A HAMMER BLOW has been struck at Heath and his Tory policies. By their votes in the General Election, millions of workers have denied Heath a mandate for another long session of red-baiting and union-bashing.

For the past three weeks the whole armoury of the British ruling class has been used to hurl workers into yet another, stronger Tory government. The business men have dug deep into their pockets to buy mountains of the sicklers' ever-so-Tory television campaign.

The press, aided by the public opinion polls, have sunk to new depths to insult the unions and to denounce the most extreme government of modern times as 'liberal' and 'moderate'.

Yet the workers resisted. They voted against Heath's mandate. But in a confused way they showed a lack of confidence in any of the electoral alternatives.

Labour did not seem to offer any solutions to the economic crisis. Neither did the Liberals nor the Nationalists. So the anti-Tory vote was fragmented, leading to electoral deadlock.

One fact must be remembered above all others. The Tory government was forced to an election by the miners. By using their industrial strength the miners did more for themselves and their class in a few weeks than had been done in 36 years of patient arguing by union negotiators or by union-subsidised MPs in the House of Commons.

LESSON

The miners' case was broadside to their fellow workers more dramatically than at any other time since the 1926 General Strike. When they struck in 1972, the miners got the biggest pay rise in their history. When they struck again in 1974, their class supported them once again. A Tory government was forced to seek a 'new mandate' and lost it.

The lesson is clear. The industrial strength of the workers is the source of their power. It would be tragic if

that lesson was lost out of misplaced loyalty to Heath's successors in Whitehall.

Whatever government follows Heath, however different the faces and accents of its new Ministers, the same barbarians will be mansling the Stock Exchange.

The same speculators will be controlling international finance.

The same class warriors will be in charge of the great industrial corporations.

The same 2000 gentlemen will have their fingers on the buttons of real power, economic power, industrial power.

These gentlemen are not interested in the promises made by this or that party during an election campaign. They are interested in clinging to their wealth and property at the expense of the men and women who work at their command.

Exploitation will continue however many trade unionists are in the cabinet and whatever the pledges and intentions of Labour or Liberal Ministers.

"Income Policy" means the same whichever government introduces it. It means wage restraint, at a time when prices, by the very nature of the system cannot be restrained.

"Sacrifices" and "the national interest" mean the same in the mouths of Labour Ministers as of Tory Ministers. They mean "sacrifice" for one class in the "national interest" of another.

The militancy which has been building up in the past 3½ years in the British working class must not be thrown away. The workers must not be made to pay for the bosses' crisis.

Relaxation of militancy means huge cuts in the standard of living of working class families and it postpones still further the day when

the workers, by use of their industrial strength, can put an end forever to the rule of the capitalist corporations. The fight must go on. The miners must not concede a single penny of their full claim.

The campaign to release the Shrewsbury eight and to repeal the conspiracy laws must be redoubled.

We have won the first round against Heath. But the fight against Heath's policies, whoever carries them out, is far from over.

Inside: Labour's campaign
Powell's power bid
The Liberal revival

No mandate for union bashing

Army on the streets

Last Sunday troops occupied a civilian shopping area of Hull in Yorkshire.

They were soldiers from the Territorial and Volunteer Reserve using regular army vehicles. At least one soldier had a gas riot gun.

It is a sinister development: a taste of Belfast in Yorkshire. The army is clearly being trained and mobilised for action against the working-class community.

Exclusive picture and full report page 15.
WHEN HEATH called the general election three weeks ago, all the conditions were there for a great Labour victory at the polls.

Heath started by asking: "Who runs the country?" but he shut up quickly in case anybody discovered who does. If Labour had taken the campaign to the Tories, if they had campaigned fearlessly for the people, for the unions and against the rich men's cartel which runs the country, they could have mobilised millions of angry workers and ensured a large overall majority.

Instead, Wilson and his colleagues chose the path of "moderation". Instead of fighting for the oppressed against the oppressors, he argued for "conciliation". A Labour government, he wrote in the London Evening News at the height of the campaign, will seek to unite the nation. That is why we call out programmes: "Let Us Work Together". We will work to unite the nation behind policies which can put Britain on the road to industrial peace and economic success.

This theme—the unity of the nation—dominated all Wilson's speeches, and all the Labour literature in the campaign.

RIDICULED

It doffed Labour at every point in the argument. Wilson listed the facts about rising prices but he did not point to the reasons for them: the control of industry by capitalists and profiteers.

He alleged that high rent, but he did not attack monopoly. He ridiculed the Tories for their handling of the miners dispute but he did not condemn the miners' claim or even their decision to strike. In fact, Wilson's references to miners William Whitelaw for his treatment of the miners.

Again and again, he responded to the appeal from Tribune to "make the Common Market the number one issue", hopefully seeking to jump on the Enoch Powell bandwagon, but scurrilously avoiding any attack on the might of the European industrial monopoly. He and his "team" did all in their power to avoid identification with the "yellow" class. "Trade unionists", he told 15 million people on his final television broadcast, "are the people, the supporters of the Labour party. We must unite these people, not divide them.

And so, on Wilson's initiative, an election campaign which promised to be the 'most divided ever' degenerated into a pathetic scramble for the political centre. Wilson wanted the best of both worlds. He wanted to keep his party's connection with the trade unions, but to appear as representative of trade unionists and employers. As a result, he squandered the enthusiasm of millions of workers who were waiting to be mobilised. His election meetings were big, but he was not as energetic as he was in 1964, 1966 or 1963. But his supporters were noted to sleep with his constant appeal to "unity in industrial relations", a "united people", "an honourable settlement" and the three familiar Cs: "conciliation", "co-operation", "consensus".

The working class mobilisation which Labour needs to win any election was lost. But so too was the middle ground. Enoch Powell gambled everything on class consciousness and modernisation and it was easy for Liberals to pick up many votes that should have gone to Labour.

PROMISES

The Liberals, who are not connected to the trade unions, could pose as better moderates than Labour. If the election, according to Wilson, was going to be won by the most moderate consensus, then why not vote for the non-aligned moderates who had not had the chance to break all the promises once on office.

So Wilson lost much of his grass roots support and he lost the centre as well. The Area was delighted in what Wilson called its "low-key" campaign. And the Labour movement has been dealt another blow by the deliberate decisions of its own leaders.

There was one sign at least that some Labour supporters realised what was happening. In the middle of Wilson's speech at a notorious rally in Bristol on 22 February, a worker rose in the middle of the hall, and shouted: "Oh, let's have some socialism, not just talk about one nation. I am not part of Harry Hyman." He did not get an answer. For Harold Wilson and all the other Labour leaders could not run a socialist campaign. This is not just because Wilson himself and many other Labour leaders are men of wealth and property who have long since ceased to identify with workers. Why Wilson knew that if he won the election he would have to preserve a capitalist system in deep crisis, he realised the tremendous task of re-establishing the vote for the Labour Party, among others.

PAUL FOOT

The Yellow
by Duncan Hallas

The majority of candidates—279—were described as 'professional people', the bulk of the minority were small businessmen. Their views were what might be expected, essentially similar to those of the mainstream Conservatives and the Jenkins right wing of the Labour Party. This closely matches the record of the Liberal MPs in the last parliament. They voted for the Industrial Relations Act. They voted for Phase One, Two and Three of the incomes policy. Their spokesmen in parliament claimed that they had consistently supported a compulsory and statutory insane and incomes policy. Their current "expert" on industrial affairs, John Pounds, has stated for the National Coal Board's offer to the miners is "too generous".

The Liberal Party is for "free enterprise". Jeremy Thorpe was until recently a director, at £3,000 a year, of London and Country Securities which lent second mortgages at up to 200 per cent interest. In former lead in the House of Lords. Lord Byers, combined his political activities with a lucrative directorship of Rio Tinto Zinc.

