnam Gill threatened with arrest for obstruction after having his finger fractured by a bus driver shut it in his cab door; Andy Eason, TGWCU member from Chrysler arrested for obstruction after the police questioned him on the accident where he worked; Gerry Jones, who said he would follow Andy to the police station, charged with having bald tyres on his car.
SOCIALIST WORKER

"WE, AS A NATION", says Ted Heath, "are in an absolutely hopeless position, that, or to put it another way, Harold Wilson has a different angle. It is Heath's 'divisive policies' which stop the 'nation' from getting on with the job.

Scottish or Welsh nationalist, not to speak of an Irish republican in the Six Counties, might well argue that Ted Heath and his friends do not belong to 'their nation'. But all of them take for granted that there is such a thing as 'national interest', Real socialists say this is rubbish.

Those who are drugged by television and the capitalist press will think that is absurd. But we say that the interests of working people everywhere are the same and that the interests of those ruled over are opposed to the interest of the workers in Britain. James Connolly, international socialist and Irish nationalist, who was shot on the orders of the British government in 1916, put it in a nutshell: 'I regard the working people in every country as the repository of a definite stock of national culture. And I regard the ruling classes of each country as the enemies of that culture.'

The same is true of fact. Regional differences are a fact. But these differences have nothing to do with any supposed 'national interest'. Nothing has done so much as capitalism to smooth these differences and to reduce and impoverish the rich heritage of genuine national cultures.

When it suits them our rulers are 'internationalists' - when it suits the CBI, the 'Europeans' excluded not only the East Europeans but also the Swiss, the Austrians, the Swedes and the Norwegians, and all of whom are every bit as much European as we are.

But do our rulers now talk about the 'European nation'? Not at all, it suits them, at the moment, to wave the Union Jack, the butcher's apron of British imperialism, to persuade us that we have to support them in order to maintain profits for the whole nation."

"WHAT WE THINK"

"National interest" is not ours

TO JUDGE by press and television, it is only when action threatens power supplies that old people start suffering from the cold. Cold is one of the main causes of illness and death among the aged, and it happens every winter. Only when the million power plants that fuel Britain's homes freeze is it possible to blame trade unionists.

The medical experts say that hypothermia (freezing of the body) is the direct cause of 20,000 deaths a year. And a further 600,000-300,000 are afflicted by the winter months: diseases brought on by the cold include heart attacks, strokes, infections of the chest and bladder.

The calculations of old age pensioners, the Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS) allows only £1.60 a week for heating costs. Which is enough to keep a typical electric fire going for about eight hours a day.

AVERAGE

Pensioners need better home heating than the rest of us, not just because of the physical inefficiency of old age, but because millions of pensioners live in the worst and least weatherproofed kinds of houses. The average house in Britain is spent each year on social research, very little is spent on the elderly. The old are a life or death matter like the housing of Britain. The DHSS statistics are silent about how many pensioners live in houses that are damp, poorly insulated or in a bad state of repair. Limited information is available. The 1971 Census showed that out of a total of 23.7 million households in Britain, about three million live in houses built before 1919. Of these houses, even the most elementary kind of modernisation has yet to be carried out. One in five of old age pensioners do not have an inside toilet, and one in six do not have a fixed bath in their houses. Only 24 per cent of all pensioners live in houses with central heating, and in the case of the over eighty age group, only 18 per cent.

In recent surveys carried out by Task Force, one fifth of the pensioners interviewed said that they had difficulty heating their home because of damp, and one half reported a heating problem because their rooms were damp. Two thirds of the pensioners visited that said that they get a small increase in their pension they would spend the extra cash not on food but on heating.

When challenged on the question, the government replies that a special heating allowance can be paid to old age pensioners who get supplementary pensions. The amounts are tiny and the conditions for payment are stringent. Old age pensioners who would not lose any mortgage should be considered for such a scheme. Local authorities have legal powers to install heating appliances in the home of an elderly person, to provide electric blankets, and to organise work to eliminate draughts, cut down damp and improve insulation. Supplementary benefit officers are able at their discretion to pay off bills for these. These powers are very rarely used. The authorities involved are so anxious not to publicise even the existence of such statutory powers.

Instead, the DHSS has issued large numbers of a leaflet called Keeping Warm in the Winter about better heating for the elderly. It insists that, 'to keep old people warm in winter, the living room temperature should be 70 degrees F, or at least 65 degrees F. The minimum legal temperature outside is 30 degrees F. Batten doors and draught excluders should be kept on the windows.'

The British Medical Journal, 27 January, 1972 reported on a national survey of 11,000 elderly residents in 237 general practices. Three out of four had a living room temperature below 59 degrees F. Nearly two out of five were at 60 degrees F. The mini mum legal temperature outside is 30 degrees F. The British Medical Journal, 27 January, 1972 reported on a national survey of 11,000 elderly residents in 237 general practices. Three out of four had a living room temperature below 59 degrees F. Nearly two out of five were at 60 degrees F. The mini mum legal temperature outside is 30 degrees F. The report found that, 'to keep old people warm in winter, the living room temperature should be 70 degrees F, or at least 65 degrees F. The minimum legal temperature outside is 30 degrees F. Batten doors and draught excluders should be kept on the windows.'

Many old people in these conditions have dangerously low temperatures, 10 per cent of old people are below one degree above the hypothermia range. So every week old people in their thousands die of hypothermia from exposure to sub-freezing temperatures. It could be stopped—but only by this system.
MINISTRY JUNTA'S SUPPORT WAGING

THE minority government formed by the Pan-German Democratic Party after last month's elections is a sign of the criminal capacity of the Junker State to survive three months, but all attempts to form a coalition government failed.

Yet certain basic policies were announced, including the reorganization of the party after the elections. The Chancellor announced the new government in January 1974, but the government was unable to find a solution to the crisis. The Social Democrats, which had supported the government, had no real alternative to the Social Democratic Party.

The Social Democrats, with the support of the Social Democratic Left, buttonholed the Chancellor last week and offered to form a government. But the Social Democrats, which has been key to the government, said it would not form a government in cooperation with the Social Democrats.
Boardman of the boardroom

ONE of the fastest climbers up the government tree over the past two years has been Tom Boardman. As Minister for Industry Boardman was put in charge of the oil crisis and made such a mess of it that he has been transferred to the Treasury, where he is now chief secretary. He is not at all worried by the appointment, especially as the salary is exactly the same—£170 a week.

The pay, however, is not keenly felt when compared with the enormous fortune Boardman piled up for himself as a solicitor in the East Midlands. Among his many rich clients were the Philips brothers, a gang of Northamptonshire coalowners who inherited great riches from their father, C W Philips, who died during the war. He divided his estate between his three sons and one daughter. It included 8000 shares in a textile business called Lester and Harris, with factories in Coventry, Nuneaton and Australia.

