Occupations must answer sackings

THE THREAT of mass sackings hangs over thousands of workers.

In Glasgow, 2000 newspaper and print workers have been told to pack their bags. At Lucas, the Birmingham car accessory giant, 10 per cent of the workforce are threatened with displace.

In Coventry, there is serious talk of 15,000 redundancies in telecommunications, causing havoc in the city. (See page 5.)

The greatest fear of all is in Bristol where the Concorde aircraft, employing some 26,000 workers, is no longer certain to continue.

Six months ago Tory Ministers were talking about "the biggest boom in history". Employers everywhere hired more workers.

But the employers could not sustain their boom. Investment took second place to profits, dividends, property speculation. Prices soared.

Now the same workers who only months ago were lured into security by their employers are told they must get out and take their place on the scrapheap.

SIEZED

Workers must not lie down in front of this new employers' offensive. Action can be taken to shake the employers out of their callousness.

Factories and machinery must be seized and occupied until the employers or the government give a pledge that no workers will be made redundant.

More importantly, if redundancy is to be defeated, the workers must link up their organisations at rank and file level. If the fight is left to each group threatened with redundancy, it is lost before it starts.

The Express jobs in Glasgow will not be saved unless printworkers and journalists in Manchester refuse to write and print the Scottish Daily Express, unless printworkers and journalists everywhere push their industrial strength behind the demand. NO REDUNDANCIES IN THE PRINT INDUSTRY.

The Bristol and on Concorde will not be saved unless aircraft workers and other workers in the Bristol area demand of the British Aircraft Corporation unions that not one worker is sacked.

Class solidarity is the only antidote to the redundancy poison. And we won't get it from union offices.

We'll get it only by persistent organisation in the rank and file of the trade unions.

Foot keeps Phase Three

by Jim Higgins

LABOUR Employment Secretary Michael Foot, according to press reports, scored a parliamentary triumph on Monday when the Tories backed down from a vote on the Queen's Speech and the need for a statutory incomes policy.

But the real impact of his speech will be felt outside the House of Commons, where golden phrases buy nothing in the shops.

In one breath Foot spoke of legislation to abolish the Pay Board and in the next breath spoke of instituting the board until agreement with the CBI and the TUC was reached on what he chose to call 'methods to secure the orderly growth of incomes on a voluntary basis'.

The Pay Board is to be used as the threat that can be held over the trade unions to make them agree to a wage limitation.

Claims already settled under the Pay Board procedure will stand. Claims being negotiated will be kept firmly within the Tory pay code. That is Labour's contribution to the 'social contract' with the trade unions.

The response of the TUC has been even more breathtaking than Foot's. Alf Allen, this year's TUC President, said: 'Mr Foot's speech certainly needs qualifying' TGWU general secretary Jack Jones has made it clear that in return for repeal of the Housing Finance Act, increased pensions and the promised repeal of the Industrial Relations Act, his union's claims will be 'realistic'.

But realism is one thing to the government and another to workers attempting to hold their heads above a rising tide of inflation.

RUSH IS ON FOR THAT KEY CONFERENCE

THE RUSH is on to go to the national conference called by rank and file union papers in Birmingham on Saturday 30 March.

Organising secretary Roger Cox told Socialist Worker there were now 460 delegates. 'This is far better than we had expected.'

Delegates include the Glasgow Corporation Central Electrical Workshops Shops Stewards' Committee, the shop stewards' committee at Walmley's Wigan, 38 AUEW branches and 24 TGWU branches. Barr and Stroud AUEW Junior Workers Committee in Glasgow will attend and London busmen are well represented. There has been a good response from hospital workers.

"In our original motion for the conference we called for the defeat of Phase Three," Roger Cox said, "We thought that would be irrelevant after the election. In fact it's quite clear that it is still central.

"Phase Three is still with us. And the officials in Congress House are going to find that the rank and file doesn't care who the government is if the policies are staying the same. They haven't even bothered to change the names."

The conference is more important than ever. There is still time to get delegated in some union branches.

It will be a real step in strengthening the unity of shopfloor workers across industry and their fight with white collar trade unionists.

The giants with the real power

get for crude oil

Most people get their ideas on the oil
business from television and newspapers. So
they are persuaded that the greater part of what
they pay for petrol or petrol goes to greedy
oil sheikhs.

It is in fact only a small fraction of the price
you pay ever finds its way to Saudi Arabia or
Nigeria. The real money in oil is in refining and
distribution.

For many years the producing countries got
very few dollars. Gradually the companies began
to see that it was in their interest to keep the
governments of the exporting countries happy. They
needed to head off threats of nationalisation. In 1943
the big US companies, led by Esso (Standard) made
a deal with the government of Venezuela for a 50-50 split
on crude oil. The government got half the profits on the crude Esso was
happy enough because profits on crude are a very
small part of its overall profits.

Since the big oil companies and the governments have
got similar deals except that the government
share is now normally 70 to 80 per cent of
the profits. Only the British Tornos could argue
that if our government were to take 50 per
cent of the profits then the companies would
run away, 50 per cent is less than is paid to the weakest and most backward
developing countries.

That is the clue to the real source of the oil
company’s power. An American lawyer put his
finger on it in a book called The Politics of Oil.

After describing the immense wealth and
political power of the US oil giants he says this
entire galaxy derives its power from the right of
private ownership and its ability to control the
most complex collective systems known to
modern man.

The oil companies are powerful only because
the governments they deal with are committed
defenders of capitalism. Esso has no army or air
force of its own. It defines the Belgian govern-
ment only because it is confident that its
refineries and storage tanks will not be taken
over.

We have been speaking of oil but the same argument
applies to all sorts of industries, the electronics
and finance. We are told of the dangers of a ‘run’ on the pound. But there could be no run on the pounds if governments pursued policies that cause ‘a lack of confidence’.

But whose confidence? Who is going to make the running? 95 per cent of the population of Britain have never even considered switching their funds into dollars, yen or marks. Most of them have no significant funds to switch.

The power of a tiny minority to dictate policies, to
steer the superstructure, arises because governments, legal systems, civil
services and so on are built on the basis that the defence of capitalism is not
the job of the state. The state is a rising foundation of policy. Armed forces ex ist, in
the last resort, to enforce the same end.

Breaking the monopoly of the state, nationally and
internationally, requires the seizure of its assets. Reformers talk about “the
solution”. But the solution is one in British invasibly shy away from this.

And so, in spite of themselves, they end up by
building the fighting machine that they are adopting the policies that big business insists on, it has happened again, and again. ‘Left’ government in its
country majorities will be no different. They will have
done the same way.

Different governments, socialist policies, can only
be carried out if the other big force in society—
the working class—is mobilised and organised to
demand them. And that means demanding them on
a democratic basis. That is what we mean by socialism and the only other way to
make any basic change in society.

Corridors of Power, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 01739 9043/0185/6361

The two-year stand of Labour councilors over the Tory Housing Finance Act has been broken by the Secretary of State for Housing and Local Government, Anthony Crodall.

Despite numerous Labour Party complaints, Labour councilors' refusal to levy the rent increases specified by the former Tory Government, Crodall has decided to go ahead with those increases must be paid.

Crodall has stated that the Tories’ Housing Commissioner, Patrick Skillington, who levied the increases was incorrect, at all, and that all those who had been disqualified by the High Court for being unlawful could now be
and supervise the payment of the increases.

The increases became payable three days after the election of a Labour government. Rent books drawn up by Skillington including the “guaranteed” increases by Clay Cross’ new council, 10 of whom were elected on the “guaranteed” first eleven on a pledge to keep the rents down in defiance of the Tory Law.

Last Monday, Mr Cordall took a declaration from Clay Cross council. John Dun, E Barns and council chairman George Simms—that the council must be paid. He refused to say anything about the curious
survival of the Clay Cross council and Diễned on the debris of the conservative councils for refusing to give renewed increments.

The council has instated the Clay Cross councilors and the former Tory leader John Dun, who were referred to them, who have
and continued to vote in support of anti
the Labour councilors.

Last week, John Dun was elected for the last time as chairman of the Standing Council from Clay Cross and, Labour swept the board in the elections for the last time.

