Wilson and Co: Reclaiming Britain Ince by Ince

by Duncan Hallas

The British press is full of "IRA outrages" but has no word about far more monstrous outrages committed in Ireland by assassination squads of the British Army.

Ever since the British government admitted last month that the Special Air Services (SAS)—a sinister army murder squad—are operating in Ireland, the Irish newspapers have been confirming the suspicions of almost all political groups in Ireland that the SAS is responsible for all sorts of terror in the North of Ireland.

On 24 March the Sunday World, a popular Irish Sunday paper reported that:

The SAS were in Derry on Bloody Sunday in January 1972, and had orders to fire on the Parachute Regiment from the roof of the Post Office, so providing an excuse for the Parachute to shoot at demonstrators. A former Sergeant Francis of the SAS told the Sunday World that the plan had failed at the last moment.

The SAS advocates "subjugation", "assassination" and "terrorism" with organisation, training and control of politicians. Harold Wilson's worst enemy couldn't accuse him of being a political innocent. He knows the man as well as anyone. Knowing this he authoritatively brought Field on to his staff and he defended the action of this land shark.

There is a difference between land speculation and land reclamation, he says, and in any case "development" creates jobs.

Harry Hyams, the biggest shark of all, can make exactly the same defence. He too in reclaiming land for alternative uses. He too can claim to 'create jobs'. Does Wilson think that Centrepont sprang into being without the labour of building workers?

The fact is that Wilson surrounds himself with rich men or would-be rich men on the make. Men like Joseph Kagan of Gannen, made into Sir Joseph by Harold Wilson, Henry Kissin, millionaire commodity speculator, Sigmund Sternberg of Mounteney Metal, and a whole clique of others who are up to their necks in creating fat profits from other people's work.

Other members of the government have the same profitable connections. Here are a few of them:

Sigmund Sternberg, a billionaire of North America and associate of wealthy Sir Julian Hodge who specialises in "second mortgages" at exorbitant rates of interest or, in plain English, what used to be called usury.

Fred Perot, who came to the Ministry of Agriculture from a rewarding job with the Fat Stock Marketing Board, and

Harold Lerner, Chief Economic Advisor to the cabinet and a "fat cat" backset standard, who has any number of connections with merchant bankers, brokers and other tolling workers.

THE SAS were there on Bloody Sunday

by Paddy Prendiville

friendly guerrilla forces operating against the common enemy.

In Northern Ireland, friendly guerrilla organisations means extreme Protestant groups. The Ulster Volunteer Force, for instance, which recently called off its assassination campaign after talks with the IRA, has claimed in its newspaper, Combat, that the Ulster Freedom Fighters, as even more extreme group which has claimed several recent assassinations, is a section of the SAS.

Needless to say, any decent, however fragile, between the UVF and IRA is a potential danger to British interests in Ireland.

The assassination aims of the SAS are sublimated in the Sunday World by a photograph of an internal army policy document. The latest SAS group to be sent to Ireland were until recently on stand-by at their training depot at Bradbury Lines Camp, Hereford, where they were preparing to "intervene" if the miners had "cut up rough.

The Sunday World revelations prove conclusively:

That sections of the British Army are being trained by Brigadier Fromkin, an "expert" in "counter-revolutionary warfare", for a future role against subversion in Britain.

That the most important training ground for these terrorist groups is in Ireland, North and South. Why don't we read about it? Because the British press has been prevented from publishing a word about the SAS by a government "D' Notice".

So next time you hear the media prattle about political violence, just think about the SAS or, as they are known in Ireland, the 'dirty tricks' brigade.
ITALIAN SOCIALISTS APPEAL FOR SOLIDARITY

THE INTERNATIONAL Socialists have launched a call from the Italian revolutionary organisation Avanguardia Operaia to action in solidarity with the victims of repression against workers’ struggles in Italy.

In Rome, police have cleared most of the 2000 squatters from the new flat in Piazza del Mercato where protesters were barricaded against high rents and the shortage of affordable housing.

In a series of brutal raids, 46 people were arrested, most of them workers. Some were members of a group of five who threatened to jump from a balcony in despair when the police arrived. Many are still in prison.

In Cadorna, six people were arrested in the early hours of the morning after a demonstration in support of the recently arrested. The women in the area are the mothers of the workers. In all, 20 people were arrested. In Pavia, after an anti-fascist demonstration was attacked by the local fascist newspaper.

**Fascist**

There have been hundreds of raids on houses and arrests of individuals. In many cases, the protests were outnumbered more than in half an hour.

The letter from Avanguardia Operaia reads:

Dear Comrades,

Our organisation, and the whole revolutionary left in Milan, is under an heavy attack at the moment in Italy. As you know, the political situation in our country is going from bad to worse, with the awareness of the government, increased fascist organisations, and the rise of the army. In the face of this, the demoralisation of our working class is palpable, in support of the reactionary thesis of Fascism.

Workers and a small cadre of us are trying to stop the fascist attacks on our organisation.

On 17th March, a demonstration was organized against the fascist attacks, in Florentine, they have been bombing, shooting, and setting in flames the home of the Proletarian Party, and other organisations.

The Fascist movement is growing daily.

**Offensive**

We are calling on all comrades in your country as quickly as possible, to mobilise, to organise, to support our work in Milan and in all the other cities and towns in Italy. It would be very helpful to us.

When you write to us, you could think about what is happening in Italy to the situation of workers in your own country. It is the time to clearly see that the Fascist movement is working everywhere in Italy.

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**ALMOST 1 YEAR AGO, MR. EDWARD SANDY DIED IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ABOUT CIVIL RIGHTS.**

Edward Sandy was a well-known trade unionist and Socialist politician. He had been a long-time member of the National Union of Miners and had been involved in many campaigns for workers' rights. His death shocked many in the labour movement.

Edward Sandy was elected as a Labour MP in 1979 and was a member of the Socialists' group in the House of Commons. He was a key figure in the fight for higher wages and better working conditions for miners.

He was also active in the fight for civil rights in Northern Ireland, where he was known for his support of the Ulster Workers' Council strike that caused riots in 1974.

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The wall was the landlord's

NORTH LONDON—Three lump labourers were injured at the home of Mr Reg Efford (standing on second floor) last Sunday in Islington.

Mr Efford has been living in the house for 43 years. His mother had taken over the tenancy from his father, and with much of his money put into it. In December, Mr Efford has become the original tenant.

The landlords, T H Bull and Sons, had intended to "renovate" the house. Soon after his mother's death last Christmas, part of the back wall of the house collapsed, destroying his interiors. The court, which ran in the garden, was damaged. Local council officials supplied Mr Efford with a portable lavatory.

"When the wall came down, I saw the wall," said Mr Efford. "It was 6 ft. high and 3 ft. thick."

Then last week builders arrived and started removing the remains of the wall. Mr Efford had no idea that anyone was doing so. He warned one of the workmen: "You can't make us a word of it. I'd never have got a job on your side."

Robbed

Others employed on the site were given the workmen's shift: "You can't make a word of it. I'd never have got a job on your side."

So when the wall's partial collapse Mr Efford had his gas meter robbed. The police came round and took the meter for "fingerprinting". "I've never got a job on your side. I'd never have got a job on your side."

Then last week builders arrived and started removing the remains of the wall. Mr Efford had no idea that anyone was doing so. He warned one of the workmen: "You can't make us a word of it. I'd never have got a job on your side."

The police took an interest on Monday morning, but their arrival caused Mr Efford to collapse.

The landlord had no comment to make. They have now indicated to the tenants that after permission he will give a flat in the property.

The lump labourers employed on the site threatened on Sunday to take off if they were not paid. They threatened to throw out Mr Efford's belongings. It was the intervention of the Islington Campaign that prevented this.

Mr Efford is a man who wanted, and has the right, to a quiet life. This is the last time he was able to live for 43 years. He is now free of the workmen's shift: "You can't make us a word of it. I'd never have got a job on your side."