Tom Boardman, a solicitor, bought the trustees of the estate, and teamed up with one of the brothers, Philip, in an attempt to raise the value of Lester and Harris shares.

Studied

Using his position as solicitor for the estate, Boardman found out a lot of facts about Lester and Harris. He attended board meetings and studied documents about the company which he would never have been able to do if he hadn’t been solicitor for the Philips family.

He and Tom Philips then bought off the rest of the shares of Lester and Harris—about 23,000 of them, and Boardman became chairman of the company.

He then engaged in what has since become known as ‘asset-stripping’. He sold the Australian factory for £65,000, and sold the factory at Coventry at an enormous profit.

Meanwhile, John Philips, Tom’s brother, was getting a little sick at watching them stuffing their pockets from shares which they had bought because of Boardman’s position as solicitor for his family estate. So he sued Boardman for part of the profit on the shares.

The judge at the first court—Wilberforce—agreed that Boardman had got the money because of his position of trust as solicitor for the Philips family, and ordered him to pay over part of the profits to the other brothers. Boardman appealed, and appealed to the Court of Appeal.

The Court of Appeal ordered him to hand over the money. Boardman appealed, and appealed to the House of Lords.

Only when the House of Lords agreed with all the other judges, was Boardman forced to hand over a third of the profits.

His diligence in hanging on to cash, even when he is not entitled to do so, commended Tom Boardman to his class. Soon after the Philips episode was over, Boardman was elected for the Torus in a Leicester by-election, and soon after that became financial director of Allied Breweries. Once in parliament, he proved himself such a loyal defender of business interests that he became chairman of the parliamentary panel of the Institute of Directors.

It is impossible to find out whether he was better paid in that position. He is now, but, either way, I can report that Tom Boardman is extremely comfortable.

Incensed

The Duke’s family, the Cavendishes, are the richest and politically the most powerful in the British aristocracy. The first famous Cavendish became Chief Justice in 1366. When the peasants’ insurrection broke out in 1381 he was dragged into the market place at Bury and his head was cut off.

Even Burke’s Peerage admits grudgingly that “the people were incensed in a more than ordinary degree against the Chief Justice, Cavendish.”

Anyway, Sir John Cavendish, the Chief Justice, got his revenge by personally killing Wat Tyler, one of the leaders.

For this noble deed he got £40 a year from the King, and the family have never looked back. They have become the largest and most hated landowners in Britain, always keeping two or three sons or cousins in the House of Lords and the Tory Party.

What more fitting exercise in the 1970s for the Duke and the Marquess than to plan, in Britain’s hour of crisis, a £50 million pleasure nest for Tory yachtsmen?

I am sorry to hear of the resignation of Mr Jones as chairman of Becton, but I am sure that Mr Jones has been a good steward.

I also hope that further distress to Mr Jones is not caused by the collapse of Becton’s ambitious schemes to develop their properties and Unit Construction to build houses on council land. The contract—200 houses in East London which would have cost the council £5 million, is proving unremunerative. When the National Farmers’ Union discovered that the rest of the new houses would average £17 a week.

I must hope that the article which has not been responsible for the further ill health which has caused Mr Jones to resign from all those positions, especially as the only point of substance in the article was that Mr Jones worked for Wimperis.

Messing about in yachts (at £5m)

Deep in the gloom of the crisis, the Duke of Devonshire and his son the Marquess of Hartington are planning to build a ‘pleasure port’ on the Sussex coast near Eastbourne. It will cost £50 million—or more than the government’s offer for wage increases for 250,000 miners.

The Duke, a Tory Minister when his cousin, Mr Macmillan, was Prime Minister, has been scouting around the pleasure spots of the French Riviera for ideas for his new pleasure nest. Plans are based on the harbours at fun-loving Port Grimaud and St Tropez.

The ‘marina’ will cover 400 acres of coastline near Pevensey, and will include a luxury hotel, of top class and 60,000 flats and luxury flats for yachtsmen from all over the world. Rich men and women will be able to enjoy themselves there at any one time, and there are 400 berths for yachts.

The Duke of Devonshire owns half Perring, a large portion of Yorkshire, most of County Limerick in Ireland, and 40,000 acres in Sussex adjoining his planned new marina. He is chairman of the majority of Eastbourne Borough Council which has conceded outline planning permission for the Duke’s monstrosity almost before discussing it.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Gardening is Carrington's passion—landscape rather than weeding—and horticulturist consider him and his wife, the daughter of an air pioneer, a catch. 'They're such delightful, jolly people to have around,' said one. 'And another thing, they're marvellous with the servants.'

Sunday Times Profile of Lord Carrington, Chairman of the Tory Party.

Mr Jones himself said: "We're out of touch with people, and I've always believed that a good corner should get out and meet the folk in his area."
I’m an engineer working for GEC Turbine Generators, and I have found out that power station managers aren’t working at available capacity. This information has come straight from the horse’s mouth—from the engineers who operate the electric board.

Some men who have just won their pay claim in full, are being told to cut down the power loading on the battery in a particular way. A stocks outside in the yards are much higher than a year ago.

There are many in the North Midlands who are some of the largest electricity producers in the country (up to 2000 megawatts per station) and if they are pressing below parity it odd’s on that it is national policy.

This action together with the clampdown on industry shows the political manoeuvring the government is going through to pull the blame on workers instead of themselves and their capitalist system. A system which is heading for a major economic crisis without the cold and oil problems.

We’re going to go on getting this treatment until we get rid of this system.

L. D. LEBON, Rugby.

Retraining? Try selling

I have now been working for 12 months after being off work four years due to coal dust lung disease. There is only one thing I intend to find some way to qualify for some other job as I am a boilermaker.

I tried a correspondence course on electronics from the Social Security but couldn’t buy the tools and the equipment. All the time I am working with the SS when they can’t or wouldn’t pay 80% of my wages.

It was like 1001 Nights the reason they gave. Most of the time I received about 13 to keep myself, the wife and four children. The money rose to £18 for a while then back to £13.

When I was given Leave in the evenings I saw the adverts for government training schemes, I applied three or four times each evening. I decided to pay a visit to my friendly neighbourhood Labour Exchange (a rosy by any standards) to find out what the chances were.

The chap I saw was young and not very helpful (and will probably never suffer a crisis) but along with older model of the same type he told me there was a two year waiting period and that the nearest one was in Slough.

Anyway you had to learn to your own devices. Thus brushing me out of the running.

As there was a two year period to wait I wrote to the department of education about possible parental contribution. The Social Security maintain that this covers only a year and 33% as maintained by the Department of Education.

For two years without pay, six of the men from the same department was taken out to a cost of a service with the S.N. (It’s not official) of £100 by the 1973/4 and 1974/5.