The Labour majorities in both elections turned out for local government elections were

Snaggers strike halts Leyland

LEYLAND—280 workers in the BY plant at the Leyland shop in St Anne's were still out this week in a stoppage over ‘snaggers’-the men who fit parts on to the chassis after they have come off the production line. The dispute started last Friday when the shop steward called a meeting. The union said assembly line workers on to snagging in an attempt to clear a backlog of unfinished vehicles. They were on a higher bonus than the regular

Pay Board set to grab

Firemen's wage award

The Pay Board's first strike was the first to smash through Phase Three, and the Board's pay award in the fishery sector has been smashed by a decision of the General

The Pay Board's first strike was the first to smash through Phase Three, and the Board's pay award in the fishery sector has been smashed by a decision of the General
Mutiny threat by Ulster loyalists

by Mike Miller, Belfast

SECURITY forces chiefs in Northern Ireland are strenuously denying reports that the Ulster Defence Regiment and the police force have been infiltrated by loyalist extremists who are preparing to mutiny. The reports are made against their fellow right-wing activists.

The chiefs claimed that the UDR is a "non-sectarian body." In fact, it is 95 per cent Protestant, in the composition and in the main staffed by former members of the disbanded B-Specials.

Since the UDR was formed by the Labour government in 1970 there have been innumerable cases involving UDR and civil UDR men on charges ranging from causing explosions to murder and attempted murder.

A recent report by the Community Relations Commission showed that in Belfast the Royal Ulster Constabulary had aided the extreme Protestant Ulster Defence Association in terrorising thousands of Catholics from their homes.

Allegations of RUC complicity in loyalist terrorism were repeated by those leaders of the Ulster loyalist group who claimed that the Ulster Defence Regiment was disorderly and threatened by the Ulster loyalist group. A Protestant woman has admitted that the police force with information to the effect that the police force planning to shoot a cardigan of Catholics.

The information was given an hour before the shooting took place. The police did not arrive until after two of the Catholics were killed and others wounded and the gunman had escaped.

PADDY DEVLIN is a leading member of the Social and Democratic Labour Party and a member of Brian Faulkner's power-sharing executive.

His job in the executive is Minister of Social Services. With this job goes the responsibility of collecting arrears from rent strikers protesting about rent.

Before power sharing, the SDLP was an enthusiastic supporter of the strike, going so far as to tell the strikers not to save the money but to spend it on drinks. Among the rent rebels was none other than Paddy Devlin himself.

Now Devlin presides over an increasingly harsh system to recover rent.

One man who refused to pay the rent was ex-Confessional's sociology. The bailiff arrived at 7.30 a.m. with an armed police car, full of armed troops, and a special body of armed police Special Branch officers.

The man was force-fed to remove in the presence of the Master of the Enforcements Office, who said that if he and that he would be forced to give his wages until the amount owing was paid.

ON 28 FEBRUARY 1973, British troops were patrolling the Derrybeg estate in Newry. Before they rescued and killed 12-year-old Kevin Heaton. He was shot in the stomach and died later.

Last week Corporal Foxford was sentenced to three years for manslaughter. Judge Kelly told the jury he would have a "great deal of sympathy for Foxford." The judge did not feel it necessary to impose any sympathy for the dead child.

In his defence, Foxford claimed that Heaton was not a "good child." He was, as his own patron, so he could not be trusted with arms experts, backed up his story.

Two days later, according to the judge, "remitted from a momentum lapel, a pipe.

The day before Foxford received his three-year sentence, a republican, Dominic McGinty, was arrested in Derrybeg by causing two explosions in which nobody was hurt and the damage to property was slight.

British Petroleum, Britain's biggest company, sold less oil last year but increased profits by 340 per cent. Last year, BP made £70.3 million profit. This year, with sales down by 1.6 per cent, they made £340 million. That's enough to pay all the miners their full £733 claim three times over. Or enough to give every farm, workers and miners in the United States an immediate increase of £25 a week. Most of the extra profit came in the first three months of the 'oil crisis' -- the last quarter of last year. In that time BP made £123 million profit, compared with £35.9 million the previous year.

None of the profit came from increased sales. Less oil was sold in that quarter than in the same quarter in 1972. All the profit came from increased prices at the petrol pump which were imposed because of the 'oil crisis.'

Excellent

Just as the time when Tory Ministers were warning us to "tighten our belts," at home the biggest oil company was preparing for its greatest profits ever in its history. As reported in the Daily Telegraph it puts it: "BP must admit that the first quarter of 1974 under its belt."

Prices have soared for less than costs and profits for so far this year have exceeded even last year's unmet demands of expectations.

More than 90 per cent of BP's sales are overseas and almost nothing is paid out of these vast profits in Britain as BP chairman Sir Eric Drake was recently told. "The government," he told the newspapers, "is hardly excused for a risk enterprise.

SOME AMERICAN OIL PROFITS

Co 1973 Profit % Inc.

Exxon Corp. (Jrsk) $248m 4

 Texaco (Jrsk) $229m 34

 Mobilo $163m 47

 Shell $232m 27

Strike over sacked man

NORTH WALSHAM, Norfolk: Last week Cranfield (formerly undergraduate) was sacked by the Amis. All 600 workers at the container factory took immediate strike action.

Cranfield was sacked on a trumped up charge of misusing hours of attendance during the three-day week.

This was an excuse for the company to rid itself of an effective union who has an excellent record of fighting for his members. He was one of the men who originally built the union at North Walsham. He is a member of the ASEU district committee and chairman of the Craven Trades Council.

There are suspicions that Cranfield took part in the campaign against Mr. Amis while materials are in transit, but everything is uncertain. They want to demoralise the workers and put the union on a defensive basis until the Amis gets under way on a new wage agreement.

Angry students demand action to fight the crackdown

by Alex Callinicos

THE National Union of Students' conference on victimisation met on Saturday at the University of Essex as the confrontation between students and authorities intensified.

In Oxford last week the trial began of 19 students before a disciplinary court. They are being tried for occupying a university building as part of the campaign for central student union.

It soon became clear that the university doesn't want even the pretence of a fair trial. All defence submissions were rejected and defendants and their advisors were beaten up and thrown out when they tried to raise the political character of the trial.

Students reacted angrily and on Friday 400 demonstrators broke into the anti-chamber of the building where the trial is going on, causing the adjournment of the trial until Tuesday.

At the Essex conference, speaker after speaker emphasised that there is an increasing trend by the authorities to tighten up disciplinary procedures and to use the police on campuses to intimidate students from taking direct action.

The conference called on the NUS executive to organise a national campaign against victimisation, to hold a demonstration on the issue in London on 3 May and to give automatic support to students' unions taking direct action.

The main opposition came from Steve Perry, secretary of the NUS and a member of the Communist Party. He argued that NUS should not only play an advisory role in the fight against victimisation.

But the message from the conference is clear: Victimisation and police violence against student direct action are a national pattern and demand a national response. The NUS executive must take the initiative and lead the struggle.
Military dictators celebrate 10 years

by Vic Richards

TEN YEARS ago this week, army officers seized power in Brazil. In those 10 years they have ruled with a virulently anti-communist, anti-Latin America until 1977 the recent bloody coup in Chile.

Twelve thousand political prisoners are in prison in Brazil, thousands have fled the country, hundreds have been killed by the political and military police. While the people are subjected to military, state propaganda, torture is routine in police interrogations.

The military dictators feel justified in celebrating their 10th anniversary. In their 10 years, they have spared no effort to make Brazil an investors' paradise. Prices were almost doubling every year in the early 1960s, but since 1970 inflation has been around 30 per cent. In their eyes, this justifies the use of murder, torture and every conceivable police brutality.

Before 1964, the ruling Labour Party made increasingly left speeches to keep in tune with a wave of militancy. Investment, frightened by talk of nationalisation and equality, almost stopped, and the worsening economic crisis provided the army with an excuse for the takeover.

The army put a stop to all talk about equality and nationalisation. Left-wing parties were outlawed and the unions turned into puppets of the government. Later, most elections were abolished and the rest gerrymandered. The army and police crushed any resistance ruthlessly.


Abolished

With wages frozen, inflation slowed down and profits kept high. Repression against socialists and militant trade unionists prevented workers from fighting back. As inflation hit, workers' living standards fell tremendously.

Having abolished democracy and trade unionism, reduced inflation and created a pool of cheap labour, the military dictators turned to the multinational corporations and bankers abroad. Investment flowed in as long as profits were high. Capitalists are not squeamish about how they get their money.