The Liberal home of the big food commercials, Clement Freud, dominates the board of the Playboy Club and has interests in the restaurant and hotel business. And so on and so on. The Liberals, at the leadership level, are simply Yellow Tories. **Support**

Why then the upsurge in their vote? It has nothing to do with their actual policies. The Common Market is only one illustration of this. It is essentially a vote against the "system" in which people who want a change but have no coherent idea of what they want to change to. The great virtue of the Liberal Party in the eyes of much of its new support is that it has not been in power. As one commentator aptly put it, "Liberal leaders can remember the skeletons in the Liberal cupboard." Many of Thorpe's voting supporters are against big unions.
Thorpe's alternative Tories and Powell's new power bid

Powell

sniffs the crisis and moves to the right

By NIGEL HARRIS

ENOCH POWELL has launched the biggest gamble of his career. It is one thing to criticise the Tory leadership, but the Conservative Party does not forgive those who, directly or not, urge Tories to vote Labour. Powell has given up any chance of winning the leadership of the party.

Why did he do it? Not because he lacks ambition. His every political action is driven by an insatiable lust for power. Not because he sticks to some consistent political. He has made more compromises on the main issues of the day than anyone else in parliament.

No. Because Powell can dimly sense a coming catastrophe for British capitalism. He says that the Tory Party and Conservative leadership has reached the stage of frustration and anger at masses of people at the endless squabbles in the House of Commons.

And he means to emerge out of the chaos as the Man of Destiny, the only honest leader, who left a corrupt parliament long before any of its other members realised how bankrupt it was.

All the major issues are outside Powell now, and his shadow lies across the Commons chamber. Now Powell has joined the forces outside Parliament. The extreme right will rejoice. They have always been the ones to gain from Powell's speeches.

Now he has proved that their politics and parliament cannot go together. Yet the break could also be Powell's political suicide. If the catastrophe does not happen, he becomes a comic figure on the sidelines.

Mosley split from Labour in 1931, to form the British Fascists—and died politically. In the 1930s Churchill isolated himself as an extreme right-wing irredentist, and it needed a crisis on the scale of the Second World War to bring him back. Without the war he would have remained irrelevant.

But Powell's break comes with a real crisis in parliamentary politics. The soft middle class reaches for any soft option—Tory or Thorpe. The hard middle class—the small businessmen threatened by both the Common Market and the big British companies—opts for Powell.

But this disintegration of old loyalties is not enough to float a new movement. In the short term, Powell needs Labour.

Militancy

And Wilson is desperate for the Powellite vote. This general election ought to have been a walkover for Labour. On all the issues, the Tory government has been shown to be bankrupt. But Wilson has been paralysed by his fear of militancy and his central concern to protect profits.

As a result, he needs Powell’s help when Powell needs him. It is only temporary. Powell is not going to get trapped in Labour any more than he was in the Tories. He is saving himself for bigger things. And there are many bridges to be crossed.

He may have broken with the moment for parliament, but he remains an upper-class Tory. So he probably cannot break through to mass right-wing politics, the basis for fascism. For that he needs to build among the bullies and the spivs. The right needs Powell, but if the catastrophe is as great as he expects, he will send them even more.

That is still a long way off and is a different battle. Whether the situation ever arrives depends on whether a million people mobilise to fight for an alternative system. Only that can ultimately unite us against Powell’s politics of barbarism.

Atoms gain thanks to Labour

SCOTLAND'S 'TARTAN TORIES'—the two Scottish Nationalists—did much better than many of the left thought possible. For the first time since Winnie Ewing's by-election victory in 1968, the SNP is looking like a dangerous political force.

Not only has it won, but the Scottish Nationalists have picked up many votes and prevented much of Scotland from voting in the anti-Tory swing that took place in England.

Most of their support has come from traditional Labour voters. At International Socialists' street and factory gate meetings in the two weeks before the election, many workers were so disillusioned with the Labour Party that they said they would rather vote against the Tories by supporting the SNP.

The Labour Party's divisive election campaign played right into the SNP's hands. Glasgow, the only city in Scotland where Labour has a strong majority, was a big city for the SNP, with the only by-election in support of a Labour vote for Woodside, Neil Carmichael, played the same tune as the Tories in his election address: 'Our country under the Tories is becoming two nations. Let's end that now, one nation under Labour itcried.

Little wonder that many workers felt for the radical programme and nationalism of the SNP. At least they wouldn't be divided.

Labour Party leaflets made no reference to anti-working-class millionaire Tom Keen's backing for Labour. If the SNP's support was critical for Labour, it was also critical for those choosing between the SNP and the SNP to decide on the SNP with a fighting policy on oil and the giant multi-national oil companies.

No one knew exactly what the SNP would do about the oil companies, who currently control the oil under the North Sea, if a Scottish parliament was elected.

But in Scotland the SNP can take some of the credit for making most of the population aware that such a parliament is an enormous potential source of economic wealth.

The nationalist vote has yet to be translated into any significant numbers of shop stewards or active trade unionists in the working-class movement.

But the SNP's success is clear is that Labour has become so discouraged that such a reactionary development might take place unless a really genuine socialist alternative can be built first.

Steve Jefferys

Thorpe: his supporters are refugees from reality

At the end of last year there was a general election in Denmark. A new party led by a man called Mogens Glimstrup promised to abolish taxes. It got more than five of the vote, a protest vote against the modern world and the inability of social democrats to even attempt to transform it. Jeremy Thorpe is the Mogens Glimstrup of British politics, Harold Wilson made him possible.
**BRIEFING**

*THE West German government and public sector employers gave in after only three days of strikes which disrupted public transport, power stations, airports, and rail and road services throughout the country. They agreed to an 11 per cent wage rise for more than two million workers.*

*Through the strike's 15 per cent claim, this was a considerable improvement on the 6.5 per cent which the employers "positively [finally] offer[d]." But work stoppages remained prevalent. Yet the push this up to 55 per cent, and when the work stoppages fell, it rose through the government's magic barrier of 10 per cent beyond which it said it could not go.*

*But the dockworkers, on whom the government had been carrying on with the strikes. Most ships remain locked against Gerry's corrupt and despotic regime—many of them by secret police lookouts any way. 8,000 inhabitants of Corrèze, part of the newly independent state of Grandne, are threatening to declare their island nation of Gerry.*

*in one employment office in Detroit, one lady was being buttered and blossom glass was being inserted between the office walls. The job seekers were offered a bit about growing unemployment in the United States and about the increasing conditions in an industry that has seen a few violent incidents in the past few years.*

*SQUATTERS are now occupying more than 3,000 properties in South Africa, 8,000 families live in shacks and shacks but up to 15,000 are also more likely to own a bit about growing unemployment in the United States and about the increasing conditions in an industry that has seen a few violent incidents in the past few years.*

*There is little council housing in Italy, and many families are left to live in shacks while property companies put up buildings on a grand scale but cannot afford to gather. Groups of squatters have been formed, and the dockers at work.*

*With the recent trial of 12 others accused of plotting the Shah's death, which involved the murder of a writer and a film-maker, these events make it possible for the Shah's regime to use this information to the Shah's regime's ends.*

*Six more people have gone on hunger strike in Iran for attacks on the government. The workers and four others have been sentenced to death.*

*The days when these people were unemployed, weak on strike lines, and the police, the days and conduct of their trials, and the verdicts, have been very serious.*

*We have never been able to call witness, a sailor, a mate, and an armed aggressor.*

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*Second strike wave growing fast* by Alan Baldwin

INDUSTRIAL militancy, government attacks on trade unions, an oil embargo, rampant inflation and a general election—the mixture is the same in South Africa.

A new strike was by black workers, although not yet as large as a year ago when 10,000 workers struck, has already hit the textile industry, car assembly, mines and hotels. There is no massacre with increased viciousness with further banning orders in silence or opposition. It has now turned to assassination.

Independent black trade unions were growing fast: seven new unions were formed in Natal in the last few months. Workers in mining, metal, clothing, food, transport and chemical workers are becoming more militant. The role of the Independent Black Workers' Union in the present campaign is increasing. The confidence gained by workers in last year's strike-striking and the crowding inflation rate have shown the key importance of effective workers' organisations.

The first battles are for union recognition against hostility from the bosses and repression in various forms. Workers in Natal as 'employees,' but workers cannot wait for recognition of their trade unions. A strike of 16,000 worked the notorious Fontaine textile group to its knees near Durban. A well-publicised wave of strikes by black workers, attacked by police, has already hit the textile industry, car assembly, mines and hotels. There is no massacre with increased viciousness with further banning orders in silence or opposition. It has now turned to assassination.