From all this the new system is not showing any new way of life for the workers and the system is still the same.

Dennis WILLIAMS, Staff Departmental Union, Southwark, London.

Socialism, what does it mean?

The article by Chris Harman a Way Out of the Paradox is a very good one. He has touched on the most exciting part of our political system. It is much more important than what we do socialists. If we are to deal with the challenges of our time, socialism is here is problem and here are a couple of ways to deal with it.

Many socialists have a very clear idea of the problems that exist in our society and are capable of analysing the economic factors, how they usually stop short when a worker asks them what you do if you run it there.

Except for a few bromides about workers’ control, they have no view about how it would be different. Yet, if we are to pull the system out of its system, we must show how another system could be organised and what we expect to be able to do and begin to show workers what our word freedom really means.

Thousands of workers, in a period of a deepening recession, are questioning just how long this world is likely to last, and many are given us the arguments to show in practical everyday, if not ^ terms what we expect from the socialist revolution—ALAN WATTS, Haringey.

Come and join us

We don’t have enough militants and not all the ones we do have are acting sufficiently. So the message is, if we want socialism and it could be in the next few years. Millions of civilians have been trained on a grand scale in London soon enough to find work in industry when we get back in power, plus the three are still in the public eye when door to door.

STEWART PERKINS, Selby.

Tanks for the memory

The recent exercise at Heathrow Airport featuring the army, is sinister, reactionary and authoritarian.

Cast your minds back to 1971 and the activities of a certain Major General Kinon in Ulster. At that time he made a semi-public statement saying that the army and other forces would be ready to take on the workers in this country within two years. Well the time is just about up.

We have a situation where we have large-scale co-operation between the police and military intelligence. Selected police officers go through counter-insurgency and ‘agent provocateur’ training.

Police forces have received supplies of CS gas and rubber bullets. They have orders with GKN-Snape for special armoured cars equipped to deal with street rioting. Someone should tell the workers at GKN that they aren’t far from a Neolithic Ireland.

One sinister aspect of the Heathrow operation was the question of trade union activists at the airport and the fact that Kinon put forward a plan to extend the exercise to cover the docks, railways and mines.

This plan was turned down by the government. Why? Could it be the prospect of a general election in the government? Why? Could it be the prospect of a general election in the government? Why? Could it be the prospect of a general election in the government? Why? Could it be the prospect of a general election in the government?

And you don’t just have to worry about the Tories. The Labour Party is quite capable of doing their bit... —SEAN HALFWAY, Ipswich.
The Big Crack-up Ahead

SOCIALIST WORKER said two weeks ago: 'The real economic crisis will hit us in the summer or the autumn.' What sort of crisis and why?

It will be a world-wide recession, with sharply rising unemployment, deeper than any recession for more than 30 years, certainly deeper than the 1970-71 recession which produced a million unemployed in Britain.

This has been clear for some time. Last June, just before the war in the Middle East and the oil price revolution, it was predicted in International Socialism journal:

'Whether in 1975, or earlier or later, a new and more severe recession is inevitable. The re-emergence of the international trade cycle as a major factor is one of the most important changes in world capitalism since the permanent boom years of the 1950s and early 1960s.'

The effect of the cutback in oil production and the massive increase in oil prices will be to bring the recession earlier than would have happened otherwise.

Massive

But the energy problem is not the cause of the recession. Its cause is the built-in instability of the capitalist system.

All right, but you haven't explained why the system is becoming suddenly unstable. After all, we have had many years of slump-free capitalism. Why should it change now?

Because what kept slumps away for so long was massive arms spending. Robert MacNamara, president of the World Bank, said in 1966 that the world war industry accounts for approximately a tenth of the output of the world's economy... The US, as the world's richest nation, not only accounts for the largest share of this expense but also has devoted a higher proportion of its output to its military establishment than any other free nation.

'This was even before our increased expenditures in South East Asia, he said. This 'permanent arms economy' no longer has the same slump-killing effect it used to have. As well as being a major factor producing inflation, as will explain in a moment, each year's spending has not grown at fast as real output. Its stabilising effect has shrunk.

Well if that is the case the capitalist governments have an easy way out. All they have to do, on your argument, is increase arms spending and there will be no recession.

They have no easy way out. To see why, we need to look more closely at the effects of arms spending.

In the words of a US government report: 'Heavy defence expenditure has provided additional protection against depressions, since this sector is not responsive to contraction in the private sector and provides a sort of buffer or fly-wheel in the economy.'

But this has to be paid for. Real resources, men and materials, go into arms production, but by and large the products are not sold. Arms spending has to be paid for by taking the profitable sectors of the economy.

Armament production is both a buffer and a burden. This would not matter too much if the burden was equally shared by the various capitalist countries, it is not and never has been.

The USA, Britain and France, for example, have carried much more of the burden than Western Germany or Japan. Result: the German and Japanese economies have grown much faster.

They had the benefits of the long boom, the absence of the usual boom-slump cycle, without having to pay the price. They got a bigger and bigger share of the world market at the expense of the heavy arms spenders.

One striking fact will illustrate this. In 1940 Japanese steel production was only seven million tons a year. US steel production capacity was 60 million tons a year. British capacity was 18 million tons.

Now Japan is the world's third largest steel producer and is breathing down the necks of the leaders, the USA and the USSR. Britain has been left far behind.

The US share of world trade has gone down and down. To deal with this the problem the rulers of the USA— Britain and Japan—have cut back their arms spending relative to their output. The spending is still massive but is proportionately less. So the built-in stabilizer of arms spending has got much weaker.

America did something else too. It exported inflation by running, for many years, a huge deficit on its balance of payments. This was the underlying cause of the real 'take-off' of inflation in the early 1970s.

I can see that the Japanese and German capitalists benefited by exploiting a world boom without having to tax themselves for big arms spending, but why should this lead to world-wide inflation? Nothing you have said so far really explains why inflation is now so rapid. And in any case why does massive inflation lead to a slump?

Deficit

You and I cannot 'print our own money'. Governments can and do—indirectly. Each capitalist country can make as much money as it wants by printing and by other means such as bank credits. But in a capitalist economy it can only get away with this as long as it pays the international price for real goods. For a long time big business outside the USA was willing to accept paper dollars in exchange for real goods. That is what the American payments deficit meant. Big business did so because, behind the paper, it saw the enormous capacity of US industry. But increasing the supply of paper money and credit faster than the supply of goods must mean that the money buys less—price rise. Inflation spread through the whole world system as a result of the US attempt, largely successful, to make other capitalist countries pay for part of the US arms burden by accepting paper dollars in exchange for real assets.