American companies led the stampede to invest, with Britain fourth. British American Tobacco, Rolls-Royce, Joseph Lucas, Flexen, British Oxygen, Ferranti and Coates Paton among others have been making huge profits from labour kept cheap by repression.

In 1971, when British investments in Brazil were estimated at £20 million, British firms managed to reduce £50 million from profits made that year. Britain's trade with Brazil is now almost four times what it was in 1964.

But there are signs that all is not going well. World inflation is beginning to push Brazil's inflation up, while the crisis in Europe and the US threatens Brazil's crucial industrial exports.

The most worrying feature for the military, although it is true there are more than a dozen as many industrial workers as 10 years ago and they have started to fight back. In the past 12 months shipyard workers and workers at all the major car plants have taken strike action, disregarding the puppet unions, and won wage increases.


INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

Journal of the International Socialists

Issues 36-55 have now been produced as a single bound volume in a limited edition. Includes Tony Cliff on CND, China, Peru, Demokos on Orwell, China, Peru, Desbrow on Orwell, China, Peru, F. P. D. Taylor on the Communist Party, Ray Hughes on the trade union movement, Eric Hobsbawm, Paul Kenna on China, Paul Kenna on Latin America, Paul Kenna on India, Nigel Harris on India.

Price including postage £7.50. JS JOURNAL, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9GS.
FROM time to time I have reported on the activities of Major-General Richard Clutterbuck, whose business is 'counter-insurgency' and who trains soldiers and sailors to put down dissent by violent means. Clutterbuck's best-known partner in this grisly work is Brigadier Frank Kitson, whose recent book on counter-insurgency appealed for the use of the army against dissenters. Major-General Clutterbuck is a 'lecturer' at Exeter University and it is in great demand all over Britain as a speaker. He has been asked, for instance, to speak to students at the military defence college, Latimer, near Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire on 20 May. The college, it will be remembered, was damaged by a 20lb bomb which splatted a lecture by General Ernst Fecher, Commander of NATO forces in Central Europe.

Clutterbuck will be addressing the students at Latimer on 'the causes and methods of insurgents and the principles which governments should follow if they are to be successful in combating them. These include: 'Operational techniques available to the military and the police in counter-insurgency situations', and 'Some lessons learnt from Vietnam'.

These subjects were covered by the Major-General in a lecture to the college in March 1973, and were well received.

On the day following the Major-General's lectures, a Lithuanian unknown seaman was this week arrested by the British Security Service and is still in custody. He was the subject: 'Extremist bodies which represent an internal threat to this country'.

The following month—on Tuesday 25 June—Major-General Clutterbuck was to present a report on his lecture at Old Sarum, Wiltshire. He is to speak at a high-powered NATO educational exercise entitled SARUM CASTLE 74. 100 officers of Colchester's rank and above will be attending the exercise, and will be lectured from counter-insurgency experts all over Europe.

The Major-General is to give a lecture on the opening day of the exercise. It will be entitled: 'The enemy within'. The briefing for the lecture points out that the fuddy-duddy NATO generals still think of the main enemy as an external aggressor. They have to be taught, according to Clutterbuck's belief, that a much more serious enemy is at home.

I understand that Major-General Clutterbuck will also be required to speak to courses organised by Royal Army Education Corps officers attached to the Department for Extra-Mural Studies at Birmingham University, and Captain T J Finney, who organised a series of lectures for the army, was delighted with the results and is hoping to arrange a repeat performance.

The list of subjects for this winter's lectures makes interesting reading: 11 Oct Ideology (Dr P Savicar), 25 Oct Security Law (Capt K H Thompson), 19 Nov Counter-revolutionary Warfare (Brigadier S W Gurney), 30 Nov Urban Guerrilla Warfare (Richard Clutterbuck), 12 Dec L LINDEX VALUE OF INTELLIGENCE (F Kitson), 4 Jan (Rule of the Army in Society) (T J Finney)

The series of lectures was also open to officers from the SAS, the military police and the MI5's special unit which deals with 'special situations' such as assassinations and skimming of 'key enemies'.

All in all, Major-General Clutterbuck and his friends in the Department of Defence are being kept very busy. None of the engagements above, I understand, is likely to be the last of the government, and Socialist Worker's defence committee have therefore decided to bring readers full coverage of the details of all the Major-General's lectures.

When the wind blows the cradle will fall...

On 6 April last year, three young building workers from Ruston and Nelson, Lancaster—David Williams, Raymond Lofthouse and Barry Lang—went up a 'cradle' to waterproof roof joists on the huge McAlpines building site in Caledon Street, Glasgow. As an office block called Melrose House. The men were working about 20 feet up on one of the corners of the building, when the cradle collapsed and they were thrown to the ground.

David Williams was killed instantly according to the ambulance driver who took Raymond Lofthouse to hospital, every bone in his body was broken. He bled to death.

He was in hospital for four months. Barry Lang was also taken to hospital with burns and broken bones.

A member of the International Socialists visited the site the next day and was told by McAlpines' agents: 'There are definitely no lump workers on this site.'

A rather different story was told by Benjamin Scott, a director of B & D W Ltd, who had organised the waterproofing on the day of the incident and who was facing trial before Glasgow magistrates on 23 January for offences under the Factories Act.

Scott argued that the death of David Williams and the injury to Raymond Lofthouse were not his responsibility because the men had been self-employed! This defence, after long legal argument, was rejected.

Expert evidence was then produced that the sight of the cradle were inadequate and that none of the men had been given proper instruction or supervision in the use of the cradle.

Sheriff Bell—that's the man who sent an eighty-year-old girl to prison last year—listened carefully to all this and then found the firm not guilty of faulty erection and not guilty of faulty construction. He found them guilty of not keeping a statutory register—and fined them £20.

BANK IN THE BLUE

THE Australia and New Zealand Bank wants more money for investment, so has had a 'tight line' of shares coming on all its shareholders to fork out some cash.

Earlier this year the bank persuaded the British Government to relax its dividend restrictions so as to entice more shareholders into giving the money. Some time before the general election the Treasury gave its consent for the bank to increase its dividend on 20 September, when the company declares its annual results.

The dividend increase will be from 10.1p per share to 13.571p per share—a rise of more than 30 per cent. The increase can only take place if 'current regulations' are still in force, but when consent was given the Tory government had no plans for more dividend restraint before next November.

There are 35 million shares in the Australia and New Zealand Bank. So unless the Labour government introduces a new dividend freeze, the shareholders will be getting an extra million pounds next September—even if they don't castastrophe a penny more for investment.

This handsome present is to be made by permission of the Treasury of a Tory government. One of the leading Ministers in that government was chairman of the Conservative Party Lord Carrington. Before the 1970 election, Lord Carrington was chairman, and then deputy chairman, of the Australia and New Zealand Bank.

5p each plus 3p postage [10 or more copies post free]
LETTERS

Fire at Chrysler: is it inexcusable?

Mental illness - who does the labelling?

Complaints Dept.

THE LETTER FROM Ian McAdam of Edinburgh is hardly in the tradition of false journalism (16 March).

The work places he refers to are, in my opinion, state run and therefore in accordance with Factory Act regulations. My father never worked for them. My father did not 'start' this fringe on any other works. The company has not been at fault. Your column is a thinly veiled threatening remark of some kind.

Three other people also write to you.

I am a general sceptic visitor to the premises regularly and can assure you that I have no knowledge of any machinery.

Part of one roof has space above it, the roof is made of coal-fired furnaces adding ventilation - an earth floor is visible and safe as such a furnace. The other parts of the building are -

There never was a hand pump or fire extinguisher. The water trough is for hardening and tempering metal.

No worker has lost three or any other number of fingers because of lack of guards. No one works on the machinery 80 hours a week. There never was a name by the name of Ronald and no one here knows of the name McAdam. I can't even pronounce his brief spell with us (only seven weeks in the job). There is no such person. The company employed Mr McAdam was established in 1947. Since then the company and the company's wholly owned subsidiary of a company in 1970. For 20 years they have been in this building. It is not a family firm.

I am particularly concerned over the letter because I can fairly claim to be the only person with any form of industrial trial and responsibility in the company. In December 1971 I became the first and so far the only person to accept of worker ownership and the company's transfer to the ownership of the Articles of Association. At the present time there are 350 shareholders (10 at present) own almost 10 per cent of the capital.

I strongly protest the principles of industrial democracy with every form of organization, whether for contentment and job security in the workplace, or whether for private, public or state capitalism.