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JOE CROAN LTD of Edinburgh run a 'heads I win, tails you lose' business. As a subsidiary of Associated Fisheries, they own a number of trawlers, which fish from Scotland's East coast.

The trawling industry, as is well-known, has a high death rate among its workers, so Joe Croan runs a profitable undertaking service. If you're killed on a Croan trawler, don't worry. You can be buried in a special de luxe Croan coffin.

One man who wasn't buried by Croans was Frederick Griffiths, who was made a of a Croan trawler until 18 July 1969.

That day he was landing ice in the trawler's hold. In order not to waste time, Croans had established the practice of loading new ice on top of old ice without levelling off from the damage the old ice. This was dangerous, as Fred Griffiths discovered when a slab of ice which he had just loaded fell off and smashed his head.

Fred has been 'severely disabled' ever since, which is another way of saying that his entire life has been ruined by nervous disorder and Parkinson's Disease.

Refused

Fred has been trying to get some compensation for his accident for four and a half years. The case finally came up on 16 January at the Edinburgh Court of Session.

Judge Lord Dunpark, refused the claim and refused to grant any damages to Fred. He said the crucial facts of the case were "dudding, Fred's version of the accident had been incomprehensible."

"He did not deal with the whole of the facts," said Lord. "But he had done so the accident would have happened. It is a normal practice on the trawler to load new ice on top of old and it had not been shown that this ever led to any injuries."

"Mr Griffiths is now permanently unemployable due to Parkinson's Disease. His symptoms were brought on by the accident, but they would probably have appeared eventually in any case." Lord Dunpark is a learned judge and the author of a standard text book on Scottish law. His company is much sought after at Edinburgh's exclusive New Club. Another famous member is Michael Noble, former Secretary for Scotland and now Minister at the Department of Trade and Industry. At the time of Fred Griffiths' accident, Michael Noble, was chairman of Associated Fisheries, and had been the chairman of Joe Croan Ltd as long as anyone can remember.

In the year of Fred Griffiths' accident, Associated Fisheries made a profit of £847,000. In the year of Lord Dunpark's refusal to grant his claim, the company's profit was £5,900,000.

Setting sun over the Lea

The government recently discovered a new weapon in its battle to encourage foreign investment in Britain. It is David Lea, head of the Economics Department of the TUC, Christopher Chatway, Master for Industrial Development, travelled to Tokyo recently to talk to Japanese businessmen about setting up shop in Britain. Before he left, Chatway heard that many Japanese businessmen were worried about strikes, so he invited David Lea to come along with him. Lea obliged.

"Lea spoke to all sorts of businessmen and told them that in spite of all the strikings, Britain's industrial relations were excellent, and so were the prospects for Industrial peace.

"A number of Leicester's speeches and comments about the best way of securing industrial peace is to be included in a Department of Trade and Industry pamphlet which will be widely circulated to Japanese businessmen."

I phoned the TUC press office to find out who had paid for the expensive trip to Japan. Back came the reply: 'The taxpayer'.

NORTH LONDON International Socialists picketing an election meeting held at the National Westminster Bank in Edgware, were reproached by one Front member for their claim that the Front was racist and fascist. "I'm a Jew," he declared. "There's no anti-Semitism here."

The IS members couldn't shift from his belief although they argued that while the Front were going to lose respectable, its hardcore leaders were all old-time Jackals and Nazis. One former Front member, large and blond, who began the 20 minutes as 'comrade' and 'Stalinists', "To hell with Stalinists," they replied nasty: "We've always opposed them."

"Ah, sell the man, 'so you're Trotskyists. What was Trotsky's real name? Bernstein or something. He was a Jew anywhere."

"Each Front member, sadly."

£1000—cheap at the price

ENGLISH CHINA CLAYS is the biggest company in the West Country. Two years ago it combed its 11,000 workers into accepting low wage increases so that the company could 'get on its feet'. Management promised that wage increases would be higher when profits were higher.

Profits are soaring, but when the company tried to pay its workers decent wage increases, it was banned from doing so by the Pay Board and the government's freeze. English China Clays directors tried to get the courts to allow them to pay the increases, but the court refused and stumped English China Clays went all the way to the bank.

In press statements and letters to The Times the company publicly deplored the 'unfairness' of the government's freeze, and persuaded the workers not to strike for more money since it was all the fault of the government.

Last Monday English China Clays workers were amazed to read that the company has given £1,000,000 to British United Industrialists, a Tory front organisation which takes the view that Phase Three is too generous!

A spokesman for the company explained: 'The money is paid to further the cause of private enterprise.'
LETTERS
The miners—what about when we all go back?

I AM A MINER, so I have obviously given a great deal of thought to our latest pay claim.
I have come to the conclusion that our union leaders are either very clever or very stupid. When our full claim is met in instalments, and we are going to have every man underground on a minimum wage of £40.
I'm all for it—for it long overdue. Face workers will be paid £45; but this is a situation where men are working at the face, for only a pound a day more than day wage.
I can see a lot of strife building up through this. Men who have done their share at the face—men above the age of 50 who only plod on at the face for the extra wages will have lost the incentive so they will be content to sit back a bit. I don't blame them if they do.
I can see another dispute within six months of our claim being met. If the union executive realise this, they are going to have to put in another claim for face workers, which means they have been very clever.
If they haven't realised it they are very stupid. For far too long the gap between workers pay down the pit was far too wide, now it's gone the other way.
We could argue rights and wrongs all day, the facts are there. Who is going to work at the face for £1 a day? Who can stand a steady job for £5 a week less?
As a retired National Socialist I would like to think that all miners would be content to see their comrades return to work on decent money. But as a ripper down the mines I know this is not the case.

Wilson and the Labour Party
YOUR EDITORIAL (23 February) is 100 per cent correct when it castigates Harold Wilson for the way he has handled his election. This election over his handling of "extremists" during the miners' strike.
What makes his conduct even moreso is the Sunday Times revelation in 1972 that there were thousands of coloured stevedores working on British ships for less than £1 a day. Preston/Wyre, their wage in 1966 was £1 a day less than that. But when Harold Wilson set the hounds of the special branch to roam the ports in 1966, it was not to find instances of shipowners paying starvation wages but to gain scraps of information that could be used to whip up white hysteria and defeat the strike—RAY CHALLINOR, Whitley Bay.

Rogues' gallery
I DIDN'T VOTE Labour in the General Election as I suggested socialists should do, in your editorial of 19 January. My reasons outweigh your argument. A 100 at least of these can be found in one issue alone of Socialist Worker—that of 9 February. 95 of them are contained in a neat package on page two, under the heading Labour's Role of Funemployment, add to this Honest Joe (Foot Prints) plus Terry Mahon (I Know), Ior Davies (ASTMS Strike, page 153), Tom Swain and colleagues (Clay Cross Three, back page).
I could go on finding many more—In fact I could compile a rogues' gallery—JOHN DUNCAN, Falkenham.

PHASE THREE allows £1 plus four per cent or a per cent increase in our wages.
Should we prefer holidays then for every extra day taken as a holiday, two and a half per cent is to be deducted from the pay increase. If we were to take three extra days holiday it means that we would receive £1 less in pay for another 12 months.
The average wage increase during Phase Three was £2.25 per week so in 12 months it would have amounted to £2.25 times 52 = £117. (The value the government puts to three extra days holiday.) So this is without any political deficit to the three days' work. The problem as I see it—how do we get the money out of the Crooked Powers that be?

Stomach pains...
IN MY OPINION it would be most helpful if we could see more articles in Socialist Worker informing people of how everyday happenings in industry affect them as housewives or workers.
Kicking out our beloved Tory leader doesn't in any way affect the initial reading of the paper.

Roger Kline's CAN SOCIALISM COME THROUGH PARLIAMENT? draws the lessons from the antics of the Labour Party, in government and in opposition, as reformers of capitalism, and argues what we can do to bring socialism.

WE NEED A CROWD!