Of course this could not go on forever. It led to a serious disorganisation of world monetary system. But the inflation, once under way, feeds on itself. All governments contribute to it. But inflation at the present rate makes for very sharp conflicts between workers and employers. It brings the class struggle back to the centre of political life at a time when the workers, in the organised countries, are stronger and better-organised than ever before. It raises, for millions of workers, the question of who gets what and why.

So all the various governments are in the world system as a result of the US attempt, largely successful, to make other capitalist countries pay for part of the US arms burden by accepting paper dollars in exchange for real assets.

What's happening to your wages?

A Socialist Worker pamphlet 3p

Here's a vital pamphlet to all readers of Socialist Worker—a pamphlet to make the point that inflation is taking from every worker and household who worries why their money is being eaten away.

The pamphlet contains powerful and highly-quoted articles in Socialist Worker by Chris Harman and John Palmer. Why not pick up a dozen copies for your workplace or homeplace now?

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Send to:

IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4
A DERBYSHIRE MINE is threatened with closure—at a time when the Tories tell us there is a dangerous shortage of coal.

Yet at the threatened Glapwell Colliery there are seven million tons of coal ready to be mined. 700 men work at the pit—and many of them came to Glapwell after four and five earlier transfers due to the Coal Board’s short-sighted closures policy.

In the past Glapwell has been a very profitable pit. When Dick Brut, Glapwell NUM Lodge secretary, went up to the pit in 1947 there were 2000 miners working there. At no time, including the present, have they had any difficulty selling their coal. Dick says: ‘We have always sold our coal. We never had any stocks at the pithead.’

It is the NUM’s mining engineer who estimates there are seven million tons of coal in the ground at Glapwell. The figure is not contested by the NCB.

‘Why then does the Coal Board want to close the pit?’ its answers are many and complicated but two main themes come out clearly:

Glapwell, it says, is uneconomic as a unit, its coal of poor quality. Secondly the Derbyshire coalfield is 700 men short overall, a shortage that could almost be eliminated if the Glapwell miners were dispersed to undemanding pits.

I put these questions to Peter Heathfield, general secretary of the Derbyshire NUM and a member of the union’s national executive. He said: ‘I am not interested in the economics of one pit. The black slate seam at Glapwell will produce good coal, particularly if it is “sweetened” with other coal.’

He added: ‘The Derbyshire coalfield is in excess of £6 million according to the NCB. That does not mean that they can close down the whole coalfield. Glapwell is one pit and its costs have to be seen in relation to coal production as a whole and the need for all the fuel we can get.’

Strike

I asked Peter Heathfield if he thought that action to defend Glapwell might not hasten its closure. His reply shows the new spirit that miners have gained since the successful strike in 1972. ‘They shot the pit if we keep quiet and work regularly. It is about time that we fought back.’

The Derbyshire union executive has discussed Glapwell on five separate occasions and has decided that if the NCB closes the pit the entire area will be on strike.

Miners at Glapwell are particularly incensed at the tactics adopted by the NCB to force the closure by a process of weating them down.

Bob Todd, Glapwell delegate to the area council, explained the technique. A black slate face had been fully developed with the necessary equipment—props, roof supports, signalling equipment—ready on the surface.

On the excuse that the equipment was urgently required elsewhere, the face has not been worked. The 79 men who should have worked this seam were downgraded, without consultation, and put on salvage work.

This work pays by £5 to £6 a week. 39 surface men were declared redundant.

At Fifty Hall, in another section of the pit, the Deep Hard, the teams met a ‘displacement fault’. The NCB claimed it was four feet thick and not worth continuing with the face.

It proved to be only 17 inches thick and, when cleared, gave access to good workings. When a similar displacement fault was encountered elsewhere the NCB told the men to stop as they required the props and chocks for other work.

In another part of the pit, the Low Main Fives, five days’ work on an obstruction would have enabled them to get at good coal, the work was stopped. The men were certain that they could get to workable coal and the management’s decision further convinced them that the NCB was trying to kill the pit.

Glapwell is being starved of machinery, of pit props and roof supports and other vital items that make it possible to mine coal.

As a result of this underrun strategy, the management has reduced the workforce by 270 men since May 1973. Those who are left are determined not to fall in with the NCB’s plans.

Bob Pond says: ‘The majority of men are adamant that if the attitude of the management does not change towards the men, if Glapwell closes then we will set the hell out of it—even if that means joining the losing redundancy pool.’

One of the points most short of is where many of the Glapwell men work. Is Markham engine.

In July 14 men in the terrible job of cutting the coal, a direct result of the pit closures, are in Markham industry altogether. A £7 million means joining the losing redundancy pool.

The immediate fuel problem in Britain—highlighted the thoughtlessness of the NCB’s so-called ‘planners’. The only fuel Britain has in full supply is coal—the country literally stands on a raft of fuel.

But 20 years of rationalisation, pit closure and redundancy have given management a death wish. For the rank and file miners, loyalty to nationalisation and the Labour government that put through the 1947 legislation meant that the bargaining advantages they had in the 1970s were lost. Britain was left. Cheap coal, in apparently limitless and unending quantity, was to replace coal.

For 16 years the miners were left to regret their closure and declining wages. The immediate fuel problem in Britain—highlighted the thoughtlessness of the NCB’s so-called ‘planners’. The only fuel Britain has in full supply is coal—the country literally stands on a raft of fuel. But 20 years of rationalisation, pit closure and redundancy have given management a death wish. For the rank and file miners, loyalty to nationalisation and the Labour government that put through the 1947 legislation meant that the bargaining advantages they had in the 1970s were lost. Britain was left. Cheap coal, in apparently limitless and unending quantity, was to replace coal.
in the past our union leaders have been equally to blame. The 1972 strike has changed all that. Now it is the turn of the rank and file.

Dick Brunt explained the bitter resentment of the men at the NCB's antics. Shifting from pit to pit is a major upheaval in a miner's life.

Mining more than most other jobs is a job that requires knowledge and trust of one's fellow workers. 'Men have settled in to jobs that suit them, that fit their special disabilities. They just don't want to start all over again.

One of them has had this upheaval four or five times already. The mass downgradings here are unproven, our people are losing more than £1 a shift.'

**Threat**

There are 720 men on the books now. But 150 of those are pit top men. The 700 vacancies in Derbyshire are full for faceworkers, so there will be no jobs for these men.

The NCB is very sensitive about its policy at Glapwell. Recently Dennis Skinner, MP for the area and an ex-Glapwell miner, was ordered off the colliery premises, presumably for fear he might discover something further to the NCB's discomfort. It was Skinner who raised the threat to Glapwell in the Commons last week.

Glapwell can be saved. Determined action and determined leadership can do the job.