My participation in Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament activities and my support of the chairman of the Scottish National Party for Westminster, and the depth of my concern and my attitude to 'weaker and less fortunate people'.

Your publication of Mr McAdam's letter and the circulation of similarly worded leaflets upsets some voters to support the British Labour Party and the depths to which such people are prepared to go to hold back the movement among workers of Scotland who see that self government is the most sensible and democratic form of social democracy in Scotland, operating a programme of a cut out of the programme of the Scottish Labour Party, (so I know space is a problem), JOHN DEVONSHIRE, Bryde, Cheshire.

The Army in Hull read Kitson...

THE ARMY exercise that Martin Shaw reported from Hull (2 March) is part of a larger pattern.

Brigadier Frank Kitson, Commandant, Headquarter School of Infantry, Warnminster, Wiltz, stressed the need for this type of operation as long ago as July 1975. His prediction of the pattern of terrorism over a wide variety of causes might concentrate on their efforts and produce a situation which was beyond the power of the police to handle. Should this happen the army would be required to restore the position rapidly (Low Intensity Operations, p 25).

Kitson's book is copyrighted by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, and it is recommended in the most general sense for the chief of the General Staff, General Sir Michael Carver GCB, CBE, DSO, MC, ADC. 'This book', the General wrote in his Foreword, 'is written for the soldier of today to help him prepare for the operations of tomorrow. It will be of the greatest help to him, and I hope it will be read by all those concerned with training the Army.'

The circumstances for which Kitson wrote his book are likely to result from a significant drop in the standard of living, all those who now disgruntled their for use in general, and the emphasis was that the disaffected should not be encouraged to continue with their efforts and produce a situation which was beyond the power of the police to handle. Should this happen the army would be required to restore the position rapidly (Low Intensity Operations, p 25).

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Coals's big white elephants

Coal is wonderful stuff. You can turn it for warmth and turn it into electricity in power stations. At one time you could run trains with it. You can introduce smokeless fuel from it, aniline dyes, tar, bricks and road aggregate and, to cap it all, you can if you like turn it into oil and petrol.

The problem is getting coal out of the ground. To date the Coal Board has not overcome the troublesomeness of problems of miners to do the job.

For a time they thought they had the answer to the fully-automated Bevercotes colliery in Nottinghamshire. Coal was to be organised as a government concern and be fed to the coalfire of ships and blood miners and replaced with machines.

Human hands would be necessary only as an appendage to white-coated operatives seated at planning control panels.

The scheme was a failure. At one stage a high-powered Russian delegation arrived to study the Bevercotes miracle. A few days prior to their arrival, thousands of tons of coal had to be shovelled down the pit so that it could be triumphantly extracted to the envious gazes of the Russians.

Manned

Even when the bugs had been sorted out of the mechanised machinery at fantastic cost, all was not well. Roof falls are a frequent and inevitable consequence of coal mining.

In a manned face, experienced miners usually see one coming and take preventive action. On an unmanned face, machines have no such second sense.

falls occur, the machinery stops and men have to clear the trouble. Men stopped can be directed elsewhere. Cumberbatch's machines cannot be moved.

Bevercotes is a very expensive white elephant.

Bevercotes stands as a monument to managerial inefficiency and lack of foresight. Sadly, it is not the only such monument.

Not far from Bevercotes, in the same Nottinghamshire coalfield, is the Gilding pit. In 1962, Gilding produced 124,000 tons of coal, which brought a profit before interest of £417,000.

It is not a bad return on the labours of 2000 miners. It represents a profit per working miner of £735 set against miners' wages when averaged about £20 per week.

Today Gilding is running at an annual loss of £400,000. Since 1962 the miners have sacrificed 400 jobs.

With the introduction of the power loading agreement, they have seen their wages decline relatively in comparison with other workers and absolutely in terms of their cost of living. Many men are too old to train for new jobs.

They suffered the high accident rate peculiar to mining. In June 1969 some 63 accidents cost 234 man weeks of work in that month alone. But accidents aside, the Gilding men were concerned to restore the pit to profitability.

It was then that turned a £1 million profit into a nearly £1 million loss. Management inefficiency is the answer given by working miners.

Money was spent on costly development schemes that were abandoned. All faces were completely mechanised. Those two factors were the main ones added to a general shortage of parts and organisational failures.

Falling and disappearing profit brought on threats of closure from the NCB and a falling and disappearing morale of the miners.

The management decided to develop a new drift from the working High Main seam into the Main Bright seam. This development was alleged by management to be the winner the pit needed.

Rank and file miners who actually were the mine not to be confident. After development teams had been at work for four and a half years, the job was stopped and the Main Bright was summarily extinguished. The cost of this failure is estimated at £1 million.

Having rejected the costly Main Bright scheme it was urgent to develop new faces to replace existing ones that were becoming rapidly worked out. Another scheme was set up to develop a new face, the A14.

Ten days before they were due to cut coal, when all the machinery was in place, management discovered that the roof was unsafe and the area subject to flooding. They closed it down.

Story

The loss of this change of working results in a reduction in profit by the extra revenue of £136,500 each year.

Having effectively closed two developments, the management was anxious to find new workable coal. They turned to the low grade Hard Haun seam with the result that the price obtained was less than the cost of production. Losses were only minimised slightly when the face went out of production.

The story of Bevercotes and Gilding is the story of extended inactivity on the part of the NCB management. It is a story that can be repeated throughout the industry.

Brave talk about involving the working miners is no more than talk. As an enemy by NUM experts into the Gilding pit, when members accused the management of inefficiency, did not bear evidence from the actual miners involved and then went on to absolve the NCB from blame.
One man's revolt against rent and the...
moved in. They have one habitable room with two beds in it. Mrs Swinbank’s daughter and son-in-law are living there while they await a corporation house.

The condition of the house is not improved by the presence of rats. Food has been eaten and the daughter has seen one run across the floor.

The bed state of the house gave the rats access through holes and parts of the skirting and a cheap paper composition fire surround have been gnawed.

The sanitary inspector visited many houses in the street last week and the Swinbanks were informed that on the inspector’s recommendation, the house should be demolished, but it may not be until next year.

If you look out of the Swinbank’s window, you can see a large crack down the wall of the houses across the street.

Worried

Mr Swinbank told Socialist Worker: ‘In my opinion the house is not worth £3.75 a week. Next week I intend to pay off some arrears in rent. I will tell them I want my rent cut and the house improved.

‘I will not pay any more rent until it is done. I will fight them for it. You have to fight for your rights and I want to let people know through Socialist Worker how people live.’

He is not worried about friends who tell him this is a dangerous thing to do. He says that his wife’s doctor would back him up.

The overall situation of housing in the city has been worsened by the Housing Finance Act. Higher rents lead to eviction, which leads to Castle Rock, which leads to slums.

Tenants’ associations are hampered or not encouraged. Life becomes quite intolerable in the resulting slum.

Action

During the period under the Tories, council house building nationally fell by 40 per cent. The vicious attack which the Housing Finance Act meant, especially to low-paid workers taken side by side with the increase in profits in building—Northern Developments pushed its profits from £1.5 million to £4 million in two years—shows that housing is yet another area where profit takes large priority over human need.

Labour has put off this year’s rent increases. It has yet to repeal the Tory Act.

Only a tough commitment to a crash programme to demolish the slums and build millions of new homes can offer hope to the Swinbanks families of every city.

But that means a head-on clash with the property speculators, the banks and the building societies. Only nationwide action by tenants will force Labour to take that kind of action.

Once in a while a Member of Parliament makes a worthwhile speech in the House of Commons.

We reproduce extracts from Balsor Labour MP Dennis Skinner’s contribution to the debate on the Queen’s Speech:

I was in the Tea Room about an hour ago, when it seemed a worried-looking government who suggested the need for some living up of the proceedings of the House. Chamber.

Therefore I went in and looked at the Liberal benches and wondered, ‘Could it be that they have gone steaming?’

It crossed my mind that the hon. Member for Rochdale (Mr Smith) should be a Member of the Liberal Party as fast as he could.

I wondered whether the hon. Member for Cornwall, North, in Partick, would get off to another studio—BBC or ITV—to get on the air to exercise some influence in the national policy. I imagined that the hon. Member for Preston, Askham and Fairburn Steel was steering after him with another form of national policy in order to get that across.