Story: Nigel Fountain
Picture: Peter Harrap

(RePort)

100 picket for hunger striker

by Sue Baytell

IN a demonstration called by the Irish Political Hostages Campaign more than 100 people picketed Gortree Prison, Lister, last Sunday in solidarity with Hugh Feeney, one of the four jailed in the London bombings trial. He has been on hunger strike for 145 days.

Despite a heart condition and rheumatic fever he has been force-fed for more than 100 days. To date he has had one visitor—his mother. All other visitors have been refused including a request from Philip Sheridan, another Irish republican prisoner in Gortree.

This protest is the result of Feeney's changes in his political status.

MP Secretary Roy Jenkins has refused to repatriate the hunger strikers for the time being though he has said they may be eventually repatriated. Pressure must be brought to bear on the government to return these people to the North of Ireland so that they may serve their sentences near their relatives and friends.

Court move over sit-in pickets

EASTLEIGH, Hampshire—There have been fresh developments in the fifth week of Strachans Engineering Works' occupation. Even as Giffapers, the parent company, were negotiating with the works management to sell the works on a "rental" basis, high Court summonses were being served on 24 pickets at the factory. The summons were due to be served at 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday. No one answered them.

Giffapers, who are desperate to sell the plant, were forced to agree that the High Court should hear the first potential buyers, Willenhall Motor Radiators, round the works on Monday.

Meanwhile Food the plant's role customers are writing to prospective buyers and are obviously as keen to get the occupation going as Giffapers are to sell the plant.

The company's double dealing has only accelerated the disintegration of the occupations. They are demanding full reinstatement for all those made redundant. This is before and full wages for everybody for the period of the occupation.

A delegation from Strachans went to Giffapers last week when they received considerable encouragement from Tony Yarrow, UCS, Afloat Motors and Singer.

Nonetheless more financial support is needed to carry the workers on to victory. Send to Bet Doyle, Works Committee, Strachans Engineering Works, Childerditch Lane, Eastleigh, Hants.

Free Shrewsbury pickets

There will be a lobby of parliament on Wednesday May 1 to demand that the Labour government release the seven jailed building workers and repeal the laws against picketing.
Leyland sack 100 in South Africa

by Alan Baldwin

The delegation from the TUC which visited South Africa last October advocated the employment of more black workers. In fact they proposed "opposition to British investment" where companies were not "encourag- ing and recognising genuinely independent trade unions for black African workers."

Following the House of Commons report on the conditions of black workers in South Africa, the TUC reaffirmed its commitment to black trade unions.

Recent developments in South Africa show how hollow such statements are and show also the hypocrisy of both British companies and the TUC. While British Leyland, the UK's largest manufacturer of cars, has been spending millions of pounds on recruitment and training of black workers, the TUC proposes to support the black workers who want to create a new black union."The company has no objections to trade unions, but the conditions of membership and the financial status of the new union are still a matter of contention."

Identified

The British TUC is trying to build up the TUCSA and to keep the black workers united. They have patronised links and the TUCSA make sure the TUC delegation got a good look at South Africa from the point of view of entrenched white racist interests. A "mission" in the puppet Kwamazulu banned by Barney Dladla, who has identified himself with black workers in Durban, reported on his recent meeting in London with the TUC that they are trying to make black unions in work- ing under TUCSA. Allan Hargreaves, the inter- national secretary of the TUC, is clearly trying to channel the proposed £100,000 for assisting black unions through TUCSA. This is totally un- acceptable to the new black unions.

The TUC can keep its money, and Dladla, TUCSA is not interested in black workers and never has been. It has done absolutely nothing in its 20 years of existence to improve con- ditions for African labour.

Independent black unions are a crucial step in the unfolding struggle in South Africa which needs every support from British workers. The TUC has conspicuously failed to recognise this, and more important, is now starting to turn its mind to a unionisation which will offer real solidarity with workers in South Africa. Workers at Leyland in Britain can offer more powerful support for their brothers by forcing the parent company to negotiate.

Sweden

Dockers on first official strike since war

SWEDEN saw its first official strike since the war last Friday when 3000 members of the independent Swedish Dockers' Union held a one-day strike as the climax of a two-week overtime ban.

Swedish workers suffer a far more bureaucratic trade union structure than British workers. The Swedish equivalent of the Industrial Relations Act has been in force since 1928. Each year the Labour Organisation, equivalent to the TUC, fixes wages for the entire labour force.

The Dockers' Union was until recently part of the Transport Union, but broke away when the Transport Union leaders decreed that the branch organ- isation in the Northern ports would be dissolved into much larger and more remote district branches. The Dockers refused and were expelled. They got immediate sup- port from the militant General-Guild dockers. The new union includes three-quarters of the country's dockers.

The immediate cause of the dis- pute is a claim for a pay increase and for control over overtime. At present the employees demand five hours overtime a day and Saturday and Sunday working.

Husted

Defected with the strike of 10 million workers in 1968, he showed him- self a show operator. He also was his big business contacts to suppress opposition to policies. Then, discreetly installing his old boss de Gaulle in the back, he became President in 1969.

It is already clear that there will be more than one right-wing candi- date for the coming elections, though the Socialists will go on to win a supposedly hushed tune during the means of this will occur.

The left will almost certainly be represented, by Francois Mitterrand, backed by the French Communist Party. Mitterrand is very much a politician. Back in the 1950's he was a partner in numerous anti- Communist alliances before he dis- covered that Communist voters were his best bet to win.

He was Home Secretary in 1954, when the people of Algeria launched their long struggle for freedom. He acted promptly—hanging the main Algerian nationalist party.

There is at least one outside chance that Mitterrand can win, given the splits in the right. If he does, the pace in France will certainly quicken.

PARA MILITARY thugs directed by Mexican police chief Gamboa Gamboa kidnapped Calderon Lara, a member of the Workers and Students Committee, in Yucatan, six weeks ago.

The kidnapping set off a wave of school and higher education strikes and a strike of the Independ- ent Trade Union Front. A mass demonstration in Merida City centre, demanding Calderon Lara's release, met with troops using guns and teargas. Students and workers defended the university building using boxes, felling trees and burning tyres as barricades.

The battle lasted for hours with many wounded and even more arrested. Afterwards a general strike was declared and many were being drafted into Merida every day.

Yucatan has been victims of foreign and absentee landlords, suffering government corruption and repres- sion at the first sign of protest.

The Mexican equivalent of the TUC, the CTM, works hand in glove with employers and government. At the height of the struggle against the Calderon Lara murder, the CTM were calling for increased force and repression against the workers and peasants in the independent trade union.

The guarantees minimum rights to workers are ignored in the Yucatan. CTM workers are given ballot boxes stuffed with votes for the ruling party—by pol- itics and government officials.

The seemingly endless patience of the oppressed in Yucatan has been broken. The workers and Students Committee of Merida have been forced to send messages for solidarity and support.

Meanwhile the new line of the Mexican Embassy demanding the withdrawal of US troops has been publicly rejected.
EVERYONE knows Janie Jones. She is serving a prison sentence for providing prostitutes for rich men, and is now standing trial at the Old Bailey accused of blackmailing some of the rich men gratified by those services.

For some reason, however, no one is allowed to know who the rich men are. By prior arrangement with the judge, the barristers and the hacks on the press bench, the names of the gentlemen whose curious tastes led to the prosecution in the first place are not broadcast.

Consider for instance the case of Mr Y. Mr Y was described in The Guardian last week as 'well known in a certain part of the North Sea area'. He had 'used' Janie Jones 'for a number of years'. He paid extra for girls who dressed up in school uniforms and for others who dressed up as their mothers. He had told the court, paid over several thousand pounds to Janie Jones to 'avoid publicity'.

**Suffered**

Now Mr Y is not Mr Y at all. He is Lord Y, or to be specific, Lord Y the 6th, brother-in-law of the Duke of Norfolk.