The strength that won the biggest increase in the history of the industry in 1972 must also be utilized to halt the closures, to improve conditions and restore the industry. It is rank and file pressure that has brought the miners this far. It will be rank and file pressure and organisation that will save Glapwell and every other pit in danger of closure.
That famous Pentonville victory points the way for Shrewsbury campaign

THERE CAN be few things closer to the heart of every militant trade unionist and socialist than to get the three imprisoned building workers John McKinnie Jones, Ricky Tomlinson and Des Warren out of jail.

At the heart of the Tory offensive against the working class is the attempt to intimidate workers from taking effective action. The Tories tried to do this job with the Industrial Relations Act and failed. And now they have turned to the 1973 Conspiracy Act, this time with much weaker trade unionists as the selected victims.

Concerns and feelings of solidarity are vital in the battle to free the three. But they are not enough to release the three from prison. For that a massive campaign needs to be mounted, and strategy and tactics hammered out.

It is a sad thing to report that a lot of the thinking which has gone into the campaign so far to "Free the Three" is inadequate and misguided. And above all, it is thinking based on false premises.

Lew Lewis, one of the leading Communist Party militants in the London building industry, has summarised this position with complete forthrightness.

"In the last fortnight he has claimed that the TUC's threat of a general strike was the step that freed the five dockers from Pentonville for the 'crime' of picketing."

And both times he has made this statement, Lew Lewis has drawn the conclusion that official support, the official initiative of the TUC, of UCATT and the TGWU, is the target that the campaign to Free the Three must aim for.

But the position is that official initiatives did not free the five dockers. The official initiatives came only after the dockers had forced the pace, won huge sections of the movement for practical support to their cause and when the TGWU saw a specter of general strike over which they had no control.

Forward

It is true that the dockers had major advantages over the building industry in launching their campaign. The dockers are a compact, well-organised section of the working class and the imprisonment of the five came at the height of the struggle, not 18 months afterwards.

But the real lesson of the dockers' struggle does not lie in the advantages they had. It lies in the fact that there was a clear, strong group of shop stewards and militants who seized the nettle and drove the movement forward.

The dockers' stewards and other activists started out to develop the movement and to free the five with immediate solidarity action from the major docks in the country. Their action was given massive publicity and the men were in the middle of a movement that recognised their actions.

As soon as the news came through to the London stewards that the five would be jailed, they resolved to go back to the dock and call the men out. When they got there, the men were already leaving.

About 300 dockers were outside Midland Cold Storage by 1pm, ready to stand guard over the men who were to be sailed. When the first two policemen came for the men, they were nearly lynched. The stewards called the men down and a few minutes later three of the five were arrested.

Immediately the dockers held a meeting in the car park of the nearby Huckley greyhound stadium and the key call went out: "Picket the prison..."

The picket was established firmly by 6.30pm and the dockers had their 'nerve centre'.

As Bob Light, one of the many rank and file dockers intimately involved in the struggle, explains: "Picketing Pentonville gave the whole thing a base, it was our unofficial picketing in support of the TGWU. From there we could land a few anywhere. And this how the struggle was spread beyond the docks with pickets, with initiative, and with imagination."

"Our men went down Fleet Street on Friday night," Bob says. "We chose Fleet Street because that was the only industry we could stop over the weekend. In the back of our minds was the immense psychological importance of the national papers. If we got them shut down then we would have the press we'd ever had."

On the Friday night the dockers' pickets were turned down by the printers. Then on Saturday night the electricians moved along with some NATSOJA chaps and all the Sunday papers were shut down with the exception of the Sunday Times.

"It was still touch and go. On Sunday there was a real Shadwell, the papers would re-open. Then SOGAT, who organised the van drivers, moved and Fleet Street was sewn up.

"The dockers moved out, sending stewards and pickets here, there and everywhere. Fleet Street had become the start of the snowball."

To claim that the TUC threat to call a general strike was the step that freed the five dockers is to rewrite history.

The TUC moved only because, as Jack Jones said at the General Council meeting, "If we don't do something then the leadership will be in the hands of unofficial elements."

Tactics

The campaign to free the Shrewsbury Three and to defend the others who are now on trial faces greater obstacles than were in the way of the dockers. North Wales was selected for this new attack because it was an isolated area in an industry with a low level of organisation.

But putting even greater responsibilities on the defence committee in Liverpool and North Wales, in this situation clear thinking, imaginative tactics are more vital, not less.

Yet the truth is that the committee has not fully faced up to this. They went through the protected trial without mounting an offensive campaign. Little was done to counter the lies of the press and explain the truth. Little was done to lay a real base for industrial action in key sections of the working class.

And throughout great stress has been placed on what the TUC, the official leadership of the Transport Union and the Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians would do. The upshot has been nothing in the case of the TUC and UCATT while the TGWU called an official one-day strike and put out a tough statement denouncing the trials and sentences.

The decision of the North Wales Defence Committee to oppose the three Shrewsbury defendants who received suspended sentences speaking on the sites and at factory gate meetings is counterproductive. We are better qualified to explain the truth than the three who have suffered at first hand.

"The truth of the matter is that if the three are to be freed then a campaign of all-out strike action must be got off the ground and file. That is what the 2 February recall conference of the Liverpool Trades Council can and must do.

"But building workers do not have the same close-knit base as dockers. And the Shrewsbury pickets were surrounded first with a web of press silence, then with a tide of lies."

A massive propaganda campaign explaining the truth of Shrewsbury and the immense threat the prosecution's success poses to the whole working-class movement is therefore absolutely vital.

And a general call for action is meaningless unless there is a campaign and union that campaign has a real base to work from. The struggle must therefore be founded on a definite number of building sites which are prepared to take unlimited strike action.

This will give the building workers the moral authority not only to ask others to do the same, but to demand they do the same.

Were such a campaign put off the ground the three could be freed. Their release would be a gigantic setback for the Tory government on all fronts, because, in the final analysis, their whole strategy rests on the ability to impose still more repressive measures on the working-class movement.

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**Analysis by Laurie Flynn**

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**Our Normal**

Now follows a party political broadcast on behalf of the Conservative and Unionist Party.

S.O.S. 1976

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**The build-up - Ben is Jerry speaks to a dockers' meeting on the picket line outside the dockyards. The speaker: 'It's time we had a say. We're not going to be beaten to a pulp by the police.'**

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**The victory - Ceneny Clancy is carried shoulder-high.**
PHASE THREE, the Tory fraud exposed, by Bert Ramelson, Communist Party, 12p.

Bert RAMelson, the Communist Party’s industrial organizer, has produced a pamphlet on Phase Three and the crisis. Presumably this represents Communist Party policy. The pamphlet is long on criticism and glibly short on proposals for action. The critique of Phase Three, its inflexibility, its weighting in favour of employers and gross inequity for workers is also unstated.

There are, unfortunately two serious errors. No more than passing criticism is made of the mildest kind, of the TUC leadership. Even worse, there is not even the hint of a coherent strategy to beat Phase Three.