I thought then of the Liberal leader steaming out of the headquarters of London and County Securities and today, of course, and I had a mental picture of him rushing to get into any coalition, any place, at any time.

What I did not like about the speech of the Leader of the Opposition was his emphasis once again on wage restraint. I find it somewhat paradoxical that, although he did not spell it out as such, he steaming during the election campaign, he tended to concentrate on what he believes are the greedy people.

I want to place on record the fact that in some respects the Leader of the Opposition I agree that there are such people. I believe that instead of taking in some money and being called a name of a few greedy people, instead of taking the collective bodies of trade unionists, let us get down to names.

I refer to the person mentioned during the election campaign, John Davies of the Rank Organisation, whose salary was raised from £65,000 to £70,000 a year.

At the same time the Rank Organisation paid £35,000 to the Tory Party and another £500 to the junior partners in ‘ Hearthstone Ltd’, the Liberal Party. These are the greedy people.

The noble Lord, Lord Carrington, has been involved in property speculation for a considerable time. The latest affair concerned the reputed £600 million profit to be made out of the 140 acres to be sold off Wycosome Borough Council.

There was the previous affair in which two houses were bought for £100,000, converted into six flats and sold for £45,000 apiece. It is what is known as ‘double your money’.

These are some of the greedy people. Therefore, if we are to talk about wage restraint and statutory incomes policies, these greedy people, too, must be brought in.

In fact, they should be dealt with first before any question arises about dividing up the national cake. They must be dealt with severely.

There is also the remarkable case of the Duke of Devonshire. He is a very rich fellow, but he is another of the greedy people. He owns nearly half of Derbyshire and parts of Yorkshire.

I am told that he owns land in County Limerick, and, according to the reports, it looks as if he owns Eastbourne Borough Council as well.

The Duke of Devonshire has planning permission for a £60 million yacht marina at Eastbourne. We are surprised to be in a period of crisis.

There was not supposed to be enough money around to pay the miners the additional £50 million that they have now received. Yet this man, apparently, can put his hand on £50 million to build a yacht marina with 400 berths for top Tory yachtmen.

If we are to have a relevant Queen’s Speech and a meaningful great public debate, we must continue to throw at us that the country cannot stand up without the workers pulling in their belts, pulling up their socks and pulling their fingers out, these people, too, must be taken into account. Those on the greener side must be tackled, and tackled fiercely.

The Queen’s Speech does not fully cover that.

There is an ambiguous phrase which talks about redistributed. It sounds all right. But we must take it further. We must express what needs to be expressed.

If it is right for my constituents and my hon. Friends, the constituents, the workers to be constantly under attack from the Tories, not only at elections but at all times, and again in the House today, at the Leader of the Opposition showed, we must put everyone under the microscope and we have to name names.

If some of them are Members of the other place, taking £35,000 a day for clocking on and clocking off—when miners cannot get a few bob extra for washing and bathing time, which takes us longer—we must make perfectly clear that they, too, are under the microscope.

When the Duke of Devonshire finds £50 million to develop a yacht marina at Eastbourne, that is something that my constituents have every right to know. The same applies to many other commons we can talk about.

One of my constituents, after I had mentioned the Duke of Devonshire’s yacht marina, said, ‘You know, Dennis, we ought to run a bus trip.’ I said, ‘Where to, darling?’ She said, ‘Eastbourne.’ We want to go down there, all the workers and we want to put the Leader of the Opposition on top of Morning Cloud and give him a little push, just like that, and send him across the English Channel to the Common Market, because that is where his heart lies; that is where he should stop.’

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Social Security for Strikers

Social Security for Strikers
BANNED FROM BRITAIN: A BABY OF TWO

MISBA SHAHRAM SHAH is two years old. Her father was born in Britain. Her father and mother live in Acton, West London. Her brother and sister aged seven and five will soon be joining the family in Acton.

But Misba has to wait. The British Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, has sent her a letter telling her she must be 'interviewed' about her national status before she can travel to Britain. The interview, says the Embassy, will take place in April, 1975, in a year and a month from now.

This is not a sick joke. It is a real, live horror story called the Immigration Act, 1971. The little girl's parents, Anwar and Balaqis Shah, are beside themselves with worry over the fate of their small daughter. Almost every post brings them more news of hold-ups and bureaucracy in which every official body concerned—from the Home Office to the Pakistani immigration officials—seem to be pleting to tear their family apart.

Anwar Shah works in a laundry. Three years ago, he was in a better-paid job as a fork-lift operator and driver when he was badly injured in a car accident. The accident affected his mind, and he suffered from split personality. While he was in hospital, his wife who did not know how to apply for social security benefits went with their two children to Pakistan to stay with relations.

She was pregnant. Soon after she arrived in Pakistan Misba was born.

Anwar was greatly distressed at the loss of his children. One day, soon after leaving hospital, he came across two children locked in a car in a car park. He broke into the car, drove it to the police station and reported the children missing. The police arrested him, clamped him in Brixton police, from where he was committed to a mental hospital.

Gruelly he recovered. His wife, who came to Britain before it became law.

Before the Act, immigrants who broke the law coming into this country could not be deported after six months' stay here. After the Act, according to five savages in the House of Lords, they could.

The Labour Party in parliament was furious. Shirley Williams, Labour's Shadow Home Secretary, moved a House of Lords decision, confirming the retrospective effect of the Immigration Act, 1971, has created profound uncertainty of fear and blackmail in the immigrant community; believes that retrospective legislation is contrary to our democratic traditions—and urges the government therefore not to expel immigrants guilty of no other offence than those who were arrested here for six months or more before the 1971 Act.' (House of Commons: 26 June 1973)

Fought

'The only answer,' said Mrs Williams, 'is to declare an amnesty for all those immigrants who came in between 1968 and 1971.'

Now Roy Jenkins is Home Secretary. Mrs Williams is in the Cabinet. Peter Archer, who bitterly fought the Immigration Bill, is Solicitor General. Stanley Clinton Davies and Alexander Lyon are both spokes against the Bill are in the government.

Yet from the new Labour government there is NOT A WORD about relaxing the pressure on black people.

The Queen's Speech last week has NOT A SINGLE MENTION of any promise to do anything about the Immigration Act or the House of Lords' decision.

Though the Liberals and the Welsh Nationalists are on record supporting fairer immigration laws, Labour has not moved an inch towards that.

As far as Labour's public statements go, there will be no repeal of the 1971 Immigration Act. There will be no amnesty for immigrants who came in before 1971.

All the illusions and hopes of more than a million black people who voted Labour in the election have been shattered in a few days. This is disgraceful. The Amnesty MUST be declared. The Act MUST be repealed.

Meetings representative of black people and trade union organisations throughout the country must be called to press these demands on the government immediately.

BOOKSHOPS

WOMAN'S CONSCIOUSNESS, MAN'S WORLD, Sheila Rowbotham, 25p

LABOUR IN IRISH HISTORY, Connolly, 50p

LANGUAGE AND CLASS, Workshop pamphlet, 15p

VOICES FROM WOMEN'S LIBERATION, ed. Tanner, 76p

THE BLACK SHORT STORY, ed. B. A. O'DONOHOE, ed. Woodie King, 75p

Please add 4p for postage on pamphlets, 7p for books.

Available by mail order and direct from IS BOOKS, 267 Seven Sisters Road, London N4, and directly only from IS BOOKS, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow C1, and the Coventry Socialist and Trade Union Centre, 65 Queen Victoria Road, Coventry.
BYE, BYE BOBBY BUBBLES

BLACK ARM BANS can be seen in London's East End. Bobby Moore has left West Ham United, who made England's leading goalkeeper available by refusing to accept a £20,000-a-year offer which the club had offered. This is a great loss to the Gunners' British football team in England's football has ended. Bobby Moore has been the advance guard of few players to have played an attractive, strong game, as the game was as a whole. Moore's position was based on his vision and understanding of the game, which was valuable for the team. It is a vision and understanding that would be very difficult to replace. Moore's departure means that the team will have to rely on younger players to fill his shoes.

Keegan referred to the book in the Morning Star at the end of February. He has worked in Plymouth and has a good working knowledge of the strike. He argues that the strike in the banks has seen a mass strike and in other disputes the union leadership's role is very questionable.