Lord Belper hasn't done anything in particular for most of his life, apart from establishing a reputation as a 'keen hunting man' and a 'successful business man', which he suffered an 'accident' while out hunting. A fellow huntsman shot him in the eye. The marksman was gamekeeper Ben Van Cutsem, who was described by the Saunders, who had been out that year at 'one of the best shots in town'.

Lord Belper is reported to have told police who were making inquiries into the Janie Jones case: 'If my name gets out, I'll commit suicide'.

The police have been made to understand by the other gentleman most associated with the Janie Jones blackmail trial, who is best known to students as Mr Z, the Chief Whip who is a regular client of Janie Jones' girls, whom he beat with varying ferocity.

In a scene which is said to have made even the most hardened court reporter, Mr Z. With the witless but unwary as he gave an account of the telephone calls which Janie Jones made to him in an attempt, usually successful, to get money out of him.

Mr Z, it appears, is Michael Morris, who described himself as a property dealer but is in fact a swindler of the first order.

This is not the first time Morris has been treated by British courts. In June last year, he was found guilty of fraud charges connected with the collapse of the Guardian Bank in 1967. When the bank collapsed, he had been persuaded to invest in Morris' prospective, were owed £474,754.00.

**Action**

Mr Justice Lawson found Morris guilty and ordered him to pay civil damages. He was also ordered to pay compensation for the proceeds of the fraud which he would have to pay back some of the defendants. Sentence was deferred for six months.

Morris is a close friend of Teddy Smith, head of Brenderston Finance, one of London's most interesting property speculation companies.

Last summer, Smith himself was in court over an action brought by Betty Fink, who had borrowed near £4,000 from Smith for making a film.

During the transaction, one of the film-makers, John Hamson, agreed to sell his house in Chelsea to Smith's nephew, Michael Morris. But when Morris tried to cut the sale price by £500, Hamson refused to sell. Immediately, Smith issued a writ for the recovery of the money for the film. Hamson said that Smith shouldered at him: 'I'll break you!' and despite Morris never got the house in Chelsea.

It seems like Morris should be afforded the protection of the courts when more 'ordinary', 'unimportant' evidence is over the national press almost every day it is published.

**Hard Labour**

I was interested to hear that my letter last week about the Labour MPs' miners' group, which cast doubt on the qualifications of Michael McGurk, hot favourite for the post of secretary of the group, was circulated anonymously among miners' MPs while they were voting. Mr McGurk is said to be 'very disillusioned' with the result, which was as follows:

- McGurk (Isle of Wight) 8
- Wilson (Hamilton) 8
- New ballot has been ordered.
Racism or profits the bar to reggae?

ROGER HUDDLE wrote (23 March) that black music like soul and reggae being kept from the broad mass of black people. I have only been reading the paper for about a month and I find it excellent. I am not exactly a political genius and a few of your articles are a bit above my head. One thing I do understand is the music—like Joe Hulme! Roger Huddle is well meaning but completely misinformed.

He says ‘Racism has long halted black music from reaching wider audiences, unless it’s someone like Sammy Davis Jr who gets big by leaving behind his roots and becoming a crooner.’

I suppose he means Stevie Wonder, James Brown, Marvin Gaye and Smokey Robinson in the same class as ‘Mozart’? They get regular airplay. The reason why reggae hasn’t got played is because it is the music of West Indian people of this country and they are a minority. The music is beautiful and everything else and makes a profit because giving them mass appeal by making them easy to listen to. Most people probably find Reggae totally alien—and so the record company makes no money.

I get extremely angry at the rubbish that is stuffed down our throats in the Sun, Indy. The press like include people from Germany, France and Ireland—and that’s even rarer on the radio. Should I accuse the BBC of prejudice?

It’s not only way out of this situation is a broadcasting system which would be based on quality, and not making a fast buck.

Racism in the workplace? Simply because music is a form of art and therefore culture and no society can remain civilised without it. It is out of the question whether it is capitalism, socialism or any other system. I would like to see a movement in support of the postal workers during the strike.

The lesson here is to achieve democracy within one’s own union. Then the members can decide what they want, not what some cowardly union officials tell them to do.

The officials’ attitude seems to be that workers holding a conference to unite large sections of the working class, to unite them in a common policy and make real progress against the system—good heavens whatever next?

Try revolution brothers and sisters—JOHN WORTH (As chair of the postal workers’ conference of the AUEW Coventry 74 branch).

Pro-imperialists wanted here

ONE EXACTS letters in Socialist Worker to reflect various opinions in the labour movement, but surely not of the inclusion of RPF’s letters (4 April) goes too far.

An especially pro-imperialist letter which pleads the case for our poor lads (who by implication are trying to themselves out of the situation) should never find its way into Socialist Worker and should, at the very least, have produced a rejoinder from the editor pointing out why it is that RPF’s son and his pals are always being asked to improve situations in Britain’s colonies and always, for some strange reason, seem to invite nothing but hatred from the local inhabitants.

I too have seen people shot down, they were Catholic workers murdered by the British Army. But comparing each side’s scale of violence is not the point at the central point.

The real point is that violence from British imperial domination of that country and also that we as socialists should do nothing about the oppressed against the oppressor.

Further, we see it as our job to destroy all illusions that workers have in the institutions of the capital state, such as the British Army.

Letters which question or criticise the IRA should of course be pestled but only if they are based on a genuine concern for the interests of fish and British workers. Letters like that of RPF which reflect nothing else but support for the British Army should be published in the paper—FADY FRIENDVILLE, Canada.

Mail Day action

The idea of a Mail Day action passed this motion unanimously. This branch welcomes the major report of the General Post Office has brought about since coming to power however we feel that it is deplorable that 1. The Shrewsbury prisoners have not been freed, 2. Stage Three has not been abolished. 3. The Clay Cross council have not had their financial penalties for refusing to implement the ‘Fair Rents’ Act set aside.

In view of the Labour government’s failure to act on these issues, we call on the TUC to prepare for mass strike action on 1 May to obtain justice for our fellow workers.

Copies have gone to Len Murray and our union headquarters and we hope other readers of Socialist Worker will follow our example.—BILL GEDES, Branch Secretary.

Rich parasites...on £20 a week

DURING the Election Campaign and before we heard a lot from Labour politicians about ‘...a massive shift in the distribution of wealth in favour of working people’. Good left wing stuffing of course. Mr Healey’s budget speech dealt twice with this theme.

Those wealthy unambitious parasites when I worked used to pay £12 a year. I got 4/- for tax and 1/- for poor law allowance. Income a lot more for the average working man today. For them the state takes a lot more from the man who has it then the man who has no money. When a supposedly left wing Labour government actually demand more it provides living proof that we have not got the party that would set about a massive shift in the distribution of wealth in a proper, action way.—PAUL HUTCHISON, Member, Catcheside Chapel of the National Union of Journalists.

PO BOX

Mail Points

Rascism or profits the bar to reggae?

THE FEAR of the Postal Workers Union bureaucracy that their branches would send delegates to the Rank and File conference at the end of March seemed to stem from worry that their power and authority would be challenged.

It seems incredible that workers in this union can be dictated to by selfish and cowardly officials. Are they the same people, assisted by officials from other unions who failed to mobilise, through their stupidity and inactivity, the huge movement in support of the postal workers during the strike?

The lesson here is to achieve democracy within one’s own union. Then the members can decide what they want, not what some cowardly union officials tell them to do.

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Letters which question or criticise the IRA should of course be pestled but only if they are based on a genuine concern for the interests of fish and British workers. Letters like that of RPF which reflect nothing else but support for the British Army should be published in the paper—FADY FRIENDVILLE, Canada.