We are told that TUC participation in Phase Three is inescapable, but that participation in a ‘strategy’ is ‘a tradition’. Again, it is: a strategy is no substitute for anything to help the workers struggling for wage increases. Finally, we are informed that the ‘crisis need’ for an emergency conference of the TUC to ‘deal with the problems of Phase Three’. Does the pamphlet offer the TUC any guidance on such a strategy? To be fair, it does say: ‘Every trade union and its local executive committee and so on, should express their solidarity now with the miners, and back them up in the battle’. But this is all Bert Ramelson has to offer. For the rest, the TUC will do nothing, and this is a report on the basis of which they ‘are not capable of organizing this’, he says. The pamphlet underlines the position of the Communist Party, and their industrial organizer is clearly not prepared to call for the revocation of the pathetic role of the TUC and its ‘left’ members. They fail to see what service Scargill and Jones have done Ted Heath over the past 18 months. One case could say that their eyes and heads tested.

None of this is need for a policy that relies on and builds the rank and file movement, not in the paralyzing atmospheres of TUC headquarters. The real ‘strategy’ is the Communist Party one which could play a crucial role in building such a movement and organizational incapacity of acting as anything but opposition and support for the left trade union bureaucracy.

JIM HIGGINS

MINERS’ PLAY

HOW THE MINERS ARE ROBBED,


A short play, that takes only 15 minutes or so to read, into which it puts the story of the men in a lot of witty and sharp material.

Ray Channell’s introduction is a guide to commodities as well as the kind of working class language which hasn’t been translated to common all to the Reps in Labour History series.

The play is built around the pits and is a indictment of the land and politics of the old Manchesters and back the ‘Old Dick’ who understand nothing of the way that he has grown and changed and has been psychologically exploited.

This interest to anyone in the mining industry but its is most needed to the miners of the working class. Which isn’t surprising since Wheatsley’s background had been that of the poverty of Scotland and Ireland at the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth century.

The capitalists get it in the neck—humiliation and loss of money. Which is interesting, since Wheatsley in his play has the miners’ interest to combine his Catholic faith with his socialist ideal.

Capitalism is ludicrous, and Wheatsley proves it, the only thing wrong is that it isn’t long enough. Buy it and read.

MICK OSBORNE

GLASGOWS’ SONGS

SONGS OF ALEX GLASGOW: MMM 1006, Stereo, record shops, or Manchester Books, 17 Edith, Heath Street, Newcastle on Tyne 1.

SOME PEOPLE identify socialist songs with solemn boring dirges. Often, they are right. But there is a ray of hope about this LP. The songs are both a celebration and an attack on the abysmal poverty and the tragedy of a system that wastes so many lives. The first track you can hear Alex Glasgow’s songs from Alan Slater’s magnificent sleeve notes and the words to ‘The Overthrow of Him’, which is worth listening to twice before going into the store. Then find out what you’ve missed. Mr Slater left the advice in theadiers to the Andreas on how to get on. Something must be in the air. Maybe that is a hint that they are playing down his socialist past, in the bloody oust of one split.

‘The Tyne is Slides by’, a cycle of songs which follow a worker’s career, from ‘Apprentice’ to ‘In the Glass Flats’ gets the mood by contrasting the comfort of the ‘Glass Flats’ and Co-op Terrace. The working man sees the things he has been taught to value and gets a kick in the pants for his pains in ‘It’s all just so much bloody rubbish’.

It’s a well-crafted, well performed, and Alan Slater’s accompanying by the William Soutphage Quartet is a further delight to the ears.

NEIL MURRAY
Tory ‘generosity’ to miners would mean pay cut

THE TORIES and their newspaper friends have been saying every day for the last two months that the pay offer to the miners is ‘generous’, though it would ‘give the men 16% per cent’ and so on.

Predictably enough the real facts about this ‘generous offer’ have not been unfolded in the millionaire press. The truth is that at most 10,000 miners would benefit from the full increase in shift payments. A majority would be taking a wage cut if they gave in to Tory ‘generosity’.

The basic increase in pay at present on offer is 7 per cent, with a further 4% per cent on average for ‘unsocial hours’. This is for those working 46 weeks a year. What the press does not admit is that the shift varies throughout the collieries, miners who clock on at midnight or 2 pm will not get anything like what the government and Coal Board say.

Another 3% per cent increase—making, you notice, 15 per cent and not 16%—is supposed to come from a productivity deal. And this is where the generous offer is really shown up. The Coal Board offer would give an extra 7 per cent productivity week extra. But even to get this, the miners had to give an extra 7 per cent in productivity for each per cent rise, according to the Tory pay law.

In addition the scheme would have to be agreed on by a miners’ committee before one penny went into the miners’ pockets.

But what the real scandal is what the scheme itself involves. The Coal Board, the Tories and even the Coal Board are aware that this scheme has not been very forthcoming about it.

The scheme the Coal Board has in mind is simple. For the purpose of calculation the year would be divided into two six-month periods, April and October. Productivity in the six-month periods would be measured in the amount of coal produced on average every shift—would be compared to the average produced over the same period for the previous five years. If the increase in productivity was equal to the previous increase then the 3% per cent would be paid out to the men at Christmas and before the annual holdy.

Average

It does not take a mathematician genius to work out what this means in real earnings. For 7 per cent more for the miners. But then what happens? The next year your productivity has to rise by even more—because for the average of the previous five years has gone up. And you’ll get less than half the money you’ve earned.

And the next year—if you can stand it that long—you’ll get less for producing even more.

There’s a Greek legend about a man pouring a pile of stones; the pile got bigger every time he moved one.

Not even Classical scholarship is in—Brendan Ems and Joe Grym-ley.

In fact—because of the miners’ action—-it doesn’t look as if the Coal Board is going to be able to try its con-trick on the miners. It would be impossible to bring in this ‘deal’ alongside the pay increase of the other 4% per cent. It would breach the Phase Three laws.

This is what is being offered to the miners is an average 11-12 per cent.

The main damaging point for working miners is how their union executive could even look at a productivity ‘deal’ of this type. It should be clear by now that the only way miners can win a living wage is by smashing Phase Three. This cannot be done with waiting time or with snap time or with no pay and no productivity deals.

Just a strike, and the solidarity and militancy of 1972, will give the miners victory.

LITTLE did the delegates at the TUC Congress know that glittering career lay ahead for Jack Finnegar, when the National Union of Dyers, Bleachers and Textile Workers, who had endorsed him at Blackpool in 1968.

‘I hope to stand in this box and argue for 15 years and to serve the movement’, he said in support of his motion for admission to the Voluntary Income Policy, ‘the start of a new phase in our attempt to take a new wages structure which takes account of our own and the country’s prosperity.’