7.84: THE JOH MACLEAN SHOW

The VENUE for the 7.84 Theatre Company's first Glasgow presentation of The Game A Bogey—The Johns Maclean Show by John McGrath is the recently opened City Theatre. The production is directed by Dennis Price, and the play is written by John McGrath and Peter Martin.

The programme is in the heart of Glasgow where Maclean worked and fought for his revolutionary ideals. It is in a middle-class area, the Institute itself. The play is on show for two weeks at the Institute, the Bell and the Black Bean, its first production.

The show is a work-in-progress of a working class couple, and their unsuccessful attempts to cope with the 'system'.

Interpretation: The programme was presented at the 1959 Edinburgh Festival. The show is set in 1959, and it was up to date with references to Heath's defeat, and there are a couple of catchy tunes. One could argue that Maclean's message was submerged in the festivities, but the company's skillful performance should be praised. No trade unionist or socialist in the area should miss the chance of seeing this thought-provoking and enjoyable show.

Over the next few weeks the play will be visiting the following places:

21 March: Inverness, the Murray Hall
22 March: Portobello, the Scottish Arts Centre
23 March: Glasgow, AUEW, venue not fixed
3 April: Cross and Pomona Community Centre, Ayrshire
24 April: Inverness, venue not fixed
8 April: Inverness, venue not fixed
30 April: Inverness, venue not fixed
On 17 April the play is performed at the Scottish TUC conference at Exeter.

Accident?

RACIALISM has long haunted black majorities and large minorities, and sometimes it seems to be a reflection of the idea that one is better than the other. This is the case in Jamaica, where the chairman of the Jamaican Trojan Record, who is known as Baby, has been on the radio. The chairman has been criticized for his views on race and his policies. The chairman has been accused of promoting racist views and policies.

A good example of this criticism can be seen in the case of the Jamaican Trojan Record, which is the company that has been promoting the music of the Jamaican Trojan label. The chairman has been criticized for his views on race and his policies. The chairman has been accused of promoting racist views and policies.

If most of the rubbish seen on music videos is considered to be good football, then I'll be flaying blackbuck with knives.
DOCKERS at Grimsby and Immingham had decided to block ships carrying coal on the Wednesday before the miners' strike started, so the Monday night the strike began and they walked off the ship Felsic.

The strike was overwhelmingly supported, but suddenly on the Thursday after the first week of the blocking of a mass meeting of all Grimsby and Immingham dockers was summoned by full-time official Ken Wardle. He ordered the men to continue blocking the ship and gave assurance that no dockers would not be moved out of the dock estate. The meeting turned this down

ONE of the most crucial events of the miners' struggle was the mass movement of Leicester miners against the antics of their full-time secretary, Frank Smith. The strike in protest against his pro-Tory stance and the suggestion that he be locked out of office were decisive in disarming the right wing in the miners' union.

This controversy brought up the question of union democracy, the answerability of officials to their members, to the fore in the miners' union. The importance of union democracy will be up for discussion at next Saturday's National Rank and File conference sponsored by such newspapers as The Collier, Carworker, GEC Rank 'n File, Platform—the miners' union paper, Rank and File Teacher and NALGO Action.

These two articles—by Mike Stanton, a Grimby docker, and a Brighton hotel worker who cannot be named for fear of victimisation—show how urgently union democracy is needed.

Board had announced that their police would not allow miners' pickets on the dock estate, the miners would picket the gates and ask all dockers to refuse to cross their picket lines. But if the dockers kept blocking the coal ships, then they could keep solidarity with the miners and stay at work—a sound answer to the coal owners.

In the wake of this, militant members of the Transport Workers Union 10/24 branch thought some action should be taken against Ken Wardle for not getting a black-bloc bid to overturn a properly taken branch decision. They found, on examining union records, that no action could be taken. Full-time officials are responsible only to the rank and file and Ken Wardle himself has no control.

The International Socialists is a democratic organisation whose membership is open to all who accept its main principles and who are willing to pay an annual subscription of £1. We believe in independent working class action for the achievement of capitalism's and its replacement by a classless society with production for use and not for profit. We work in the mass organisations of the working class and are firmly committed to the achievement of socialism.

Capitlism is international. The plant firms have investments throughout the world and owe no allegiance except to their own economic interest.

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

A strike is only a starting-point and can only survive unless workers of other countries actively come to its aid by extending the socialist revolution. In Britain, in the building of a revolutionary socialist organisation in this country, we also believe in the necessity of forming a world socialist revolutionary international independent of either Washington or Moscow. To this end we have established close contacts with other social revolutionary organisations throughout the world.

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

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

Against secret negotiations. We believe that all settlements should be agreed or reversed by the rank and file.

For 100 per cent trade unionism and the defence of shop stewards.

Against anti-trade union laws and any laws on the shops rights on the strike, when the strikes are "official" or "officialised".

For equal pay and a better deal for young workers.

Against against-discrimination and for militant trade union solidarity and joint shop stewards committees both in the plant and on a com-

For a maximum wage of at least £25 a week.

Against unemployment, redundancy and lay offs. We support the demand: Fire and jail the employers.

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

Against police and state violence against black workers.

Against immigration restrictions.

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

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

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

Against secret diplomacy.

Against all forms of imperialism. We unconditionally give support and assistance with all genuine national liberation movements.

For the nationalisation of the land, banks and major industries without compensation and with workers' control of those industries.

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

The struggle for socialism is the central struggle of our time. Workers' power is the test of whether we are on the right road toward socialism. This is the struggle over nature, with the abolition of the power of man over man, is certainly socialism.

It is no use just talking about it. More than a century ago Karl Marx wrote: The philosophers have merely interpreted the world. The point is to change it. This struggle for a better world is a day-by-day battle to help change the world towards socialism, join us.

FOR THE ADDRESS OF YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS, WRITE TO THE NATIONAL SECRETARY, 8 COTTONS GARDENS, LONDON E2 8DN.

THE REPEAL of the Industrial Relations Act should pass through Parliament without much trouble. Rank and file opposition to the Act, from Pentonville to Con-Mech, has made the whole machinery totally unworkable.

No-one is more anxious than the employers to ditch it and set up a more conciliatory system. This is precisely what the Labour government intends to do.

But the new framework is basically the same. There is still the same premise that there is a 'veto-able' answer to industrial disputes, that employers and employees meet on equal terms.

First, Labour will bring in the 'Repeal Act', getting rid of the right to sear, the enforced 'cooling off' clauses, and the right of the commission on Industrial Relations, the Industrial Arbitration Board, and the Registrar, in their place would be the Conciliation Service, combining all these jobs.

UNDER the 'Repeal Act' it would do little, but it is clear from the TUC/Labour Party Liaison Com-
INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST NEWS

WHAT'S ON

LONDON - from 6pm: Labour and the Irish Trade unions. Speaker: Paul O'Brien. Friday, 2 March, 81 Maddox Street, London W1C (nearest tube: Oxford Circus). Tel: 01-437 8036

PRESTON: IS public meeting: The way forward for socialist politicians. Speakers: John Maclean, Tony Allan and Ben Smart. Saturday, 2 March, 2pm, Lonsdale Hotel, Preston. All welcome.

HILTON: FIRST IS anti-war meeting: IS members, supporters and friends. Speakers: Ian Mather, John White and others. Thursday, 2 March, 8pm, Hilton Hotel, Manchester. Tel: 061-236 1036. Tube: Manchester Victoria (Birkenhead Park) station. Free refreshments.


NORTHWEST - IS anti-war meeting: IS members, supporters and friends. Speakers: Ian Mather, John White and others. Friday, 2 March, 8pm, The Pheasantry, 23-25 Dane Street, Preston. All welcome.

HIGH PEAK - IS film: 75 years since the Streatham outburst. Speakers: John White and others. Thursday, 1 March, 8pm, High Peak Hotel, Buxton. Tel: 0330-8811. Tube: Buxton (St Elizabeth) station. Free refreshments.

TWICKENHAM IS and NUT Rank and File meeting: The future of a socialist educational body in a capitalist society. Speaker: Michael Harney. Tuesday, 7 March, 8pm, 162 St Marys Road, (near Twickenham Station).


DARTFORD and District IS public meeting: The way forward for socialist politicians. Speakers: John Maclean, Ben Smart and others. Wednesday, 1 March, 8pm, The Mill Inn, Mill Hill, Dartford. Tel: 0303-9999. Tube: Dartford (Blue Bridge) station.