THEY SAY TWO IS COMPANY, there is a crowd. How lucky the boys from Socialism Come Through Parliament? are! I have read many articles on the subject but this is the only one I have read that really inspires and seemed to have been written with some real insight. In India as in other countries the wealth and power do not reside with the nearest neighbours. If any other country has suffered so much as India the revelations would have taken place here long ago. But a large majority of politicians and workers unfortunately believe that their troubles aren't just man made but come from God. God is the one who has potential for revolution but we need a party that will make that possible.ROBERT MOORE, Rugby.
FOR three years the Tories have been performing a surgical operation on the National Health Service: cutting spending on new hospitals and equipment, sewing up wage packets tighter, and charging the patients more and more for the treatment.

They have turned the chronic sickness of the NHS into an acute emergency. They have put the clock back 25 years.

Most hospitals are now littered with Victorian ruins with a few plasterboard extensions and a coat of gloss paint. A visit to the Alder Hey, still means a 45-minute wait watching the bare walls of a corridor before the clinic, with a harassed and overworked man with scarcely the time to scribble the prescription.

The grim fact is that 52,000 people have been waiting for operations, many for more than two years, while three million patients have private medical insurance indulge in organised queue-jumping on services and skills fiddled from the NHS.

There are people, too old to care for themselves, who await death without dignity or privacy crammed sometimes 80 or 90 to a ward, where nurses and attendants are heartbroken at the misery. There are mentally handicapped people, driven into terrors and stored in prison-like asylums hidden in the country, who could almost certainly lead normal lives if enough money was spent on care homes, day centres and sheltered accommodation.

The unpalatable truth is that the National Health Service Limited is still the biggest employer of sweatshop labour in Britain, misusing the cheap labour of 500,000 women and immigrants in the hospitals, exploiting the dedication and humanity of 30,000 nurses, and pushing junior doctors to exhaustion and breaking point.

The Lancet, for 150 years the voice of the medical establishment, is not given to overstatement or melodrama. So when it wrote: 'The economic state of the NHS is far more serious than indicated by the £111 million cut in the planned budget for health and personal social services', we can be sure it is a grave warning and of financial stress among the low-paid Services to patients is probably deteriorating... Simply to restore a devaluing NHS budget would require an extra £72,130 million a year', said the report.

Meanwhile, what have the Tories done? Since the NHS started it has been handicapped by inadequate buildings and low wages. Under the Tories both have got markedly worse.

The £111 million cut was only the latest in a series of attacks on a hospital building programme already made almost meaningless by inflation. The country is littered with half-completed buildings and semi-executed plans and every new building has a question mark against it, from a new porters’ men to a proposed hospital for Newcastle.

The long-promised plan for health centres to replace doctors’ front-room surgeries for four-fifths of those in working-class areas was so muddled up in its tracks.

Every hospital board has had to submit lists of cuts in its building programme—while at the same time hospitals are being closed at a record rate: 38 in 1973 alone.

Health Service workers have borne the brunt of the Tory wage policy. Hospital workers who had spontaneously rallied against their meagre wages were singled out for an eight-hour bashing by Sir Keith Joseph. In the spirit of Tory fairness they were not even offered one penny extra after eight weeks of strike action—action taken only after the most desperate soul-searching.

Replaced

With this example before them, the nurses and others had to accept Phase Three terms of leave the hospital service. The result is that most hospital departments exist on a threestring with staff permanently overworked and undermanned. More and more hospitals have to rely on private medical employment agencies for vital staff.

For the first time could easily mean the death of our National Health Service, to be replaced by a two-tier system, for the few, semi-private medical insurances schemes dependent on doctors with increased private practices linked to teaching hospitals and a public service run mainly by immigrant doctors and emergency doctors giving a minimum basic health coverage.

The improvements urgently needed if the family doctor system is to be pulled out of the backwaters require money that central government cannot afford to spend. Instead, both patients and health workers will be victims of a new organised health service run by appointed super-class civil servants whose main brief is to cut costs.

And warning has been given of further increases in charges, charges for each doctor’s visit and ‘hospital’ charge for all patients in hospital. Soon a sick person’s first question will be: ‘Can I afford to be ill?’

Hospital workers fight for OUR lives

Gwen Evans is fighting to avoid becoming a victim of the Tory’s Health Service cuts. All her life she has worked in East London hospitals—now she is one of a group of women workers leading the battle to save Poplar Hospital from closure.

Gwen is a shop steward of the public employees’ union NUPE. They’ve just taken everything away from this part of London... it’s getting to the point where there’s just nothing else for them to close down, she said.

The closure of this hospital is about the last straw because the family doctors just don’t care. They’re cut off from the famous East End history. Word spreads like wildfire. The community health centre. It’s been running seven days a week ever since it’s been built. Every doctor that’s come here has had a love for the people of Poplar.

End East people will really miss their hospital—unless we can force them to build a new hospital, which is what they ought really to do. They’ve been promising us a new hospital for years. But what with the Tory government and all the cuts, I just don’t believe them.

Support

‘I’ve just watched the Health Service going down and down and the reason’s simple: they just won’t spend the bloody money on it. And what they do spend is mismanaged because people who run the hospital service are a law unto themselves and they seem to be chosen because they are out of touch.

‘If any worker wants to know why they should support hospital workers, it’s dead simple. Workers are the people who pay for the hospital, they are the people who use them, they are entitled to say whether their hospital goes or not.

‘We’ve been round all the factories and said to them: Get up and fight—this is the crucial spot when you are going to need your hospital and it ain’t there.

‘We’ve been fighting for 2½ years and we’ve had MPs and we’ve had promises. But my advice to anyone in this situation is don’t forget your unions, bring them right first. Hospital workers have got to be as united as the miners are.

‘You need the union no matter what status you are in the hospital, from doctors down to nurses, and ancillary workers. They will have to go on fighting for fair wages.

‘Under the new system nurses are going to be pushed around like nobody’s business. If they don’t get in the unions and have this stopped, the profession they love will be gone.

‘We want Poplar Hospital all fall go. Like all hospitals here should. This Health Service is in no position to shut any hospital, because they’ve given us a new hospital and they are still giving us nothing.'
Derry: the front line report...

ON 5 OCTOBER 1968 a civil rights march in Derry was bludgeoned by the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

The demonstrators were demanding an end to the sectarian discrimination in housing against Catholic families, discrimination that condemned them, the overwhelming majority in Derry, to the worst slums.

Such an exercise in grassroots democracy proved too much for a police force reared on 50 years of intolerance and entrenched bitterness towards Catholics.

Men, women and children were clubbed to the ground. A water cannon drenched and battered them. Even such a respectable politician as Mr Gregor Fitt had his head split by a police baton.

Two days later, a report of the 5 October events reached Socialist Worker in London. It was scribbled in a mixture of ink and pencil on scraps of paper in an almost unreadable hand.

But once we had deciphered the code, the message was stark and unmistakable. Here was a brilliant socialist worker, able to convey in short, graphic sentences the reality of Northern Ireland:

This is not a riot. It is an uprising. It is an elemental outburst of rage by a class that has been denied jobs, homes and human rights by a regime that is in now fascism as makes no difference.

It was the first article that Eamonn McCann wrote for Socialist Worker. He has written many more since then, but it still stands as a milestone in socialist journalism.

For the Derry march and Eamonn's account of it tore aside the indifference and ignorance of British socialists to the political and economic state of affairs across the Irish sea.

Derry had revealed the ugly truth. Northern Ireland was a police state.

The apparatus of government since the creation of the 'midstating following partition in 1922 was based upon terrorising the minority of Catholics into submission.

For them, the worst housing, the heaviest unemployment and crudely gerrymandered political boundaries to ensure a permanent Unionist majority in even such cities as Derry.

Divine

And for any who dared question the right of the Protestant businessmen and landowners to rule by divine right, there were the armed and uniformed thugs of the RUC, and Specials to hand out rough justice in back streets and prison cells.

Those first stirrings in Derry and Belfast seem an age ago now, forgotten by the more recent shocks of British troops policing the streets of 'British' cities, of Bloody Sunday and internment and the ending of Stormont rule.

Now in its new and truly magnificent book, War and an Irish Town (Penguin Special, 40p), Eamonn McCann reminds us of those days.

The civil rights march from Belfast to Derry on 1 January 1969 was a horrid, 75-mile trek which dragged to the surface all the accumulated political and political of 50 Unionist years. Every few miles groups of Unionist extremists blocked the route...It was frequently stoned from the fields and attacked by groups of men with clubs. There was no police protection. Senior RUC officers consorted openly with leaders of the opposition and passed on all the information to the IRA.