If that was true the career of the retreating past. Little did the delegates know that the other side of the TUCCentral, as a member of the National Coal Board and the British Wool Marketing Board.

Little did they know that the career of the retreating past. Little did the delegates know that the other side of the TUCCentral, as a member of the National Coal Board and the British Wool Marketing Board.

Although Jack had resigned as general secretary entirely to suit his own purposes, the union did make him as an executive. The executive suggested that he accept a cheque for £100.

Retired

This was but one of many avenues that that was yet in store! There would be presentations from the Wool Board, the Coal Board and doubtless a little something from the union that he may care to have.

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INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST NEWS

GET THEM OUT ON EVERY SITE!

A LARGE enthusiastic meeting at Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham, last Sunday gave ovations to John Llywarch and John Rowntree, two of the 'Shrewsbury Six' in the notorious pickets trial.

Both men spoke at the meeting of the trial, its political consequences and the need for mass action to free the three in prison.

Mr Rowntree said that during the 1972 official building strike he had been a member of the building workers' executive of the North Wales. "We found it difficult to pull out the unorganised workers, especially when, on more than one occasion, companies and agents told the employers that it wasn't necessary."

Then, after much discussion and developed the technique of the flying picket. We picketed eight sites in Shropshire, and were escorted by 80 police, at least 10 of them high-ranking officers. No one was arrested or even cautioned, and after the pickets we all went home to North Wales.

"The building employers then drew up an unworkable agreement which put them £14,000. On 14 February, we were on the picket line and the counting of the tribunal was eventually won by the strikers."

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PUNCH

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IS news
150 attend debate with Labour
by Jim Higgins
DERBY—Philip Whitehead, Labour MP for Derby North and Paul Foot of the International Socialists held a debate on "The British Socialist Opposition" last Thursday. The debate, which was described by the International Socialists as "the first time for years that the British socialist parties have been asked to face this major political issue", drew an audience of 110.

Paul Foot said that if there was a general election, IS members would be voting and advising others to vote Labour. Nevertheless, for socialists, this was not enough. Four previous Labour governments had been consistent only in breaking election promises. From 1964 to 1970 "Wilson was smudged out by the ruling class". It was not working, not without success. It was time for the revolutionary party that would achieve workers' power.

Philip Whitehead, unusually for a Labour MP, had done his homework and was well equipped to take on the debate. He congratulated IS on the quality of their paper, which he said was "better than anything the Labour Party can produce".

His case in the debate rested on socialism by consent against what he described as "intransigent socialism". If you cannot defend the working class, as the IS have done, you cannot defend 1964-1970 Wilson governances, which he said were on a false prospectus. Labour had begun to show signs of difficulty. There was no abrasive legislation. We discussthat 1966 elections over and the need to get together and press for nationalisation and redistribution, he said.

He conceded that the current "nationalisation of crisis making" made revolution a possibility. But he saw this as a national crisis for motion and action to take over and smash the government. In the International Socialists, 28 members were on the executive and 200 members were full-time officials for trying to sabotage the pay claims, but at the meeting he too could not promise to give any offer to accept.

The debate concluded that at all that the catch in fuel to British Airways and the cut in wages threatened the foundation of the engineering base at Heathrow, although they were playing a more significant role in joining the fuel crisis for the incovenience.

The IS produced a leaflet of "10 across the board, a 35-hour week, and improved shift premiums" as part of the "type of recommendation to the mass meeting on the 25th February". The symbol was "24-hour" stoppage being called by the leading airways officials will have to be considered by a call for an all-out strike. 

Accused teachers win first round
LONDON—The long-delayed hearing against the Wandsworth "Three", the three teachers who refused to take part in a secret union trial, began at the National Union of Teachers lead office last week.

The third—Eric Porter, Fred Scott and David Whiteley—are accused by the union executive of refusing to be bound to secrecy over proceedings against them for allegations raised in the NUT strike rally last March. They are also accused of conduct detrimental to the interests of the union.

They are leading members of the union's Wandsworth branch. Fred Scott has been nominated for the union's vice-presidency and David Whiteley as an executive member for London. There won two notable hearings. Strong protest was made against the hearing being called in schoolroom, encumbering their teaching, and that the teachers concerned had already been discussed by their employers and that the three teachers being asked. The next hearing was set for March 30.

The disciplinary panel chairman, Jack Beazley, for the Wandsworth branch, said that there was no evidence that whatever actions they took were not 'detrimental to the interests of the union', and after long argument the chairman backed down. Witnesses are not expected to be allowed to attend the whole hearing and conditions of travel were agreed.
AMBULANCE MENTORS READY TO PUT THE BOOT IN

WITH the help of trade union officials and Labour councillors all over the country, millionaire Sir Keith Joseph, Minister for Social Security, is winning his battle with the ambulance service.

The public health union last week plans to get the boot into ambulance service in England and Wales. Only a few weeks ago there was a bitter public health union conference three weeks ago to alert emergency workers.
The call—the first ever for industrial action by ambulance workers—was in support of a demand for the substantial wage increase under a 'restructuring' agreement promised 18 months ago by the employers, but banned by the National Health Service. The National Health Service Board refused to sign the agreement until it was renegotiated.

The new agreement, which the union hopes to negotiate, would provide for a 10% increase for ambulance workers in the first six months, and a further 9% over the following six months. The new agreement would also provide for a 2% increase for ambulance workers in the first six months, and a further 2% over the following six months.

CENTRE POINT, 202,000 square feet of concrete wasteland at the end of London's Oxford Street under occupation last weekend. It cost £8,000 to erect and it was empty building worth between £35 million and £50 million on his hands. The 100 squatters were the first tenants, paying out in a leaflet that Centre Point has become a corrupt symbol of everything that is unequal in the world. The leaflet showed many of the 3000 demonstrators who came to offer support on Sunday afternoon. The role of the police as defenders of property, not people was underlined by their mass presence. There were 24 arrests. Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

Guardia

Senior steward Connie Tull wrote a tough message to management stating that the 100-day blockade would not be negotiable, and threatening a strike at the assembly plant on Sunday to stop the project. Last week, the premium payments were paid and another holiday was arranged.

Last Monday Jim Gamble, EEPFU official, came down from New York to talk to workers and make an appeal to the 'discuss the matter' with Gamble on his own. The meeting started by a discussion of the premium payments that had not been paid on New Year's Day.

Oxford: With most car plants on a three-day week, the motor workers are desperate to stop the maximum production out of their workforce. While trying to cut back on the wage bill, the management at the British Leyland in Cowley found their agreements and working practices under attack as soon as the three-day week began.

On the first day Engineering and Transport Union members at the body plant voted to ban overtime at normal premium payments for overtime hours and Saturday working were not paid. The company conceded this but they were not on an hourly basis.