Oxfordshire - IS Rank and File meeting: The political trick - the way forward for socialist politicians. Speakers: John Maclean, Ben Smart and others. Wednesday, 1 March, 8pm, 30 St James's Street, Oxford. Tube: Oxford (St Aldate) station. Free refreshments.

GRAY'S and TILBURY IS public meeting: The political trick - the way forward for socialist politicians. Speakers: John Maclean, Ben Smart and others. Saturday, 4 March, 8pm, Thorpe Lodge, Ilford. Tube: (Tilbury) Westcliff.

WIGTON: IS film: Nigerian speakers and film. How it is going to be for Labour. Speaker: Jim Nichol. Thursday, 2 March, 8pm, 40 Wheelwright, Wigton. All welcome.

WALTHAMSTOW - IS public meeting: A film we can all expect to be banned. Speakers: John White and others. Thursday, 2 March, 8pm, Lister Hall, 314 Epping Road, Walthamstow, London E17.

Croydon: IS Rank and File meeting: Sunday, 5 March, 8pm, Monday, 6 March, 8pm, 260-261 High Street, Croydon. All IS members must attend.

MANCHESTER: IS Rank and File meeting: Saturday, 4 March, 8pm, Cheadle, Manchester. Tel: 061-232 0258. All IS members must attend.

PRESTON: IS public meeting: The way forward for militants. Speaker: Tammy McRae. Saturday, 4 March, 8pm, The George Hotel, Church Street, Preston, Lancs.

A SOCIALIST FORUM: What role to be played by the police. Speaker: Bill Worthington. Saturday, 4 March, 7.30pm, The YMCA, 228 Tipton Road, High Wycombe. All welcome.


CATCH A BUS TO THE RANK AND FILE: IS members. Saturday, 4 March, 9am, Blyth Hotel, Oxford. Tel: 0295-6806. Free refreshments.


LENIN - IS Rank and File for Workers Power Too! Saturday, 4 March, 8pm, The YMCA, 228 Tipton Road, High Wycombe. All welcome.

ELECTRICIANS SPECIAL: All IS members. Wednesday, 2 March, 8pm, 127 Norwood Terrace, London SE2. All welcome.

DESIGNER wanted urgently by SW London Training Centre. SW London Training Centre: 12 Church Road, Croydon. Tel: 01-688 9588.

SOCIALIST WORKER needs help from IS members in London. If you have meetings or events coming up, send us the details and we will print them.

THREE13 - IS Rank and File meeting. Thursday, 1 March, 8pm, 313 London Road, Eastleigh.

Dover: IS film: 'Cowards'. Speaker: John White. Thursday, 1 March, 8pm, Hotel Rye, Dover. Tel: 0303-9999. Tube: Dover (Brandshatch) station.

SOCIALIST WORKER needs help from IS members in London. If you have meetings or events coming up, send us the details and we will print them.

Next week: Hundreds of thousands of workers to strike.
RANK AND FILE CONFERENCE

Rousing the members to stop those cave-ins over salaries

With just one week to go to the crucial conference called by several rank and file trade union papers, a leading militant in the National Union of Teachers describes how the influential teacher paper Rank and File developed and what its role in the union is.

RANK AND FILE started in early 1968. There had been years of union sell-outs on salaries. The overwhelming majority of the rank and file saw no hope and were apathetic, remaining in the union for 'insurance' purposes.

Scene Wandsworth members, in total isolation, had carried the banner of left-wing militancy throughout the lean years. A happy mergence of these experienced members with a few experienced but enthusiastic union activists who were horrified by the moribund state of the union, gave birth to the paper.

It went straight to the heart of the problems frustrating and dividing teachers. It fought for a single salary scale to replace widening differentials. For democratic decision making in schools, involving teachers and other school workers, pupils and parents, to replace the total authority of the head. It argued for smaller classes so that children could be better taught and teachers less harassed.

Other demands were: a contract of service, union democracy including the election of senior officials, and an end to the complete domination of the union by headmasters. A battle for strike action, union support for victimised teachers, time off for union representatives in schools to do their union work and unity with other workers for joint action against public sector discrimination.

All this required a major effort to rouse and involve the members, and so force the union to get off its knees and fight on their behalf, instead of always giving in to the employers.

The first duplicated issue of the paper sold 400 copies, the second double that number. The third was printed and sold 1,500, and the fourth 2,500. There was a further rapid rise to 5,000 in the upsurge to the major NUT strikes of 1969-70. This was quite unheard of in the NUT. The maximum paper circulation had been 3000 of the Communist Party in the early 1960s, and half of these had gone abroad.

It became clear that the success of the paper was due not to co-ordination to co-ordinate, transfer experience, decide, support, but a 'supporters' fer' was introduced and the elements of self-organisation were.

There are elected regional organisers who oversee the groups in regional schools, training schools for group convenors, and training schools for group convenors as a whole an annual conference which, for the first time this year, will be held on a delegate basis, and which elect a national executive committee. This meets monthly and appoints the editorial board of the paper. A delegate-based national committee meets twice a year.

Prominent

The growth and effectiveness of Rank and File has not only won over inflation and angered the union executive. It also does not lack the paper to have won a few selective and successful over union militants in its own ranks have written to the Jacobin

The organisation as a whole has an annual conference which, for the first time this year, will be held on a delegate basis, and which elects a national executive committee. This meets monthly and appoints the editorial board of the paper. A delegate-based national committee meets twice a year.

Prominent

The growth and effectiveness of Rank and File has not only won over inflation and angered the union executive. It also does not lack the paper to have won a few selective and successful over union militants in its own ranks have written to the Jacobin

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Why the International Socialists support the conference

by Andreas Nagliari

El socialista oficial

THE RETURN of a Labour government has changed the political atmosphere at the International Socialist Conference and rank and file trade union delegates meeting next Saturday in London to prepare for the defeat of the Tory ‘bash the unions brigade’ are likely to be more united than ever before.

The Labour government’s commitment to the Industrial Relations Act, its pension reforms and its policy of recognizing the trade union movement will be central to the demands of the delegates to the meeting of the organizing committee.

Yet the mood of the conference at this particular time is crucial. The election result may be seen as an indication of the basic reality of rapid deflation and high real prices, and Britain’s economy is still struggling to survive.

The ruling class will still attempt to solve its problems by cutting the living standards of workers.

The main aim of the leaders of the trade union movement will be to make all kinds of deals with the government’s workers to sell their members short. A voluntary agreement will mean a new level of collaboration, to raise the standard of living of the workers, but we must not let them get off lightly.

The conference still has an important role to play. It must continue to counteract the efforts of the Labour and Communist Parties to divide the workers into groups.

The conference must strengthen their resistance to the attacks on the rights of the workers.

If the conference faces up squarely to the challenges that confront it, it will make a contribution to the movement. If it fails to do this, it will let the movement down.

THE full-time trade union officials have settled with Fords. 53,000 workers are to receive increases with stage two after the Tories have been chased from office.

The full claim has been made for lack of positive leadership from the officials, and lack of democracy for the rank and file.

The settlement gives $2.540 on basic rates and includes a modest increase in the lay-off fund of 220p. We are 60 days additional holiday for the members will be financially worse off over the next 12 months.

The first condition conceded by the union officials was that the claim could be reviewed if stage Thre was abolished.

The settlement and the way trade union leaders rode the claim through the management is seen as a new insight into the whole union negotiating system.

The Ford National Joint Negotiating Committee is composed of members appointed by the union’s national executives. The leading officials are Reg Birch for the AUEW, and Moss Evans for the TGWU.

The rejections of the five conferences on the committee are frequently ignored and there is no right to instruct the officials on behalf of the membership.

At a meeting several months ago between the TGWU, the AUEW and the Ford Joint Action Committees in London, Moss Evans told the officials assembled at a shop floor meeting: “We will not be told what to do.”

Moss Evans also ignores his own promises and claims. He promised a renewed conference of the TGWU workers and Ford Joint Action Committees on a new and more democratic basis.

Tony Barrow, deputy convenor at the Ford-Leyland workers, denies that Moss Evans has accepted a deal from the management and that the union has been won over.

Ford trade unions are already calling for drastic reorganization of the negotiating procedure. The demand is for a new conference of negotiating committees to be held by the union and the management.

The conference of the engineering industry is being mass into Phase Three settlement by trade union officials.