Mail Day action

The idea of a Mail Day action passed this motion unanimously. This branch welcomes the major report of the General Post Office has brought about since coming to power however we feel that it is deplorable that 1. The Shrewsbury prisoners have not been freed, 2. Stage Three has not been abolished. 3. The Clay Cross council have not had their financial penalties for refusing to implement the ‘Fair Rents’ Act set aside.

In view of the Labour government’s failure to act on these issues, we call on the TUC to prepare for mass strike action on 1 May to obtain justice for our fellow workers.

Copies have gone to Len Murray and our union headquarters and we hope other readers of Socialist Worker will follow our example.—BILL GEDES, Branch Secretary.

Rich parasites...on £20 a week

DURING the Election Campaign and before we heard a lot from Labour politicians about ‘...a massive shift in the distribution of wealth in favour of working people’. Good left wing stuffing of course. Mr Healey’s budget speech dealt twice with this theme.

Those wealthy unambitious parasites when I worked used to pay £12 a year. I got 4/- for tax and 1/- for poor law allowance. Income a lot more for the average working man today. For them the state takes a lot more from the man who has it then the man who has no money. When a supposedly left wing Labour government actually demand more it provides living proof that we have not got the party that would set about a massive shift in the distribution of wealth in a proper, action way.—PAUL HUTCHISON, Member, Catcheside Chapel of the National Union of Journalists.

PO BOX

Mail Points

YOU'RE ON THE SLIDE...

The criticism of Labour’s desperate situation has been more diluted recently. The newspaper and magazine standards in Healey’s budget received scant criticism from the Labour Press. As if workers that will organise to force the politicians out of office are not too busy making ends meet and subsisting on food prices. This means workers are too busy to subscribe the profit of an already wealthy few. In this situation, our attitudes must continuously its recent decline will it be impossible to stop it from the Daily Mirror, TREVOR MEDIT, Stockport.

No you great!...find the paper indispensable for keeping up with what’s happening in England. I am particular abroad this especially, especially among the working class, of interest to me. I am a Socialist Worker is used as a fighting newspaper this is what I would certainly appreciate seeing an expanded version of this particular problem to the time of the last and not the one as Dunn has handled ‘Article Why Bigger Mergers?’ for our own time. I think you have a fine thing going on here. You should keep the articles that are moving in the right direction.BRUCE, Munich.

Ah, but what you really need is that the political correct of Socialist Worker plus a small section of space for the political correct (non-political) chess moves, TV, general and many others. More of various the newspapers of Marx, Engels, more on science, more marxist analysis of current events. More of this than ‘Morning Star in the way that it encourages articles on Europe’, say, an edition...not a revolutionary paper that has a confident political line like the Star.—C. MATLING

Sexism...if you trust woman as objects which exist to satisfy man’s needs, you see their existence in terms of these...Workers fail to see that woman’s existence in the world today is based in the same way as that of the postal workers. They feel that they are part of this and they are not all of that. The women’s movement in the past has been used to bear the load of the future. During the strikes, men and the women’s movement. That is why women, work for the women’s movement into the revolutionary movement.—JOHN VOYCE.
**Black fury at police squad terrorist tactics**

A WAVE of fury is building up among the small West Indian community on Teeside about the terror tactics of the local police, especially the Teeside Drug Squad.

Jim Murray, a steelworker in Cleveland works, who is chairman of the Teeside West Indian Association, said: "The police want to give every black man in the area a record. We are getting sick and tired of being harried around."

"We are going to get together with other black workers and trade unionists to defend ourselves against these assaults."

locked

The most recent case which is infuriating West Indians in the area is that of Derwin Simpson. Last July Devon and his girlfriend were at a night club in Huddersfield, where his girlfriend's brother was a guest. The following day, police called at the girl's house and asked her to come down to the station for questioning about the affair. They agreed that Devon could come along to keep her company. Their car was locked in a separate cell and searched. CID officers arrived from Huddersfield, and took a statement from the girl, who was released. Devon asked if he could go with her, but was told: 'No, the drug squad want you.'

Without informing him, and without a warrant, they searched his house and car, using keys which they had taken off him when searching him. Refusing to show the warrant, they told him that they had found cannabis, and that he would be charged.

He was not allowed to get in to see a lawyer before he was charged.

Twice in the next six months he was remanded on bail. He pleaded not guilty to the drug charge, and asked to be tried at the Crown Court.

On 4 March the case finally came to the Teeside Crown Court. Without any proper explanation, the police dropped the case.

The following Friday, Devon was walking down the road in Gillies Street, where he lives, when a police car drew up alongside him with two plain-clothes squad officers inside. They shouted at him to come to them, but he broke and ran. The officers, who had soon caught him, took him to the police station, stripped him, held him in custody for some time and finally, when they could find nothing, released him.

Devon went straight from the station to see his lawyer. When he got home some time later he found that his house had been broken into. All his bedclothes had been ripped up and the mattresses torn into shreds.

The Derwin Simpson case follows a long line of incidents in which, the West Indians in Teeside allege, the local police have beaten and harassed innocent black people.

Ignored

Jim Murray himself says he was beaten up by 12 police officers last year after his car was stopped in the road.

"All the complaints we make have been given to Superintendent James in Thornaby," said Jim. "He is friendly with the police in Middlesbrough. Although he is always very polite, and promises that 'this is not a bad job', they neither tell us anything, nor do we get satisfaction from our complaints."

"They are always keen to be ignored or forgotten."

The Simpson case is the last straw. Now we have to get together with other black groups and we have to raise the question in the trade unions. If the complaints system is no good, we'll have to find better ways of defending ourselves."

Duncan Hallas

A 50¢ copy of 'Selling the News' (text in its entirety) to be sent to a friend for free.
Mortgages: Why the roof fell off

FROM the vantage point of his desirable residence in Lord North Street, Harold Wilson is very worried about mortgage interest rates.

Not, you will be pleased to hear, because he is worried about his own repayments. His concern is because failure to hold down mortgage rates will mean lost votes. The 14 per cent repayment rate permitted on a mortgage last year is likely any day unless urgent measures are taken.

One thing the commentators, politicians and political soothsayers agree on is that an important reason for the Tories’ downfall was their complete failure to control the mortgage front.

With this awful warning before his eyes Harold Wilson has set the ‘socialist’ millionaire Harold Lever to find a solution. But there is a solution that falls short of trusting housing, all housing as a social service, completely divorced from the pitfalls of the money markets.

On the face of it the solution is comparatively simple. The building societies are non-profit making bodies who borrow from investors at one rate and loan it at higher rates to house buyers. The difference covers administration and the 10 per cent cash reserve legally required to meet withdrawals.

For years this simple transaction worked well. Mortgage holders had the pleasant illusion of home ownership and in recent times their repayments increased at a much slower rate than those paying rent.

Vicious

While house prices remained comparatively stable there were more working-class people who end in the wearing of a coat. To buy a would have been better off selling it than waiting years for a council house or a site for a rented house in the rapidly declining private sector. The Tories got a whole new constituency opening up on them in a hurry, proud, house-owning, Tory-voting workers.

Then came the bubble burst. Tory policy and international economic problems gave a vicious twist to inflation. Land and house prices took off. In London and the South East house prices doubled, then tripled. The increases were not spectacular but they were meaningful. The increases took place throughout the country.

The seemingly insoluble problem of rising inflation caused a crisis of confidence in money. People preferred property, works of art, precious gems and gold.

Most dearbly of all, land and property prices rose. Lack of confidence in money meant interest rates went up, those who loaned money to building societies went up too.

The Tories attempted to slow this spiral down by a direct subsidy to the building societies of £115 million. The effect was short-lived and repayment rates went up to 11 per cent. Working-class borrowers: mortgage holders found that they were cut down and deeper into their living standards to pay the mortgage. Those who had scrimped and saved to get the deposit for an overpriced house found the scrapping was to go on indefinitely.

All sorts of solutions have been suggested to short-circuit the effects of inflation.

Jim Higgins investigates.