Eamonn's account of the march shows that Derry has taken from police and army in the last five and a half years the bulk of the IRA's experts in press and television; they target again against 'violence' and 'hooliganism' of the bourgeoisie.

He shows how the career politicians, the Hames, Fitts and Coopers, moved in at the very outset of rebellion in Derry to stifle any independent political organisation led by genuine socialists.

They preached moderation and peace to people throwing off 50 years of submission to tyranny. Inevitably, the younger workers, deperiod of jobs (the jobless rate in Derry in 1966 was 20.1 per cent compared to 1.8 per cent for the whole of Great Britain).

Eamon McCann: his book ran into trouble with the publishers. Penguin rejected his title You Are Now Entering Free Derry and cut a number of passages from the text.

Threaten

Eamonn analyses the role of British capitalism and its army. The crude terror of Stormont and Unionism hadoudenied their usefulness because British big business now had a substantial and growing investment in the South. The Unionist jackboot could trigger off a Catholic reaction both sides of the border that would endanger profits North and South.

So Stormont had to go and the cheerful bulldog grin of Willie Whitelaw would replace the Unionist grin. But any attempt by Catholic workers to force the pace of change and to threaten capitalist interests would still be met with the crunch of army boots in the back of Derry and Belfast.

He argues, a last right of the Catholic array. But all attacks on him and bomb Provo and the Communist Party, the Officials.

In a section on the Irish struggle of the great Irish freedom: Larkin's centre: not understanding any theory, is impelled through revolutionary action. In fact Connolly and Larkin are the basis of a socialist movement. We argue propaganda and by a handful of not be a subordinating difficult of building workers' movement Ireland, a task by the Socialist Party in the South. But his book, The Call for justice and unity, and he is as much a first frontlinest Worker back in...

Review by ROGER PROTZ

British Imperialism versus the Irish workers? FIND OUT IN PENGUINS

War and an Irish Town

Eamonn McCann

This vivid picture of the political and military events of the past few years in the Catholic ghetto once known as Free Derry throws light on the background to the war and draws some dramatic and controversial conclusions.

Penguin Special 40p

OTHER RECENT TITLES

Political Murder in Northern Ireland

Martin Dillon and Dennis Lehane

Penguin Special 40p

James Connolly: Selected Writings

Edited by P.Berresford Ellis

Pelican 50p
A kind of prison for a wife who waits

THE TORIES attacked every working-class family during the last 3 years. They attacked with high prices, low wages, cuts on the unions, rent increases and more besides.

But for special attention they selected the building workers of North Wales, their wives and their families. Up to the time of writing, they have jailed six men as an example to the rest of us.

Marlene Tomlinson's husband Ricky has been in jail for more than two months. She and the other wives are still struggling to overcome their sense of shock at the viciousness of the treatment they received.

But why shock? The men standing trial must have been leading militants. Their wives at least must have known exactly what was at stake.

These were out of the ordinary people, used to being in the front of the struggle and in the news. Not just ordinary trade unionists.

Killed

Marlene Tomlinson tells a radical fight her. She finds herself faced with two years done, bringing up her two boys Clifton, aged three and Gareth, now 16 months, born during the weeks of the 1972 building strike.

"At the time I didn't know what the strike was all about. I did know that conditions in the industry were bad. When someone is killed the firm only getssummated for so much money in return for a life. I wish I'd known more so when anyone said anything I could have defended him.

"They used to have strike meetings in our house, and I was always in the kitchen. They'd stop talking when my head came round the door. At that time I didn't know them.

"I wasn't used to mixing with a lot of men. I didn't have enough self-confidence to talk to them.

"That summer I was having Gareth. It was on St Valentine's Day last year the police came. Ricky had been to work and he was sitting on the settee. Z Cars was on the telly. We were used to the police from the strike. They'd come to consult about where the pickets would be.

"They said, "We've come to arrest you." I said, "Don't be silly!" It didn't seem mad.

"I said, "I hope it's not like this programme on telly where you knock them around and don't feed them. I don't want him back battered and bruised. I want him back how he went."" Ricky was laughing. And the baby was in the pram."

"I don't know everything about the strike even now. But I don't believe what the prosecution said. And I don't believe the police should knock people about.

"I don't think they should have searched us when we came to court. They wanted to get us worked up and upset. They acted as if we were criminals."

"When the trial was on one of the jurors was ill. So the trial was suspended, and Ricky came home. Then we had a policeman outside day and night. We were under house arrest. My brother came three times and they wouldn't let him in.

"Now Ricky's in prison. They treat me like a different person. People pass me in the street. Others have stopped and told me he was wrong.

"What comes down is that they don't want to know what really goes on. They're afraid to stick up for their rights."

"I'm not bitter, don't get me wrong. I'm just not interested in those type of people."

"The children are too young to understand. And I'm glad in a way Clifton thinks his dad's away working."

"I never say prison. I say "the place". I don't want him to be brought up with that. I don't want to take his babyhood away from him."

Outside

"Think of the situation the wife is left in. Ricky was going to do up the old cottage we live. There's no plans on the walls and there's no money."

"These floors are covered with wood. I stuck to those afraid of that, carrying the babies to bed to save them from the wet floor. Before I left there was always a mattress round outside."

"I've stayed with my friends John and Rina Carpenter for a fortnight and I've been at my dad's for a month now.

"Ricky doesn't know I've been in the union too. When I first worked in 1954 I earned £2 7s 6d a week as a machinist at Grumby Garments. My fare used to be 7/10 or 8d. We made stuff for Marks and Spencer's and they used to search us in case we stole anything."

"I've worked in lots of places in Liverpool. I liked working on the shop floor. But they put me in the special sample room, where all the girls went about saying "Yes sir". "No sir" and giggling with the boss like he was really someone."

"I got out of there. Yes, I was telling my bosses that I don't believe they're my betters.

"If you believe in something you fight to the very end. My life's changed completely since all this."

"I never used to take notice of what happened, just sit at home with my sewing."

"But I'm involved now. I can see that Heath's done very well for himself in the time he's been in. Now I think that we've got to fight for our rights."

"I really do. Because I want a better world for my children. I've got a right fighting spirit in me now."

Interview by JUDITH CONDON

Marlene Tomlinson and Clifton, aged 3: "He thinks his dad is away working."

Roger Rosewell's THE STRUGGLE FOR WORKERS' POWER is an outline of the policies of the International Socialists, the development and nature of modern capitalism—and the urgent need for a workers' party to overthrow it.

Paul Foot's WORKERS AGAINST RACISM examines and demolishes all the racists' arguments. Today, when socialists need to be more prepared to combat the increasing racism that is riding on the Tories' side of laws against immigrants, it is essential reading for every socialist militant.

10p each, plus 3p postage (10 or more copies post free) from 15 BOOKS, 267 Seven Sisters Road, London N1.
The long struggle to toughen up the unions

The FEROCIOUS ATTACK on the trade unions by both Labour and Tory governments in recent years, underlined by the lack of fight of the union leaders, has thrown up the idea and relevance of a rank and file movement.

A conference to discuss the need for a grassroots' movement to hit back at the employers' offensive meets in Birmingham at the end of this month, called by a number of rank and file papers.

The history of the British working-class movement is studded with rank and file attempts to force the trade unions to break out of the narrow confines laid down by the system. As the Birmingham conference approaches, the successes and limitations of those earlier movements is worthy of analysis.

The trade unions began as illegal, persecuted organisations. But with the extension of the vote to male workers in the 1870s, trade union leaders were lobbied by Liberal politicians, hoping they could deliver a tame working-class vote.

But industry was subject to regular slumps. When that happened the workers paid in unemployment, lower wages and worsening conditions. The trade union leaders had no answer and Liberal administrations were a party of business not labour and their sympathies were not with workers.

In 1900, to fill the political credibility gap, the Labour Representation Committee was formed to give workers a direct interest in parliament.

Defeat

The few mild reforms on trade union law and social insurance were grossly inadequate for workers suffering the worst effects of recession.

The conditions were ripe for the rank and file to rise. The Industrial Workers of Great Britain was formed and in the Spring strike of 1912 it organised and brought out thousands of workers. But with the defeat of the strike the movement was smashed and its leaders sacked and imprisoned.