Loyalty to the Labour government and the failure of conscious leadership will cost Ford, Vauxhall and Leyland huge losses.

SCHOOLS

Another resolution called for the trade union movement to give priority to the campaign for non-coercive education. The TUC has been asked to press for nationwide support for this campaign over a wide range of subjects. There was a demand for more ISU As a result the conference decided to press for a law of equal opportunities for written laws to improve working conditions for both women and men.

Yawning gap at Women’s TUC

by Sandra Pen

SLAVES was not abolished in Victorian times, a delegate told the TUC’s Women’s Conference in Scarborough last week. In the 1970s the women travelled in a car to pick potatoes for a ‘Jack-booted farmer’ on a farm in the south of England.

‘I never felt so degraded in my life,’ she said. The 240 delegates, this time in Scarborough, agreed on how their fight is not against low pay for women, the real issue is the independence of being a second-class person.

The resolution says, the gap is between words and deeds. The resolution was passed unanimously by union executives of full-time officials, have the right to be heard. A new resolution was adopted on the need for us to be heard.

At the end of the conference the agreement called on the TUC to challenge the campaign for non-coercive education. The TUC’s Women’s Advisory Committee to continue its work on the issues of equal opportunities for women in the workplace and in the organization of the workforce.

Demonstrators outside Twickenham rugby ground on Saturday before the England v Wales international match protesting against the British Lions’ projected tour of South Africa. ‘Don’t play with apartheid’, said the banner. John Taylor (right) a Lions and Wales international player who has refused to go to South Africa, addressed a meeting of the protest campaign.

PICTURES: Chris Davey

(Report)

UNION ORGANIZING FOR CAV WORKERS

by Kathy Tait

APEX, the union representing CAV, Action West London Workers at CAV, part of the Lucas combine, who are fighting to protect 500 redundancies scheduled for May, has been given support by the company. The company of non-coercive education has cut production by more than two-thirds.

Most of the redundancies are to be in the office and a mass meeting of members of the electricians’ union, TASS, were at work. They were not informed of the redundancies until the last minute.

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Occupation stands firm

EASTLEIGH, Hampshire—The workers at Standard’s Engineering, now occupying the factory, have decided to continue their action.

The workers were occupied for four days in December and a further six days last week. The workers are demanding a new contract and are determined to continue their action.

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I would like information/join the International Socialists

Name

Address

Trade Union

Send to: IS, 5, Cotswolds Gardens, London E2 8DN
5500 STRIKES S/HIT BY UNION BEYOND

by Dave Turner

DUNDEE.—The 5500 workers at the three Timex factories returned to work on Monday after a three-week strike in which they had defined the Phase Three pay laws and the threat of closure only to be strapped in the back by their own union.

This was the first ever united strike by the whole Timex workforce and it shook the management to its very core.

Wage rates at Timex are £6 to £7 a week below those at other engineering factories in Dundee. Basic rates include £2.77 for women, £2.51 for women and £19.11 for women production workers.

Two-thirds of the workforce is women and management has been able to exploit sex, craft and shop differences to take on one section at a time and beat them.

When the auto shop went out on strike three weeks ago, the entire shop was sacked.

But this time they were presented with an ultimatum by the area’s management not to accept the board’s offer. Their final offer was £3.50 plus 50p on the shop floor for men and another £1.10 for tradesmen.

This rejection was rejected by every single shop and the entire workforce went out on strike. When the strike was called, the management was the most militant. "I didn’t have a chance to make a recommendation to my members, said a woman steward, ‘they went out the door as soon as they heard the management offer.’"

Management refused to talk to the strike committee. In the second week they announced they would sack 1000 workers if there was no immediate return to work.

At a mass meeting 4000 workers voted to continue the strike, calling for management and staff to end the strike.

But at this point the engineering union leadership had made a scandalous intervention on the side of the management. It was only when this became clear at the mass meeting, John Boyd, AUEW executive member for Scotland, informed the strikers that their strike was “unconstitutional” and urged them to arbitrate. This was ignored.

SUCCESSFUL

But last week AUEW district secretary John Brown and district organiser Tom Guy, both Communist Party members, told the Timex shop stewards and gave them a directive from the national engineering council that the strike must continue.

The directive was designed to get the Labour government of the day, but a successful strike would have matched a success.

A majority of stewards still opposed the strike and the next mass meeting was brought forward to Friday. Beforehand the stewards were again met by officials and instructed not to make any recommendations to their members.

The meeting, again attended by 4000 workers, was called and angry women denounced the officials as scab. After two hours John Brown put the vote for a return to work and announced it carried on a show of hands.

"Statements in the press that it had been an ‘unconstitutional strike’ is absolutely false,” a steward told Socialist Worker. "It was extremely close. But the strike had to go on.

The management would have cracked in another few days. We were betrayed by the union. Each of us knows who was behind the strike. The self-portrait is frightened of losing our jobs if we fought the officials. But we shouldn’t have been taken in. We would have carried the membership easily.

Negotiations are now continuing between management and full-time officials. The return to work on Monday was a victory. Nevertheless the feeling of the many workers is that the shop floor has not spoken its last word. That was only the first round, said one.

Sit-ins end as ITT backs down

GLASGOW.—The 11-week occupation at Macalynne Controls, part of the ITT plant, has ended. It is only partial victory, for the settlement is vague and the dispute certainly not over yet.

The occupation started after management threatened union leaders with mass redundancies if the workers went on strike.

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Express hatchet falls on 1900 jobs

MILLIONAIRE publisher Sir Max Atken is determined to throw 1,942 workers on the scrapheap by closing the thriving Scottish Daily Express, the Scottish Sunday Express and the Glasgow Evening Citizen.

The announcement on Monday, only a day after his flank man Joseph Stevens, had said there were no immediate plans to close any of the company’s 11 newspaper titles, is the most devastating blow yet to hit the newsmagazine publishers. The loss would be of many jobs in a specialised craft where hope for many of these jobs is slim.

The news left the workers too stunned to react at a first shot of fighting back and forcing Sir Max to walk back his threat. At the time he was boasting about letters to the press in which companies had said they had so far centered on approaches to them for possible jobs such as Sir Hugh Fraser or Lord Thomson.

Within hours of the announcement of the Beaverbrook management was haggling over the fate of 1,942 staff so Max could make by selling the Scottish titles to a telephone company or the University. Many of the staff have work for the Edinburgh Mercury.

Poison

The right-wing, anti-union and fascist editorial line of the Daily Express is based on the continued work of one fascist and racist group in Scotland. But for all the anti-union rhetoric, an attempt to cut wages with the community of the closure of the three Scottish titles.

Poison experts say that if the workers go quickly, and not by the efficacy of others, the poison will be cleared down.

The other argument is that, my union will be undermined by the workers with the help of the press, and the industry is likely to be filled with scab poison.

But the Beaverbrook press in London and the North is at a premium, and the idea that any one group or title will get away with it is laughable.

This Mackinnon must be resisted.

The Express group, hit by rising newspaper prices due to a higher price of paper, is in a cash crisis. But they will soon be able to exploit the crisis of unemployment in the North Sea oil, commercial radio, including Capital, and the major reach of the BBC, and the specialisation in local and foreign newspapers in the area, so they will be able to push their poison with it.

The whole of this poison is, in essence, an attempt to be pushed to the local people. But they will fail. And the Beaverbrook press will only be able to keep it up for so long, such as an occupation against any machinery and the full pay of one full support from Manchester and London.

Lucas threatens a big cutback

THE Lucas concern is again threatening to cut 4000 jobs at the Crompton factory at Birmingham, Burslem and Cannock. There has been no indication that the company will require any extra output.

Stewards from the factory in Birmingham believe that the company will be able to meet its demands by the three-day week at the expense of the week.

On Friday the 9½ joint shop stewards met in the staff canteen and demanded a three-day week at the expense of the week.

Wages on strike

COVENTRY: Women at Raglan Street GEC factory have been on strike for two weeks and have continued to make their point heard by the narrow of the cut in Post Office orders for women’s telephones. The factory has 900 women’s jobs to GEC’s Trestorfer factory, and the workers have made it clear that they want their job re-lined at a lower rate.

The time was 8am. The room was the dining room, the factory is the GEC, Coventry, and the woman, the women’s job. They have met several attempts to the past and have met them.

The stoppage at Raglan Street is the last out of GEC, Coventry, and the company has made only a few promises for an end.

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