The building societies would like a two-tier interest rate for those who are able to pay. Giving, say, 9 per cent for deposits of less than £10,000 and much higher rates for deposits of over £10,000.

Although this would undoubtedly bring in more money it would have serious drawbacks. The average rate of interest would be higher, so mortgage rates would have to be increased.

Again the overwhelming number of people who put money in building societies are small savers. The people with £10,000 or more to invest are getting much higher rates of interest elsewhere in such anti-social activities as commodity speculation. A two-tier rate would do nothing for the small saver—because it would not raise interest rates for them—and would have to compete with the banks and finance houses to win the big investors so causing pressure for higher and higher interest rates, all of which have to be paid for with higher mortgage repayments.

Capitalism has once again, and convincingly, proved its inability to provide reasonable housing at reasonable prices. Housing is far too important to be left to the free traders of capitalism. Labour should stop reassuring the City of London of their dedication to the profit system and remove housing from the world of interest rates and the building societies.

Housing, decent housing, is the absolute right of every worker. It must be a social service integrating private rented, council and single home ownership. There are enough houses in Britain today to provide every family with their own home.

The demand must be for housing as a social service, regardless of the property magnates and their vested interests.

Saved

The basic faliacy of all the schemes for offering higher interest rates to attract the small saver is that he or she just stops saving in times of rapid inflation. The money just gets spent.

In February this year, for the first time since before the war, the money taken out of National Savings was more than that put in—by £8 million. The same is happening to building societies.

In the past 12 months prices went up by more than 13p in the £ and wages after tax by between 9p and 10p in the £. But spending has hardly fallen, for people are finding what otherwise they would have saved—and even savings they have made in the past.

Whatever financial manipulation Harold Lever dreams up, it will be only a matter of time before the hard reality of the money market breaks through and repayment rates increase again.

Today, even if the building societies have more money to lend, the price of houses puts them quite outside the reach of all but the highest-paid workers. Thousands of working-class home owners face the prospect of not being able to pay the higher rates, having their mortgages foreclosed and losing their houses.

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Frogs triumphant as Labour snubs rent rebels

CLAY CROSS DOUBLE-CROSSED

WORKERS at Clay Cross, Derbyshire, who risked their livelihood in the fight against the government have been snubbed by the Labour government in its first month of office. The councilors who refused to implement the Tory rate Act. They saved the council tenants of their town pounds in unpaid rents. As a result, they were fined £700 by the Tory housing commissioner.

The party Conference had agreed to support. Last week a motion was tabled to allow the councilors to return to their unpaid rents. As a result, they were fined £700 by the Tory housing commissioner.

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by

Paul

Foot

Charters to the imprisonment and execution of militants and trade unionists all the way down the line. The Shrewsbury pickets trial in 1973, the story is one of the laws being used to protect the people who own property from the people who produce it.

The class which controls property controls the laws. 86 per cent of the judges, who are not elected, are educated at public school.

The entire legal profession is drawn almost exclusively from one class.

That class uses its laws for its own purposes. If necessary, as with the recent House of Lords decision on the Immigration Act, it will make law retrospectively. In that case, it referred the law back to 'catch' illegal immigrants who came in legally before the Act was passed.

Again, if necessary, the ruling class is prepared retrospectively to ignore such laws.

Yes, it happened at Compton in Yorkshire in 1973.

From October 1972, the all-Labour council in that small Yorkshire town defied the Housing Finance Act and refused to raise rents. In January 1973, the council was held in public inquiry into the town's accounts, and found that they were in deficit by £14,470 because of the councilors' action. He announced that the sum would have to be raised by surcharging the councilors.

By this time, however, the fight was going out of the Compton councillors. As one councillor, Tom Bacon, told Socialist Worker: 'We were like trees in the wind.'

On 1 February, a delegation of five councilors who had voted against implementation suddenly left for London on a secret mission. They went to the Department of the Environment where they were locked in discussion with a 'senior Minister'.

Miraculously, when the five councilors returned to Compton, they were all in favour of implementation. Only Tom Bacon, out of 15 councilors, voted to keep the rents down. Evidently miraculously, the surcharge was never mentioned again. It was never paid, and was never demanded.

The Tories, in other words, were prepared to sacrifice the rule of law and public funds in order to win a strategic victory over the Compton councillors.

The Tories make laws, reverse laws, ignore laws, make laws retrospectively to protect their property and increase it at the expense of the workers.

Labour, on the other hand, respects the law above all other considerations. Its own supporters, its fighters and its martyrs must suffer in the interests of a 'neutral' law which imposed the suffering in the first place.

REPLACE

Labour behaves in this ridiculous way because its leaders hate the idea of class struggle. They imagine that capitalism can be reformed by getting hold of parliamentary office through the ballot box, and then controlling the institutions of society.

Crocodile writes in his book, 'There is no substitute for institutions with their bureaucracies, rules, clerks and computers. Of course one must reform or replace them if they become outworn, but one cannot simply abolish them; they are the only instruments of social reform.'

Crocodile forgets that the vote which gives him nominal power over these institutions is not granted by the institutions. It

Clay Cross tenants march against the rent rises during the confrontation with the Tories a year ago.
Abortion—a right

by Barbara Kerr

THREE FAT VOLUMES of the Lane Committee's findings on abortion in Britain become official this week.

The committee has spent a long three years studying information from many people and groups and the medical profession, groups opposed to the Abortion Act, especially the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child—and from members of the women's liberation movement campaign for abortion on demand. The results do not dishonour either SPUC or women's liberation, but conclude that the Act has 'mainly worked well'. Because the strongest opponent has been SPUC the report spends time defending the Act against allegations that it is some kind of a blow to the point of 'abortion on demand'.

This has not happened—and in some cases doctors have been interesting themselves in genuine changes in the social climate.

But women's rights are still not being considered as they should. The Lane Committee, like many other groups, says nothing about the need of ordinary women in the day-to-day struggle to keep the family going.

If the decision on abortion was taken in the age of the world, few would no longer be true that one in four of all babies born are unplanned and unwanted.

The Lane Committee does propose that the National Health Service provide abortion at an even more rapid tempo, but the idea of every student able to take what is seen as a legal right to abortion is an idea whose time has not yet come.

Women—and so it is better to have a child than to have an unwanted one, and that children are considered to be the solution to poverty and bad housing.

Power

But why are people condemned to living like that? Why are the poor people, who are the only people who have an effective contraceptive on demand. We must care about the lives of women as well as about children's. If children are going to grow up.

Until then we have no real legal right to an abortion. It is a man who decides—upper-class men in the legal profession who make the laws, priests living in celibacy who impose religious laws and doctors who are mainly men.

In so far as they have the vague understanding of the problems faced by ordinary women in the day-to-day struggle to keep the family going. If the decision on abortion was taken in the age of the world, few would no longer be true that one in four of all babies born are unplanned and unwanted.

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Ford and Mr Big

THE MOTOR SHOW has just finished at a galaxy of cars: the Motor Show. The Editor takes a look at the cars, the people, and the future of the industry, and finds that the car industry is not in a healthy state.

Mr Big, representing the Ford Motor Corporation, at work.

Photo: Noble Clarke

Dagenham plant took up the story. When we questioned that actors were rehearsing a play about Ford, we were a bit sceptical at first and didn't think much of it. But once we met them we could see at once that they were very sincere. Quite a few of the audience had conducted their own research, and had come together to organize a new theatre company. They are planning to present the play directly from and feed directly into the community.

The group's experience ranges right through from commercial plays to socialistic pantomimes, which toured Cardiff, Newbridge and Mardy last Christmas. They have tried their trade in the 'official' theatre and in its equally middle-class experimental variants.

Steve Gooch, the Motor Show's co-author says, 'We know that its possible to get quite excited about the car industry and feel a complete waste of effort because it still goes to the wrong people. We want a different, working class audience. We want them to sit up permanently in an outer London borough and take on a whole new series of problems. There is a whole hidden area of their lives together, every working day, which simply doesn't get expression at the moment.'