The TGWU also won back its interpretation of the body plant production workers' lay-off agreement that lay-off is paid by the shift and not on an hourly basis.

The TGWU also reported a survey of the body plant production workers' lay-off agreement that lay-off is paid by the shift and not on an hourly basis. They are now looking for every opportunity they can get to offer support to the workers who are only paid for two days, and they demand the bonus for the 25 to 27 for the two shifts.

The company had to admit that the negotiations were going to be difficult and threatened to cut it down. But on the second day of the ban, another dispute interrupted the planning agreement. The transport section in the assembly plant walked out after management forced them to get some workers to come in on a day which would break their 'one-off' policy.

The lesson is clear. Only strong, determined action on the shop floor can stop management from going back on its word and using the crisis to justify it.

I would like to join the International Wobblies

Name

Address

Trade Union

Send to: IS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

NO TRICKS—WORKERS TELL BOSS

Crisis challenge at Leyland plant

by SW reporter

MILITANTS SACKED BY LUCAS

KEEGBLY—21 workers at the NFS factory were sacked on Friday. The company is the most profitable in the Lucas concern and the second most profitable in the whole electronics industry. It has taken advantage of the crisis to increase profits further by cutting the wage bill.

It is no coincidence that NFS workers are the lowest paid in the combine. Technical and administrative members of the Transport and Engineering Union were on strike for 16 weeks last year to try to get parity with the rest of Lucas.

A worker who played a leading part in that strike, including two members of the executive committee, was among those sacked. So was the AWU engineers union convenor and the supervisory branch shop steward.

The TASS members met on Monday and agreed unanimously to support the sacked workers. The meeting instructed them to turn up to work. The union, which is backing the dispute, is attempting to discuss the sacked at a combine level.

Saturday work ban in mills

NORTHERN LANCS—More than 3000 textile workers in mills around Preston are in an effective work ban on Saturdays because the employers are artificially controlling the days. All the mills in the area have been locked during the three-day week. All the mills in the area have been locked during the three-day week.

The issue of premium payments was discussed on Monday at a constituent meeting chaired by Professor John Wood of Sheffield University. Professor Wood is known to the mill owners for his chairmanship of the inquiry into the strike at Pickering, St Helens, in 1970, which ended with the best militants out of work. At the panel the mill owners bitterly opposed the idea of any effective work ban on Saturdays. They played up the country's unemployment and threatened to use violence against the union. They agreed to, and Professor Wood has gone back to Sheffield to ponder his findings.

F G Hogue, secretary of the Northern Counties Textile Trade Federation, which includes all the mills union told Socialist Worker: "We have agreements for premium payments. They are very dear to us. We intend to get the premium payments."
IT IS NOW CLEAR that there is only one way for the miners to win their full claim—and that is all-out strike action as soon as possible.

The recall of the union executive on Thursday was at last long a response to the growing pressure from the rank and file for more positive action to defeat the government.

But if the executive decided to call for a ballot on strike action—and the result was not known as we went to press—it is vital that miners take action NOW and do not wait for a further month to elapse before the ballot result is known.

Coal stocks have withstood the overtime ban far more steadfastly than they did the 1974 general strike, according to a Scottish mining report that the coalfields in Scotland, South Wales and South England report that the early confidence in the effectiveness of the overtime ban is evaporating rapidly. The growing frustration is expressing itself in a series of small uncompulsed disputes leading to 24 hour strikes.

A typical example occurred at Bettendorfer colliery after the local newspaper carried a headline suggesting that Kent miners were not militant. The Bettendorfer miners proved the headline wrong by striking. In dozens of pits, disputes about attempted shift changes have led to short strikes, including several in South Wales.

Over the last week, Scottish miners have started a series of pit meetings to discuss how to step up the action.

ACTION

Eric Clarke, a member of the union executive, is to present all three shifts at the Billiton Glen colliery in Midlothian with 3,000 miners. A Resolution calling for all-out strike action was carried with a substantial majority.

Kellinghale lodge has sent a resolution to the Trades Union Congress calling for immediate recognition of the pickets.

Ike Carter, branch secretary of the MCC, was told by the board: 'The overtime ban has gone as far as it can go. We need to decide on the action, with unscheduled strikes and, if necessary, all-out strike.

The miners are not determined to get the claim. So far as we are concerned, we will either be the best paid workers in the country or there will be no miners in this country. We can resign or we can sell out at the top.'

Carter indicates a real fear that many miners have that Joe Gormley will find some formula that will enable him to surrender.

The only safeguard, whatever the result of Thursday's meeting, is for the miners to launch a campaign in all the collieries. It is all-out now. If there is a decision for a ballot the more militant areas should anticipate the result and come out NOW.

In 1970 unofficial flying pickets centred on the Doncaster colliery brought out ten thousands of miners. In 1970 the success was made sure by the 'development of the flying pickets at the power stations and the solidarity of other workers.

Strike action in 1970 must be prepared with even greater care than in either 1978 or 1972. The time to make those preparations is NOW.

Local branch and pit officials should prepare a new policy and ASLEF branches to ensure that not a single piece of coal is moved.

The miners will win. They must win. On their success depends the immediate future well-being of all the workers.

WHERE THE coal is hidden

The SUCCESS of the government's manoeuvres to upset the miners' strike is no clearer than ever.

Recent reports of coal have been built up in Scotland by the three-day strike policy. The Scottish region of the power workers' union compiled a report which showed that both the Longest and Kilmarnock power stations have full stocks, with 300 men only managing to keep the ones a year, and that the Consol S1 miner's strike on generating three days a week.

Portobello has doubled its usual stock of coal and is working full time a week. And Methil and Kirkcaldy also face the same situation; 20 per cent of their total stock is now running out, and the remainder is only just being supplied by 100 per cent of the staff.

A secret Coal Board report lists less than two weeks' stock. It has been recommended that the government should consider the possibility of re-opening existing coal mines to meet the current demand.

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This means that the government could consider the possibility of re-opening existing coal mines to meet the current demand.

Boost for 'Free the Three'

THE CAMPAIGN to release the three building worker's pickets who are on trial in Athens is making good progress. A big boost in Manchester on Saturday helped to set the tone for the coast. The successful campaign to release the three building worker's pickets who are on trial in Athens is making good progress. A big boost in Manchester on Saturday helped to set the tone for the coast.

The success of the campaign has been achieved through the hard work of activists who have been actively involved. The three building worker's pickets who are on trial in Athens are being held on charges of assault and disorderly conduct. The campaign has been heavily supported by members of the trade union movement, including the TGWU, the USDAW and the MSF.

The campaign has gained the support of many trade union leaders, including Pete Price, General Secretary of the TGWU, and Darryl Power, General Secretary of the USDAW.

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