A more fruitful development came with the growth of the syndicalist movement around such figures as Tom Mann. Its starting point was the existing movement and it called for the birth of industrial unions from amalgamations of existing unions. Every worker in a particular industry should be active, regardless of craft or skill, as long as he worked in that industry.

The movement based itself on the rank and file. The demands for reform put forward by the miners' Federation, in transport, the building trade, and the whole generation of militants were included in the fight for union reform, amalgamation, the growth and control of the rank and file.

From 1910 to the outbreak of the First World War, a series of massive strikes, inspired and often lead by the rank and file, broke out. Each year saw millions of strike days added to the previous year's totals. The trade union leaders were forced to move to the left to maintain any pretensions to leadership.

In 1912, as a direct result of rank and file pressure, the Triple Alliance, made up of the miners, transport and rail workers was formed as a powerful industrial weapon.

With the outbreak of war in 1914 the strikes were slowed down but the rank and file movement was not dead. Particularly in engineering, the shop stewards' movement was well entrenched in the factories. The needs of war production heeded thousands of new workers into the factories and trade union membership grew.

The Shop Stewards and Workers Committee Movement organised strikes on the Clyde, in Barrow, Liverpool and elsewhere, despite government persecution, prosecution and exile.

In 1917 the Russian revolution acted as an inspiring beacon to millions of socialists throughout the world. In Britain, it answered for many the troubled question of politics and industrial struggle.

For communists the class struggle was the development of workers' strength. There was no principle artificially dividing the movement into industrial and political wings. The simple criterion for activity was that it should aid in the building of a movement to smash capitalism and to create the organisation that would lead the struggle.

In 1920, the Communist Party of Great Britain was formed. Overwhelmingly working-class in composition, its small size was less important than two significant advantages. The party was an integral part of the Labour movement. The best fighters from the shop stewards' and the pre-war amalgamation and reform movements were members. They had shared experience and considerable influence upon a whole generation of socialists and militants from the previous struggles of the rank and file.

In late 1926 the boom burst. The government had had time to prepare. In 1920 and 1921 the miners were demanding improved pay, hours and nationalisation of the mines. The Sankey Commission reported in the miners' favour but the miners became tired of delay. They struck and called the Triple Alliance to their aid.

Enthusiasm for the strike was high among not only the miners but the railwaymen and transport workers too. At the last minute the NUR general secretary called off the strike and the miners fought on alone.

That day was known as 'Black Friday'. From a position of strength, the trade unions were put on the defensive. In a series of actions, the most important the engineers' lock-out of 1922, the employers, ably abetted by the government, forced down wages by 30 and 40 per cent.

It is with this background that the Minority Movement—best known and most influential rank and file movement—was formed.

Schooled

The shop stewards' movement looked to the Communist Party for a lead. In all the large unions there existed men steeped in the old lessons of trade union militancy and solidarity, together with a new generation schooled in the immediate post-war struggles.

In August 1924 the first conference of the Minority Movement was held. 217 delegates representing 200,000 members attended. Two years later there were 802 delegates representing almost one million workers at the third conference.

The Minority Movement was based on sections within the different unions and industries. In different branches, branches were organised at pit, workshop and factory levels. In South Wales there were 51 pit groups, 18 in Yorkshire, eight in Durham. In other areas the Minority Movement was organised on an area basis. The movement was strongest in the mines but powerful groups were maintained in transport, engineering and the railways.

Each section produced its own programme appropriate to the particular industry and union. The railwaymen's Minority programme, for example, called for the 42 hour week, two weeks' holiday with pay and free rail passes, lowering the adult age to 18 and one union for all railway workers.

The engineering programme called for 44 hours, factory-committees to represent all grades, organising of women, youth and apprentices, the amalgamation of all unions into one MTU and £4 a week wage.

The network of factory and workplace branches could popularise the programme and agitate for it within the union machinery. Nationally the Minority Movement maintained a paper, Workers' Power. The major sections produced papers for their industry and literally hundreds of booklets, pamphlets and leaflets were produced.

The combination of agitation within the factory and the union gave the movement an influence and some success. The planned development of a movement that could organise solidarity, bypassing the reactionary and constitutionally objections of the trade union leadership, gave added credibility to the programme of demands.

The aim of the movement was the creation of a bridge that took workers beyond trade union demands into political and socialist ones. The Minority Movement was potentially the most effective force for militant trade union advance and the growth of revolutionary socialist forces.

NEXT WEEK: the lost opportunities and the lessons for today
WHY KILLED John Fitzgerald Kennedy, president of the United States of America? It is a question that has never been satisfactorily answered in the 31 years since he was gunned down in Dallas, Texas.

The American establishment produced one murder and we are certainly not going to let them get away with it. The only way to get at the truth of what happened is to go back to the beginning and challenge every official version of the events that have been put forward since 1963.

The official Warren Commission Report repeated this driven through many volumes, ignoring the growing weight of evidence to show that several marks had been involved in a conspiracy. This is true pointed to a well-planned plot rather than a desperate and futile attempt to change the system by one lonely radical.

But the problem for the left was obvious: why should any section of American big business or the armed forces conspire to remove a President who had shown a change in liberalism, a tough, committed, hardliner politician?

Kennedy had stepped up the war in Vietnam. Kennedy had authorised the Bay of Pigs attempt to invade Cuba—unsuccessful, but it showed his heart was in the right place.

TRIGGER

His own dubious past record on the black question should have been enough to prove that his attacks on racism were just vote-catching gimmicks.

But David Miller's exciting movie reminds socialists that the ruling class does see things the way we do. It has its own set of attitudes and outlook. And the more hysterical sections of big business are terrified that a mealy-mouthed liberal might actually trigger off a movement for change that could eat into their power and privilege.

The film says there was a conspiracy. A group of rich businessmen and retired high-ranking soldiers meet to discuss the Kennedy menace. The president'sChurchill towards Martin Luther King and the black movement could create a white backlash, blood in the streets and instability for the profit system.

His Vietnam politics, they think, will lead to a communist take-over.

And so the plot goes ahead. Under the burning desert sun, hired marksmen crackle away at dummy figures in a car. 15 miles an hour is too fast for accuracy. OK—one of the conspirators said he would do it later.

But the Kennedy camouflaged's car is 12 mph and goes past the best spots for the assassins.

A snippeas required. The computer chooses Lee Harvey Oswald, who, the film proves with quiet persuasion, was actually an FBI informant posing as a leffte. A double is hired to move around Dallas, getting in rows about his 'commie' ideas, having his rifle repaired, getting himself known as the real Oswald will be a tempting fall guy for the police. And then Oswald himself will be shot by a Dallas nightclub owner also in the pay of the plotters.

The plot succeeds, of course. The major weakness of the film is that, at the thriller level, the thrills are rather muted by the fact that you know the victim will die and the assassin will get away.

And politically, as businessmen's reasons for the plot to kill Kennedy are hurled over in a few, bitty opening scenes. A more detailed account of their ideas would have strengthened the film's credibility.

But it is a competent, gripping and well acted movie drama with a lot of social comment. TV pictures of the real event. Writer Dalton Trumbo and actor Will Geer were whitewashed during the McCarthy red scare of the early 1950s and their involvement in the film helps to underscore its authentic.

Of course, it is a work of fiction. But who, after Nixon and Watergate would argue this version of how Kennedy was killed could not be true?

See it. And try to talk with you someone who has been convinced by Ted Heath's twaddle about the violence and extremism of the left and the moderation and decency of the right.

Be warned: 11 years after Kennedy's death, velvet gloves are out of fashion again. Knuckledusters are in vogue once more.

ROGER PROZT

KUNG FU, the oriental art of self-defence, is turning into the biggest outdoor commercial boom since the bula-hoop. In the heart of East London's boxing territory, sports shops are sold out of karate suits and Kung Fu exercising equipment has been hurriedly set up by unemployed judo experts.

Young junior Kung Fu fans have attended the lessons on body kicks and skipped the ones on the philosophy of why-you-shouldn't-kick-anybody. The result is school-bus-stops with small Bruce Lees and David Carradines kicking each other's heads in.

