The Lennon murder and the Special Branch
DEAD MAN TELLS A TALE

KENNETH LENNON, 33, was found shot dead in a ditch in Surrey last Sunday. Three days before his death he had said in a statement that he had been pressured by the Special Branch to take part in anti-IRA activities.

A week before he died, Lennon had been arrested in Birmingham for offences arising from the photographing of Wilson Green prison. Patrick O'Brien, who was taking pictures of the prison, was sent to prison for three years. But Lennon was acquitted despite his involvement in the affair, after police said he was 'frank and honest' with them.

Last Wednesday, after taking advice from friends, Lennon went to the offices of the National Council of Civil Liberties and spent all day giving a statement.

The statement said that he had been pressured by Special Branch men to take part in Sinn Fein and IRA activities, and to inform on those activities.

A source said that he had been encouraged by his Special Branch masters actively to encourage Britons in Britain to take part in illegal activities. He had, he said, encouraged O'Brien to take pictures of Wilson Green prison and had tipped off the authorities about his movements.

He had also actively participated in the building site robbery at Bletchley, last year which resulted in 10 years imprisonment for the 'Lisburn Three.' Allegations were made in court that the money from the robbery was bound for the IRA.

QUICK

After giving this statement, Lennon promised to return to the NCCL this Tuesday to discuss what to do with the statement.

On Sunday, he met Special Branch men at Easton station. A few hours later, apparently alone outside his house, he was shot. The press were very quick to point out that the method of shooting was 'typical of an IRA operation.'

Martin Loney, the NCCL's general secretary, told Socialist Worker: 'Only one thing is absolutely certain about this case. If the truth of Lennon's statement is true, then he would be alive today but for the Special Branch.'

Meanwhile down in Hampshire...

The activities of the Special Branch, it seems, are not limited to Belfast affairs.

This week, the management at Strachan, a shut-down factory at Eastleigh, Hants, which is being occupied by its workers, admitted that it had been passing on information to the Special Branch.

The Branch, apparently, was following up the activities of the International Socialists.

'Special Branch sources in London,' according to the Daily Telegraph 'said such investigations throughout the country were not unusual. The method is an important part of detectives' work,' it said. 'Keeping spies and agitators on known agitators.'

A full report of what happened at Strachan appears on page eight. While you read it, remember all that talk about 'freedom,' 'democracy.'

The people of Clay Cross, among others, will be interested to learn that the Labour government will honour at least one 'commitment' - the commitment of their Tory predecessors to the military junta in Chile.

The junta is to get delivery of three British-made frigates valued at £70 million.

Labour's Foreign Secretary, prosperous farmer Jim Callaghan, announced the decision to Tory chievers and congratulations in the House of Commons last Wednesday.

Roy Mason, Minister of Defence, went out of his way to persuade Labour MPs about the importance of honouring agreements.

British miners who are concerned at the plight of Chilean miners under the junta should know that Mason is a member of the miners' union, which 'supports' him in parliament.

Labour's policy in opposition was laid down clearly in a motion moved by Judith Hart - now Minister of Overseas Development - in the House of Commons last November.

It demanded that the government prevent 'all sales of arms' from Britain to Chile.

It was supported by Harold Wilson and James Callaghan who are now carpeting Eric Heffer for daring publicly to insist that Labour carry out its most solemn pledges.

The delivery of the gunboats will cheer up the Chilean generals. Things haven't been going too well for them recently.

They have destroyed the trade unions, banned all left-wing political parties, murdered thousands of their opponents, mainly workers.

They have cut wages, boosted prices and inflicted unemployment on a fifth of the working population.

But they have not broken the resistance of the Chilean workers.

So they need weapons - and more weapons. The more sophisticated and powerful the weapons, the better.

JUNTA

The British frigates are not just for naval exercises. They will be used against socialists and trade unionists fighting a life and death battle to overthrow the junta. They will be used just as they were used last September during the coup-to-shell working-class districts on the coast.

They have one other major attraction for the junta and their colleagues throughout South America.

North of Chile lies Peru, where the government has nationalised several American companies. With the frigates, Chile and other extreme right-wing regimes such as Brazil will be able to pressurise Peru to toe the line.

March

The Labour government's decision to allow the sale of the frigates must be fought throughout the working-class movement.

Every union branch, every shop stewards' committee, every trade council must make their voices heard and show where they stand - shoulder to shoulder with their brothers and sisters in Chile.

A demonstration in solidarity with the Chilean resistance has been called for Sunday 5 May in London. It is vital that socialists organise now for a massive turnout on that day. That will be the first step in countering the Labour government's blatant betrayal of principle.
Japan's tame workers? Take a look...