Tommy Osmond an AUEW steward at the Ford plant said:

One man's wife who used to mean about union work 'won't have that' and spent the night trying to persuade him to go on strike'.

Mr Big, a thinly disguised Henry Ford, a blustering, cigar smoking, brother-in-law, in a scene which see balance sheets where people stand. He doesn't want trade unions interfering with his business. But the audience knows the scores: they can see first hand what the line is really like.

Goon was impressed with the section of the play that deals with the battle to organize the Ford motor car company and says it's not overdone. I could personally vouch for the accuracy. I did my first job at Ford as a boy aged 14. I can remember clearly that in those days you only had to show your union ticket and you were out.

'I still don't think that the majority of todays Ford workers quite realise what we're up against. Because, let's face it, Ford hasn't altered his methods. He's just had to get a bit more subtle about things.'

Goon is proud to have helped with the production. 'The actors have done a really good job dramatising the issues. I only wish we had something like this on Strewth which would really bring across what it is at stake. I actually feel a bit ashamed that we didn't sell more tickets because if we had it would have been overflowing every night by rights. It's particularly good to bring your family along to. To be perfectly honest a lot of wives don't really see us as a family. What is done is all about. It's not their fault because by the time you've got home, you've often too tired out to really explain it all. But this play really explains things.

The price of admission is just a tenner for union members and ten times that for non-members, or in fact no admission at all if they come as a group of five or more.

The whole production was a gesture of support from the car industry towards the Ford workers. It is clear that the car industry is not in a healthy state.

Consuming the night away

AMERICAN GRAFFITI (general release)

It is a film about one night in the life of a group of teenagers in a small California town in 1962. Nostalgia is the key word in the film's title as it is the moment when it is all so good. If the audience really wants to sit down and watch the film, they will not be disappointed. A sense of nostalgia, as well as the thread which holds the film together. Nothing much happens in American Graffiti. A fight, a dance, a break-up in a hot rod, a couple of broken love affairs.

In the mid-1970s with political scandal, economic crisis and military coup the days of the late 1950s and early 1960s have achieved a glamour which they never had at the time. America in particular was a country which was just going to go on getting richer, smugger and glozier.

'It was peaceful then,' says middle class nostalgia, lying as usual. 'It's all real now.' says Watergate, a Vietnam or even the Beatles.

So what was there? In the film, Chevrolet's cruise endlessly up and down Main Street, backed in moon lights, the 1962 pretend never was. Edsels, a Vroom or even the Beatles.

The film's theme is really about the people and the places, the social and political life of the time. It is a film which offers a postscript of what happens to the heroes of the past in the film. It is a film which offers a postscript of what happens to the heroes of the past in the film. They must have just got married suppose?

TV Suffragettes

THE SUFFRAGETTES were some of the most important women in British history. They have always been remembered as a series on it. It's worth watching.

The first episode last week, was on the lives of the Suffragettes and how they became an important group in the fight for women's rights. The programme was presented by a special guest, the Prime Minister's wife, Barbara Castle.

The second episode, which was broadcast on Wednesday, was on the history of women's rights, and how they have developed over the years. It was presented by a special guest, the First Lady, Mrs. Castle

The programme was written by the brilliant historian, Dr. Castle, and was presented by the Prime Minister's wife, Barbara Castle.

It is important that we learn about them, as they are not just a part of historical interest but because we can learn by their mistakes (of which there were many) and from their successes, how to fight for our rights in the future.
THE Unions

WHAT WE STAND FOR

The International Socialist is a democratic organisation whose membership is open to all who accept its main principles and who are willing to pay contributions and to work in one of its organisations.

We believe in independent working-class action for the abolition of capitalism 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 a policy of internationalism.

Capitalism is international. The giant firms have investments throughout the world and owe no allegiances except to themselves and the economic system they maintain.

In Europe, the Common Market has been formed for the sole purpose of increasing the trade and profits of these multinational firms.

The international power of capitalism can only be overcome by international action by the working class.

A single socialist state cannot indefinitely survive unless workers of other countries actively come to its aid by extending the socialist revolution.

In addition to building a revolutionary socialist organisation in this country, we also believe in the necessity of forming a world revolutionary socialist international independent of either Washington or Moscow. To this end we have close relationships with a number of other socialist organisations throughout the world.

We believe in the necessity to unite socialist parties in 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.

We fight:

For rank and file control of the trade unions and the right of the membership of all full-time officials.

Against secret diplomacy. We believe that all settlements should be agreed or rejected by full meetings.

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

Against the control of the law and courts and the right to strike, whether the strikes are “official” or “unofficial”.

For equal pay and a better deal for young workers.

Against the use of union laws and anti-union laws.

For militant trade union unity and joint shop stewards committee in both the plant and on a central basis.

For a world socialist movement.

For independence for the Free People's Republics.

Against secret diplomacy.

Against world imperialism. We unconditionally give support to and solidarity with all genuine national liberation movements.

We are opposed to the interference of the law and courts and the right to strike, whether the strikes are “official” or “unofficial”.

For equal pay and a better deal for young workers.

Against union laws.

For a world socialist movement.

For independence for the Free People's Republics.

Against secret diplomacy.

ABOLITION

There is a great deal of support for the idea that the country because teachers, like other workers, see the fact that the system of living is being cut to pieces by inflation.

An immediate vote will take place over the future salary policy of the unions. The motion which received the largest vote in the country for attention at the conference was put forward by supporters of the militants’ teachers’ paper Rank and File.

This calls for the narrowing of the salary range from £1450 to £6450—and for the eventful abolition.

Abolition will take place in an incomplete position to present union policy.

The union executive put off the mark quickly to prevent the motion being brought up. They did not make the round-up, and an executive member took over all motions to stop the high the vote.

In all, the executive have produced four memoranda for this conference, but only on this one tactic increasing as the strength of Rank and File grows.

DANGER VOTE OVER PICKETS

THE Labour government’s draft legislation to repeal and replace the Industrial Relations Act is carefully designed to restrict the chances of conceding the right to picket.

The document says the right of peaceful picketing will be retained as in the 1906 Tindale Debates Act, though the picketing of houses is excluded, as it was in the Industrial Relations Act.

The draft also concides that pickets should be able to stop lorries and other vehicles in order to inform the driver about the dispute.

But it also includes one important reservation. The Secretary for Employment is to have the power to make regulations ‘governing the manner and circumstances in which the right to picket peacefully is exercised.’

This may sound harmless. But in fact it is very serious indeed. It gives a government minister power to intervene in any picketing situation and declare this or that aspect of it to be illegal.

A footnote to the section on picketing makes it clear that the Labour government want all trade unionists to fight employers with the maximum possible restraint and in accord with laws drawn up over the years on behalf of the employers. The document specifically commends the National Union of Mineworkers’ 1974 picketing tactics when pickets were restricted to a maximum of six, the document notes with joy, and ‘potentially dis- ruptive elements from outside the industry’ were ‘rejected and dis- missed from the scene.’

ROTTERING

The most serious aspect of the situation is that the Labour government’s civil liberties rhetoric is being swallowed whole by the TUC. They have welcomed Michael Foot’s scheme without exercise of any disciplinary at all to any of their 600,000 members, and instead have given the power to a government minister to declare legal or illegal any picketing situation and declare this or that aspect of it to be illegal.

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Militancy

Against the concept of militancy.

We believe in democratic working-class action for the abolition of capitalism and for the implementation of a classless society with production for use and not for profit.

We are opposed to the interference of the law and courts and the right to strike, whether the strikes are “official” or “unofficial”.

For equal pay and a better deal for young workers.

Against union laws.

For a world socialist movement.

For independence for the Free People's Republics.

Against secret diplomacy.

Against world imperialism. We unconditionally give support to and solidarity with all genuine national liberation movements.