While the David Carradine TV series has popularised the Kung Fu boom it is the Bruce Lee Hong Kong film that are the heart of the craze.

Bruce Lee's The Big Boss has been seen by nearly three million filmgoers, while the joint Hollywood/Hong Kong production, also starring the new David Mc Lee, Enter The Dragon, opened simultaneously at four London West End cinemas and has had a blanket national release.

The TV series, Kung Fu, popped up on the screens as soon as it was clear that Bruce Lee was the biggest thing in movies since Julie Andrews in Sound of Music.

Set in the West Coast of America in the 1920's, at the time of the Chinese immigration, its hero is a half-Chinese, half-American Buddhist priest, Kwai Chang Caine.

He is to be found helping striking miners, down-trodden farmers and oppressed minorities. He doesn't boss them about, but makes them more aware of the choices facing them. He's an unusually gentle rebel allowing himself to be nursed and comforted by cowboys, sheriffs and speculators.

At times his wise words sound quite socialist. As when he announced that the oppressed must be put in charge of their own liberation, and that Man, in striving to possess things become instead possessed by them.

While Carradine has trumped the TV screens, American Chinese Bruce Lee made his name in cheap Hong Kong made films.

The Big Boss was his big film. A peasant arrives in town, and gets involved against a factory management who could clearly teach IC1 and Ford a thing or two. Not only do they pay rotten wages, but they slice up potential militants and freeze them into ice blocks.

Lee doesn't worry about the details of shop-floor bargaining. He nauseates the entire board of directors on the boss's front lawn.

Lee's Hong Kong films are a product of Hong Kong's crazy situation, a rich little capitalist outpost on the fringe of Mao's China, with incredible poverty, incredible wealth and Maoist millionaires.

The result on the screen are little parodies of noble Bruce Lee fighting for the poor. With Enter The Dragon the situation changes. For Hollywood money means that the film tries to be yet another follow on to James Bond.

BEATEN

But why are kids in London and Aberdeen and New York and San Francisco queuing up outside the cinemas, and shame themselves to the TV to watch villains being bounced across the screen?

One obvious reason is the dream factory. An escape from Daltons or Detroit, thanks to the little bloke who never gets sand kicked in his face.

But another for the American audience is the change in attitude to the Far East. What was Southern Asia in the 1960s? A place where the Vietnamese were bound to be beaten—after all they only had popguns and the jungle. But the American government had bombers and battle fleets so they were bound to win.

But they didn't. So, what did those funny little men have for them?

A new image of Asians appears. Quiet, thoughtful David Carradine, who thinks before pulverising his opponent, who doesn't need guns or brute force. Virtuous Bruce Lee who wins through by superior technique, not physical strength.

It's not a question of film directors setting out to bring out the post-Vietnam film. But it is a question of Lee and Carradine fitting in with a different American mood.

But as Marx said: "Between equal rights, force decides." And Kung Fu is apparently a increasingly popular recreation for the police force. So if a mysterious stranger should arrive at your picket line, watch his left heel very closely.

DAVID WIDGERY
Officials rat or jailed pickets

The Workers' Party calls for a campaign of non-violent action to force the government to end the war in Northern Ireland. The party has decided to organise a series of pickets at the Shrewsbury three trial.

The story UCATT general secretary George Smith tried to get withdrawn

UCATT's National Executive has decided that the support street workers' efforts to free the Shrewsbury three. The support action is not to challenge the actions of the courts, but to help build the movement to free them.

Smith really swung into action after last month's January issue of the monthly UCATT journal, Viewpoint. The offending item was the front page lead story which had been UCATT's support action to free the Shrewsbury defendants, continued in the paper and withdrawn.

In the coming weeks UCATT rules revision conference is the chance to correct this.

UCATT members of the International Socialists, meeting in Manchester recently, decided to campaign for the number of shop stewards on district committees to be doubled. The intention is to move these committees closer to being standing local action committees.

The right-wing want a stronger machine run by increasing numbers of full-time officials who will look after the union's cash and adopt centralised methods. Some proposals to live up the branches and bring them in line with the centre of policy-making, the right-wing to pull them off with even more bureaucratic.

Some employers, on the contrary, have held up the signing of branch deals with full-time officials.

Delegates

Full-time officials in the engineering union are still elected by the members, unlike in many other unions where appointment has become more and more common. But that regular elections take place means that officials should be able to serve out their terms if they are considered to be doing a good job.

The right-wing are always looking for every opportunity to undermine the trade union structure and to weaken the union's capacity to resist employer demands. The left-wing are determined to fight back and to build a strong fighting force within the union.
PUTTING SOCIALISM INTO THE ELECTION

A MASSIVE effort to introduce socialist arguments into every aspect of the election campaign has been made by IS branches all over the country. The activity of IS members in the North West London District—Colindale, Harlesden and Acton branches and two factory branches—was typical of IS everywhere. In the two weeks before polling day branch secretaries Phil Hall (Harlesden) and Fiona Williams (Colindale) sent circulars to all members outlining activities every day of the campaign.

The timetable worked out like this:

THURSDAY 14 February, 10.30am: Street meeting on precinct by Wembley Central Station.
12 noon: Lunchtime factory sales round GE Whiting and neighbouring factories.
2.30pm: Street meeting at the Acton shopping precinct.

FRIDAY 15 February, 10.30am: Meeting at Paddington Church Street, Harlesden.
4.30pm: Selling outside Queens Park and all other tube stations in the area.

SATURDAY 16 February: Street meeting on Colindale Square and Harlesden.
Afternoon: Kick-out the Tories' Demo set out from Kilburn Square at 2pm—70 IS members and close contacts took part. The demonstra- tions went up to Crouch End High Street, where the Tory demo was gathering strength. Sunday 17 February: 'Blitz' of estate agents in the area.
MONDAY 18 February: Distribution of 20 leaflets advertising two public meetings and arguing the case for voting Labour.
TUESDAY 19 February: Harlesden branch public meeting with speakers Ben Price (MEP) and JIM (IS).
WEDNESDAY 20 February: Public meeting at Colindale—speakers Steve Abbott and Lew Adams (ASLEF).

In the campaign, the sales of Socialist Worker for the district have been up from 400 to more than 1000. From sales outside factories, 20 workers have expressed interest in reading the paper regularly and joining IS.

LEAFLETS

Said Fiona Williams: 'There are two things which have come home to us very forcefully: the hope that there is in that many instances we've provided an absolutely real political alternative.

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And so on.

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Unions may row over NIRC

The Association of University Teachers is to use the anti-union National Industrial Relations Court. A bid to stop ASTMS, thesupervisors' union, from recruiting pupils as teachers.

There has been a long-running dispute between the two unions and the best-run of the postgraduates. The National Union of Students has recently been active in organizing postgraduates and has been trying to win the Recognition of the major employers. But two US members on the NUS executive were repeatedly rejected, that postgraduates in an employment status, were being treated as union members as their local association.

Student unions are not trade unions and do not have the ability to defend the interests of the students, they argue. The dispute at the University College, Swansea, where postgraduates are on short-term, over-rates, has been the trigger for the AUT’s action. The strikers are members of ASTMS and have been involved in organizing the college that is near to close down.

The NUS executive has already decided to campaign against the NIRC but the AUT, with 20 members on the top-teaching salaries in the country, and 70 post-graduate students, is to the TUC, does not want genuine trade union disputes about whether the organization.

And it is not prepared to allow post- graduate students to strike.

Ian Gibson of the ASTMS executive and chairman of the union’s annual meeting, said in a statement that the AUT’s concern for higher education did not extend to mobilizing its members against the recent cuts in local government support offered by the Tories.

Student union voted. If we had 20,000 members we wouldn’t take these cuts lying down. What we want of the NIRC, he said, is that the court act independently and does not allow a series of cuts.

Support for miners

YORKSHIRE. Bradford Trades Council has accepted a call from Yorkshire Miners’ Union branches to set up a joint support committee to argue the miners’ case in the shop floor and at union branches. Miners who are in trouble are, he added, not being written to the NIRC.

A Shrewsbury 24 Defence conference was set up after a meeting on the Shropshire Trades Council, was attended by the Bradford, Keighley and Shipley Trades Councils.