Workers on the Japanese national newspaper Asahi Shimbun demonstrate outside their Tokio office during their one-hour strike. TOP: Railway workers stage a sit-in on the lines.

WE'VE GOT TO FIGHT SAYS STUDENTS

THE BIG TEST comes for students when they return to college in the next fortnight.

Their right to organise has been threatened by the victimisation of militants at Oxford and by the arrest of 105 picketers at Exeter.

Last week the Student Sub-Committee of the International Socialists met and discussed the situation.

They called on all IS student societies to mobilise at the beginning of term and give a clear lead to their student unions against victimisation.

Societies should take resolutions calling for solidarity and local action in support of Exeter and Oxford.

They went on to urge IS societies to hold meetings on victimisation and pointed out that speakers from the two universities can be obtained through the student sub-committee.

'All IS societies must support the National Union of Students demonstration at Colchester on 24 April,' they announced. 'Where term has restarted an attempt must be made to mobilise the student unions.'

Moving from the battle for students rights the Sub-Committee considered the May Chile demonstration. With frigates already ready for Chile it's crucial to get a large turn-out demanding that the Labour government put an immediate embargo on all arms to the junta' said IS student organiser Simon Turner.

'We've got to get maximum attendance at both these demonstrations,' Turner went on. 'IS society banners should be taken on both—and when the NUS organises a victimisation demonstration in May we will support that. But right now these actions at the beginning of term are most important.'

There has been a mill on the site of Reed International's Colthorp complex since 1492. The workers have always been exploited.

In one sector of the complex today (Colthorp Board Mills Limited) ventilation is achieved by removing the glass from the windows, and in another sector management saves money by dispensing with windows altogether. The heat and humidity means that workers in the North Mill frequently suffer from dehydration, which can, and has, resulted in accidents and illness.

The low wages and shift system make it necessary for most to work large amounts of overtime. The machines themselves are also dangerous in their design.

Bob Dewey, one of the SOGAT branch secretaries, said: 'The Board Mills Chapel is growing increasingly resentful of the differences between the public facade the company attempts to put up, and the realities of working in these circumstances.'

Reed International recently awarded the Board Mills at Colthorp their 'safest company in the group' trophy. Needless to say union representatives boycotted the ceremony.

The public facade the company attempts to put up, and the realities of working in these circumstances.,

by Dave Silcock, AUEW

IN JAPAN, the country of the 'economic miracle' which used to regularly check up to 10 to 12 per cent increases in output each year, six million workers have been involved in a wave of strikes and other industrial actions.

Prices are up by 21 per cent in the past year and this year's 'spring offensive' for the annual renewal of wage contracts has been the biggest ever.

Scores of public sector workers are illegal but they have been happening in a big way. Railwaymen, post, telephone and telegraph workers, teachers, dockers and civil service clerks all have employees have been out. The right to strike has been a central demand, along with claims for 30 per cent pay rises.

In the private sector, steelworkers have voted for a 260 per cent rise after a month of strikes. The steel settlement was signed in the pattern of manufacturing industry.

Trade unionism has been weak in Japan. There are two TUCs, the left-wing Sohyo and the right-wing Domuri, but the majority of workers have been unorganised or in company unions. This is changing fast under the impact of strikes.

For the first time the two union federations have acted together. Japan is no longer quite the Tory businessmen's paradise that it has been for so long.

Safe at Reeds? Like hell it is!

We've got to fight says students

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AN 11-year-old coloured boy who was caught by three white stalkers trying to steal coal from a railway yard in Cape Town, had his trousers pulled off and his back and buttocks rubbed. He was then held over an engine fire, beaten with a piece of wire and sent home.

At the men's trial for assault the district surgeon said the 'roasting' had produced serious third degree burns over a wide area of the boy's body.

The boy's mother said that after she had led charges the three men had visited her and offered her R5 Rand (22) to withdraw the case. She refused. She was then ordered by her employer to drop the case.

She refused. She was locked immediately.

The men said they did not think of the consequences of what they were doing. The child 'did not scream much' as he was being burned.

They were sentenced to six out of the cane and a suspended prison sentence of one year.

ROASTED ALIVE! 'But child didn't scream very much,' torturers told apartheid court

Aggressive

Ever increasing speed in industry, particularly in continuous production processes, and the cheap engineering that results, causes now, and will cause in the future, more and more accidents.

Accident standards are deplorable throughout industry. This is reflected by the 'safest company' in the vast Reed International Combine in a list that should be taken up.

An aggressive shop floor organisation can investigate this. It can put forward its own standards, based on the health and safety of workers and not those of the employers, who are all too ready to skimp 'expensive' safety measures in the never ending search for higher profits. The lessons of Kineneley's Hazards at Work must be used. The fight back at Colthorp is an example to us all.
THE Tory press is whipping itself into a fury of the government's decision to grant an amnesty to a few hundred immigrants persecuted by the apartheid South Africa's immigration laws.