We are opposed to the interference of the law and courts and the right to strike, whether the strikes are “official” or “unofficial”.

For equal pay and a better deal for young workers.

Against union laws.

For a world socialist movement.

For independence for the Free People's Republics.

Against secret diplomacy.

ABOLITION

There is a great deal of support for the idea that the country because teachers, like other workers, see the fact that the system of living is being cut to pieces by inflation.

An immediate vote will take place over the future salary policy of the unions. The motion which received the largest vote in the country for attention at the conference was put forward by supporters of the militants’ teachers’ paper Rank and File.

This calls for the narrowing of the salary range from £1450 to £6450— and for the eventual abolition.

Abolition will take place in an incomplete position to present union policy.

The union executive put off the mark quickly to prevent the motion being brought up. They did not make the round-up, and an executive member took over all motions to stop the high the vote.

In all, the executive have produced four memoranda for this conference, but only on this one tactic increasing as the strength of Rank and File grows.

BOOKSHOPS

This week, on black politics.

Two pamphlets by Vince Hines: 'BRITAIN, THE BLACK MAN AND THE FUTURE'—looks at the problems faced by black men and women at work and in the unions, at housing problems, and especially at black relations with the police. There is a good section on the Mangrove Nine Trial of 1971.

'BLACK YOUTH AND THE SURVIVAL GAME IN BRITAIN'—looks at the life of black youth in the home and at school, as young workers. It also covers police brutality, miscellaneous, prison and also has its own 'Prison Letters', 30p.

Please add 6p for postage on pamphlets. 7p for books.
Socialist Worker

The debate on our future

THE larger part of the IS National Committee meeting last Saturday was taken up with a long discussion on the content, readership and future of Socialist Worker.

Tony Cliff moved a document entitled Making Socialist Worker into a Workers' Paper. The document called for a closer relationship between the worker and its workers/reader. It gave the results of an IS-reader survey which showed that the paper has not developed a mass sale in factories and at places of work. It argued that the content and style of the paper made too many assumptions about the political understanding of the paper's new and potential readership. It called for an increase in short, political articles; an improvement in trade union coverage and international coverage, and an increase in the paper's staff to allow greater freedom from deadlines and some communication with the workers and the readers/worker.

Cliff said that the paper was selling mainly to young workers with little experience. What we have to do is raise the level of their consciousness. The paper at present was making too many assumptions about what workers knew. It assumed, for instance that all the readers were opposed to Zionism. In fact, the arguments against Zionism had to be spelt out in simple terms. "The more complicated the argument the more simple the article should be," said Cliff.

Advanced

Roger Protz then moved a resolution where four main proposals were put:
1. The paper's future growth must keep in step with the political growth of IS.
2. The main orientation of the paper must be towards the politically advanced sections of the workers.
3. In general, 'the current style and content of the paper is correct', though 'improvements were necessary.' That the paper be kept fully informed of the programmes and perspectives of IS industrial work.

Roger said that his resolution was not a call for the status quo. The paper had changed greatly in the past year. But the present balance must not be changed drastically.

Producing Cliff's kind of paper would cause a reaction from advanced workers against it, if they felt it was talking down to them. If they are the people who have to sell it, they must write to sell it.

He then asked for a 'definite decision' to be taken by the National Committee.

Chris Harman said that Cliff's document did not represent the position of the paper's politics. We have argued that the traditional organization of trade union work is being discredited. New activists are being thrown up. We have to make Socialist Worker their weapon.

Since the debate, it is clear that the balance of the paper was by and large correct. Cliff's document was not intended as a substitute, but in its recommendations.

Resistance

Chris Davison agreed that the paper at present made far too many articles about political questions - 'about law and order', for example. He thought a resistance to change in the paper was what was necessary. He said that Cliff was seeking a journalistic solution to a political problem. He said that the executive didn't want to move into the week-to-week political analysis of the paper.

Paul Foot, who had signed Cliff's document, said that he had changed considerably for the better after a new executive had been elected last summer, and had started to criticise the editorial board. The criticisms had been 'an inside job'. But it was clear that the direction of the paper was still too dependent on random sales and was required in the document was vital if the paper was not to lose its present readership.

Peter Bain said that the figures in the document didn't tell us anything about the paper's audience. The document was a series of good ideas, but didn't do any more than the existing paper to cope with the main problems of the Labour movement-wage restraint and the Labour government. We had to 'get up the militants to deal with this problem.'


Socialism made simple

THE IS Training Committee, meeting in London last Saturday, drew up arrangements for a series of special summer schools to be held over the summer in Glasgow, Newcastle, Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Manchester and London.

The schools will feature lectures and discussions on John Maclean, Tynedale in the General Strike, George Orwell and the 1930s, Post-Revolution Russia, Ireland and England's Manchester.

Well-known speakers on these subjects—among members of IS—have accepted invitations to speak at the schools.

Roger Croxley and Bob Lanley have prepared a tape on the life of Lenin and the October Revolution. Slides of photographs from the period have been arranged to be shown simultaneously with the tape. The picture shows above a scene in Petrograd on the morning after the revolution. Chris Davison is producing an edited tape-recorded version of Tony Cliff's lectures on Lenin for use in 16 branches.

Two pamphlets have also been prepared and will soon be in circulation: Lenin, by Paul Ginsborg, and Ireland, by Chris Harman.

Articles

Roger Cox said that selling the paper didn't provoke an argument about the look of the paper. It was just a matter of difficulty in getting a lad who writes regularly in the Carworker to feel this contributed to Socialist Worker. Not getting articles written by the trade union press. He said, extremely dangerous.

Ron Murphy said he was supporting the resolution and opposing the document. Socialist Worker, he found, sold well in his factory and it would be a great pity to change the existing balance.


Rank and file 'bamboozled'

HARLOW—More than 70 people turned out last Thursday to hear Paul Foot speak on The Need for a Workers' Paper. Paul spoke about the link between the press bosses of Fleet Street and the way the Labour Party and the TUC had buried their own mass-circulation newspapers, the Mirror and the Daily Mirror.

During a lively discussion, Francis Day (UNI) called for more international coverage in Socialist Worker. He said international developments couldn't be discussed in the paper for 'foreign affairs', but showed 'a complete loss of contact with the workers and linking workers struggles abroad with struggles here.'

John Kerr, Engineers' Union shop steward and chairman of the Harlow Group of workers, who spoke about the role of trade union editing, said that many workers in his hospital had just hung the paper on the rails. They had read the whole paper, he said, but the rank and file would have been bamboozled if they had not been won over to this attitude and it was against their interests.

Six join IS

BURTON-ON-TRENT, Staffs—A successful meeting was held last Saturday at which Roger Klime, from the IS executive, and 15 members in Coventry (Vernon) and British Leyland spoke on the Labour Party and the need for a socialist alternative. Six of the nine new members joined (four from Burton) and a branch is expected to be formed in Burton shortly.

WHAT'S ON

COMING SOON: The Politics of Lenin and the October Revolution tape released by the IS, price £3.00.

LUTTE OUVRIERE: free talk by Victor Goms about poetry of revolutionary France, May 11, 8pm, 316 Old Kent Road, London SE1.

WANDSWORTH IS public meeting to discuss the National Executive resolutions, May 11, 8pm, 137 Telegraph Road, London SW17.

NORTH WEST LONDON IS public meeting: The role of the IS, May 12, 8pm, 247 Fallowfield Road, Manchester M14.

DONCASTER IS public meeting: Workers and the cost of living, Speckled Paul Food, May 12, 8pm, 160 Winteringham Crescent, Doncaster.

WANTED: two London-based IS members to work part-time on IS posters, leaflets, etc. Day work (from home), May 11-13, £8.00 per day. Contact IS, 14 Cliff Road, London NW1.