Ron Pearson says the move is no surprise since the miners are in a very strong organized position.

Woking strike

say say say on the isolation

The strike for union recognition at Con Mech Engineers in Woking is now in its 24th week.

The original strikers have been whittled down over the weeks and months of the struggle.

The strike was called on May 19th when the NUM in the company, for preparing another appearance at the National Industrial Relations Court which has proved such a useful weapon in the past.

Dyke’s claim for £100,000 compensation for legal costs the ACEU is due to be heard, and the strike action has been taken by Sir John Donaldson, the veteran union

Dyke called on the forces of law and order at Woking last week. One of his bank statements was found by the police.

The police were out on to the line and boasted of how he had ‘questioned the bank and didn’t care’. The pickets informed him that he had had his spectacular wealth and wealth the miners. They then crowded him of breaking into the offices and calling the police.

The strikers had a set back last week when a economized and went through their lines. This is the first time an Air Product driver has gone through for some time.

But the statement that a rumour has been spread that there is no longer official.

Ron Pearson, a long hire firm, is still going through and the pickets are anxious for solidarity blocking of the firm.

We also need desperate need for finance and would welcome the opportunity to show how funds and explain their case.

Ron and messages of Ron Connolly, 79 Brookfield, Horley, Woking.

SW sales-wed need your help to keep climbing

FIFTY-THOUSAND copies of Socialist Worker were printed last week.

This success is due entirely to the fact that Socialists are reading our papers. Although there is a small and that the number of people interested in socialist ideas is also very small. But in fact the numbers are limited—these people are willing to increase our order print by a third or a half.

We return an order with a proof copy.

But 62,000 isn’t the peak. It should be seen, by all our readers and sellers, as the beginning, which we can now call building a mass circulation socialist paper.

Over the past two weeks we have had an amazing response—some subscribers have written to us for extra copies for the press, others have placed regular orders for anything from five to 20. A week or two. Several of these orders mean that we are short of stock when we have been short of stock.

We hope that our readers and sellers will want to help us in the future.”

PROTEST OVER FORCED FEEDING

This is just a small glimpse of the barbarous treatment being handed out to the Price sisters, Gerry Kelly and Hugh Feeley, who have been on hunger strike for 100 days now. Although the demands of the prisoners are quite reasonable—to be released to a prison in Ireland and to be granted political status—the ‘liberal’ press has refused to take any serious action on the brutality now being inflicted on the four.

Socialists and all anti-capitalists should not assume that this sort of repression is reserved solely for the Irish. Resolutions should be passed through trade union branches and trades councils in support of the prisoners and sent to the Home Office.

PROTEST OVER FORCED FEEDING

MORE THAN 50 people demonstrated outside the British Medical Association headquarters in London on Sunday calling for doctors to condemn the forced-feeding of Irish political prisoners. The picket was organized by the Irish Political Hostages Committee.

A week earlier, more than 300 prisoners were transferred to Garretts Prison, Leicester, where Home Secretary Sir Keith was visiting those jailed following the London bombings.

The prisoners, according to the London cartoons, were transferred because they had said that their mother, who saw him recently, said that the prisoner was lying like a wax figure, his legs had not moved for 20 days. And when the prisoners were transferred, they were taken to the island of Sheppey in Kent.

The pickets were set up at the gates to the hospital, not at the gates to the hospital, but at the gate to the hospital.

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Socialist Worker (Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2)

Write to: Socialist Worker Circulation, 79 Brookfield, Horley, Woking, Surrey, GU24 9BE, 01-739 8290
GLASGOW—350 electricians and apprentices employed by Glasgow Corporation, who have not been paid for the last three months, have decided to strike as a result of the dispute between the corporation and the trade unions over the payment of wages.”

The dispute, according to the Electricians’ Union, is over the issue of wages, which have not been paid for several months. The union claims that the corporation is in breach of contract, and that the workers are entitled to their wages. The corporation, on the other hand, argues that the workers are in arrears with their payments.”

The strike is the latest in a series of industrial disputes in Glasgow in recent months, as the city faces a growing cost of living crisis. Workers in various industries, including the construction, retail, and hospitality sectors, have raised concerns over low wages and poor working conditions.”

The union has called on the corporation to address the workers’ concerns and to ensure that they receive their wages in a timely manner.”

The Army on the Streets of Hull

by Martin Shaw

HULL—At approximately 12.15pm an army unit marched through the streets, fully armed and rifles, and surrounded an area of houses contained by Margaret Street, Leicestor Street, Wellington Lane and All Saints Street.

The detachment, 30 to 40 strong, concentrated on one house, 14 Leicestor Street, and foot soldiers took up definite positions along the pavements of the street. One soldier shouted "move out!" and all the troop rushed towards the house.

It wasn't Hull, but Hull, last Sunday. The eye-witnesses were International Socialists, Berkefield and Dave Lewis, who have lived in Hull. The soldiers have not been publicized, only through Hull IS which has come to light.

"We always take two steps. We get permission from the owner of the property and we notify the local police," said an army spokesman.

Detective Inspector Hugh Pollock disagreed: "We weren't informed," he said.

SHAKEN

They didn't warn the local residents about the possibility of a detachment being held in a house, but only the one in the street, the rest are fully occupied council houses. The army told Socialist Worker: "We have to be in order to protect the effect of this on local people. It could have shaken them up at a bit, but it wasn't meant to"

Most local people were shaken. How would you feel if you looked out to see fully armed soldiers charging up your street?

At least one soldier carried a .303 gas cylinder, said Mike Berkefield. "Several loads of officers drove around the area while this was taking place." Indeed the general impression was there were quite a few big bucks around seeing how their tanks coped with forcing their way into a terraced house. They disappeared as quickly as they had appeared. The whole incident took place in about 20 minutes," said Mike.

RISING FEES: The proposal to hike school fees is an attack on working class parents who are already struggling to make ends meet. A full-time working-class family could be forced to pay over £1,000 extra a year for their children's education. It's a direct attack on working class families and a Tory-led council is behind it. The decision to hike school fees has been met with widespread anger among parents across the country. The parents have launched a campaign to oppose the fee increase and have organized protests outside the council chamber. The council has so far ignored the parents' concerns and has gone ahead with the fee hike. The parents have appealed to the council to reconsider its decision and to come up with a more fair and affordable solution.
ANGER is growing in the coalfields at the "soft sell" tactics of the miners’ union leaders, which are weakening the strike and the solidarity.

Pickets have been reduced from six to four, in some cases to one, and sometimes removed altogether. The union has issued instructions to stop the picketing of colliery power stations.

In EAST ANGLIA pickets at King Lynn, Wisbech and Swift power stations have been reduced in size. Only a token picket stands at the gates of Wisbech power station. There are no pickets at the ports where oil is discharged.

At SAULTON colliery deputies of 200-250 miners, including sand and gravel horses, stand waiting to load up. Some are taking as many as 10 loads through the pit on a permit allowing only one.

Last week two colliers from BARRINGTON decided to tell the foremen of one of the transport firms involved, Brian Thorpe, of Thorpe’s and More, that the pit would go on strike. Miners know what they are going to do. After the strike, the only miners with union cards will be allowed to load coal at pithead.

Coal Kerr, a miner picketing COCKenzie power station in Scotland, said: "I feel foolish standing here watching the boats going through. Last Saturday between 8am and 9pm, 20 oil tankers went through. That’s during overtime. You can’t call that normal deliveries of coal. These are going through during the strike."

In LEBERCASTER, after pressure from the Transport Union, the pickets were withdrawn from the power station. The company has issued a statement saying that the pickets have been withdrawn to avoid disruption to supplies.

In SHFIELD the miners have been indefinitely on strike since March, but the power station has continued to operate.

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"System" was keen that the wages struggle should become a two-sided issue, carried on by "socialists and experts and the like in the movement". His pamphlets in big business, which are where even more anxious to see such a system put off the ground. This is because other workers could then be automatically in charge of the mines. This is what Michael McGahay, a former NUM official, had told them that the miners were a special case and that the movement should be led by the banks of other workers. The "rational" scheme could also be used to set one section of the NUM against the other. There would be clear indications that the miners might recommend a more moderate offer to surface workers than to face to face workers. This would reflect more accurately the union’s achievements over the years.