SOCIALIST WORKER STICKERS: we are now offering stickers for sale to IS members for £2.50 per 100. A choice of five styles, each for £1.00. Last orders are due by May 12. Order from IS, 14 Cliff Road, London NW1.


CENTRAL LONDON IS vacant post, national responsibility secretary,for IS national directory. Closing date May 20. Further details from IS, 14 Cliff Road, London NW1.

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**NO SURRENDER!**

Rank and file conference tells the bosses...

The annual conference of the National Union of Students met in Birmingham in November 1971. 18 students attended as delegates or observers of their universities. 154 students attended as observers of the University of London. The conference was chaired by the national vice-chairman, and the president of the University of Kent, and the deputation was due to be reported to the university for increased grants.

In an emergency, the union executive, the main resolution called for a mass national student strike on 31st January and for a national rally in London early in May. The Whithaf, of Reading UK, failed to amend the resolution to put some teeth into it. It is designed to direct action to mark the 15th anniversary of the struggle against the occupation of the university by the students. It is designed for a continued policy of direct action in support of the pickets and a rejection of any reliance on the Labour government. The conference furthermore adopted an executive amendment calling for yet another lobby of parliament.

**Militants**

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**Action**

The facts of the matter are different. Socialist Action has put its own candidate forward for president, IS members candidated about a fifth of the total vote. 94 members agreed that they would vote for IS, and neither should side with either of the candidates. 

The meeting at the “Brew” was also attended by members of the University of Kent, and the deputation was due to be reported to the university for increased grants.

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Fidelity radio workers angry

WEST LONDON—Low pay, bad conditions and a tyrannical management at the Fidelity radio factory are being fought by an angry work

force. A recent mass meeting of the 350 workers to discuss unionisation led to 30 workers joining the Engineers' Union there and then.

There is no lack of issues for them to fight. To start with Fidelity, who last year increased their profits by 130 per cent, pay some workers as little as 25s an hour.

The dreadful conditions include a fire exit blocked by wire mesh and heavy boxes.

Since I've been here there's never been a fire drill. If a fire started, whatever the boss wants us to be fired alive,' one worker commented. 'And the air is full of dust and dirt which could catch light if a fire started."

The reason for the bad atmosphere is simple. Fidelity provide no ventilation, so as well as the dusty air, workers suffer in winter and faint from the heat in summer. One girl who passed out at her bench got the sack.

Forbidden

Another girl, who was pregnant, was refused time off to go for an appointment and a hospital for attention to a damaged ankle.

The other main grievances at the plant are the long hours and the arbitrary bonus scheme. "Overtime is compulsory, but the bonus is whatever the boss wants it to be," a worker said. "It up one week and down the next and you never really know why. You're liable to lose half a week's bonus if you go sick on a Friday or Saturday. Going sick isn't allowed by this firm anyway."

But though the issues are clear, minority problems remain, such as the under 18, time off for medical appointments, an agreed bonus scheme and an end to compulsory overtime—the list has only just begun.

The worker face mass sackings, redundancies and 'victimisation', but they are deter

ed to build the union at Fidelity.

Strike against phase 3

SCOTLAND—Workers in Anderson Motors, Carluke, near Glasgow, are taking action over a £6-8 hour difference between them and the group of Mosteller workers.

The Cleveland workers are on a one-day strike Wednesday, and on at least 15-20 workers from both groups. The strikes are scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, and are likely to be followed by others.

Meanwhile, Mosteller workers themselves are on a total strike for more pay.

International Socialists

If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and would like more information, you would like to join the International Socialists, then send this form to: The International Socialists, E Cottons Gardens, London E2 BDN
NALGO PUT LABOR TO THE TEST

by Geoff Wooff and Gordon Peters

LONDON—The flat refusal by Michael Foot and Harold Wilson to concede an interim increase in London allowances for NALGO members in local authority and the electricity industry is resulting in the biggest outbreak of industrial action in the union’s history.

The Greenwich computer branch and sections of Cundon Council white-collar workers have been on strike for a month.

Last week, they were joined by 1,500 members of Islington branch, and telephonists and others at Kennington, Southwark and Tower Hamlets. Sixteen branches are also banning overtime.

A further evolution of the action is due in the GLC, where collective strikes at Havering, Walthamstow and Redbridge, among others, have also been taking strike action. By the middle of April, over half of London’s 50,000 white-collar council workers will be involved in strikes or overtime bans for the extra £4-f00 claim.

NALGO has instructed members to withdraw from the voluntary work of managing polling stations during the local elections.

The judgment day for the union’s insistence on standing on the Tory pay laws has incurred many NALGO members. Despite the claims of general secretary Geoff Dear, NALGO members are not a special case. Teachers, transport workers, dentists, and civil servants all have claims for increased London allowances. Joint action at rank and file level is in all of these sections is now essential.

NALGO leaders met a brick wall from Michael Foot on 1 April.

DECISIVE

The downpour of the official union news notes—the £4-f00 claim is now a year old—mutes the rank and file have got fed up with the running joke to fight.

The need now is to spread the battle to the industrial action. But the NALGO leadership has no plans for doing this, through rank and file initiatives for decisive action is increasing.

The dispute is shaping up to a major test for the Labour government. NALGO members are taking the lead against compulsory wage control and if Harold Wilson, who is expected to pronounce this week on ‘reparations cases’, toes the line of the Conservative Party Capitalism, then Islington is in for a long, drawn-out and damaging implication for every sector of the economy.

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NALGO pickets in Islington make the point. PICTURE: Christopher Davies (Report)

Picket against killer dust

LONDON—Laggers working for Medway Insulation has found from better appreciation that the old laws employer obey are those that don’t affect them.

Three weeks ago nine Medway workers employed on a de-lagging job at Department of Power station insisted on being given proper safety equipment. They were expected to take down lagging made from blue asbestos, the most deadly strain of a killer fibre, which causes asbestos and lung cancer.

Management’s reply to the men’s request for safety masks and suits, which they should provide by law, was to give them the sack.

The men started picketing the site. But management brought in anained labour to do the job. At this point the men’s union, the General and Municipal, moved in and made their strike official. The union was concerned that untrained labour would be used on an extensive de-lagging programme in power stations.

On Friday last week Medway Insulation caved in and conceded all the men’s demands. But when they showed up for work on Monday this week, Medway bosses once again declined to give the men masks.

But the workers, standing absolutely firm and insisting on proper health protection.

Hospital sparks over wages

SCOTLAND—200 electricians employed by the National Health Service in West of Scotland hospitals came out on strike on Monday. They are seeking pay parity with electricians in the contracting industry.

Hospital electrician’s wages are negotiated through the Whitley Council, which has kept them on a low basic rate. Last year, after months of argument, an investigation committee recommended hospital electrician’s wages should be increased to match the construction industry.

The process of bringing the hospital electrician up to parity began last year. Now, the recent £2.30 to £2.80 comparing increase has put them behind again. The NIESU referred these increases to the Pay Board.

The West of Scotland electricians have been making contact with other electrical unions in London, Manchester, and Leeds, seeking their support. On Monday night the Glasgow branch, representing 4,000 electricians called for the strike to be made official. All Electricians Union members should support them in their right.

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Turning point in the 130m run

KINGSTON-100m runner on the track scene, up and down on track and field, in London and overseas, who has made most serious and management attempts to break agreements on the basis of the plant, making crankshafts, have already stopped work. The solution cannot be found easily and the plant will grind to a halt in three weeks.

Stamping lock-out goes on

KINGSTON-The lock-out of the 130m run incident, upon the lock-out of the River Don lock-outs is continuing. The 100m run and the 100m run-makers who get only goods left to go and get back to the plant. 60 of the 700 workers were to be told off this week and the whole plant will grind to a halt in three weeks.

Management are trying to get the men to accept a 10% pay increase, but are not getting any sympathy from the workers.

Ealling Extra: £24.50, Hounslow £20.00, Harrow £18.00, Slough £16.00, Slough further donation £5.00.