A Home Office Secretary, Roy Jenkins, has been accused of being a 'traitor to all those who had entered the country legally' by the newspapers. Before the Immigration Act became law last year, those entering the country who were not liable to deportation if they had entered legally, needed a visa to remain. Now, in a decision in the House of Lords last summer, it was ruled that the Immigration Act applied retroactively. All the immigrants who could not prove they had entered the country legally now could be deported.

The decision was followed by a series of police raids on immigrant communities, especially in London. Immigrants especially Asians, were turned out of their beds and homes, taken to the police stations and rigorously questioned about passports and travel documents. Home Secretary Robert Carr gave repeated assurances that the Home of Lords decision would not result in a 'witch-hunt'. Even assurance was followed by another witch-hunt ordered by Carr's department.

Increased

Now that Jenkins has fulfilled Labour's pledge to grant an amnesty to these immigrants, the Tories have exploded in anger.

The same Tories who will not tolerate retrospective legislation if it means getting rid of Asians or Clay Cross councillors are determined to maintain retrospective legislation if it means increased harassment of black people.

Leading the fight against the Act are James Prior, a rich, rich farmer, and Ray Hurd, a country gent from Buckinghamshire, both influential in the Pro-Express party.

The campaign is racist and repressive. The government is being supported, and extended, and the witch-hunts are in full swing. The Act is in full force - the Immigration Act 1971 - and they will not stop until that Act is repealed.

If Police break your home, you pay

ARE you booking a holiday at Pontins this year? If so, think again, or at least watch out for the small print.

Pontins have a policy of excluding themselves from all responsibility for damage to people or property in their holiday camps, even if the damage is Pontins fault.

This year, Pontins cut out a small notice in tiny print on the booking form, offering a £500 insurance policy for your holidays. The insurance does not cover such things as damage, or injury resulting from the negligence of the owner, default, wilful act, omission or otherwise of Pontins Ltd. Further, the company does not pay any damages, even if you are injured as a result of a Pontins fault.

Carried

The fact that the tenants got organised and protested to the council led to the issue of a slum clearance order against nine canvases on the site. The tenants have also been successful in insisting that the harassment be stopped. No evictions are to be carried out and the increased rent is not being paid.

But this was closely watched by other local tenants' associations who declared themselves ready to march and demonstrate in support of the canvases. "There is an increasing call in the area for a great lesson in working-class organisation.

Edm. 02876

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A new pamphlet from Rank and File - the teachers' movement, Education and Revolution, by Charlie Rosenberg looks at how socialist ideas in education were realised in the Russian Revolution. (106p)

Teaching London Kids: No 3 from a group of London socialist teachers. A good readable magazine about education inside and outside the classroom. (40p)

The Story of the Blues, by Paul Oliver an illustrated history of the blues. Well worth buying for the quality of the photographs alone. (75p)

Available by mail order and direct from 18 BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N1. For the first 2 books, 18 BOOKS, 54 Queen Street, Glasgow C1, and the Community Socialist and Trade Union Centre, 65 Queen Victoria Road, Coventry.

The TUC has called on unions to restrict wage claims to the Tory government's Phase Three pay norms. Phase Three, you see, is still law and so according to Len Murray 'the government is strictly limited in what increases it can sanction'.

Now this is nonsense. The government can bury Phase Three whenever it wants to. It does not want to. Edward Britton, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, made this point at his union's conference at Eastbourne.

"For all the talk of freedom the present government is not exactly falling over itself to get rid of Phase Three. The only difference the present government has made is that now it is Len Murray who writes to NALGO to tell it not to strike against Phase Three, instead of Edwards Heath writing to the miners telling them not to strike."

Exactly. There you have the 'social compact' in a nutshell.

The TUC takes over from the Department of Employment as chief custodian in charge of awarding pay increases. Prices rocketed ahead. Phase Three stays for as long as the joint efforts of government and TUC can make it stick. Result: real wages are cut.

Losses

And at the very time that this fraudulent 'compact' is being promoted by Len Murray, Jack Jones, Harold Wilson, Michael Foot and Co, the infamous Tory National Industrial Relations Court is attempting to rob the membership of the Engineers' Union of nearly £50,000 to 'compensate' Con-Mech boss Robert Dilley for the losses he brought on himself by refusing to recognise the union.

A little history is in order here. There was once a firm called the Taft Vale Railway Company. In 1900 it was involved in a dispute with the railwaymen's union. It went to court, claiming compensation for losses caused by the strike. The case went right up to the House of Lords. The Lords awarded damages to the Taft Vale Railway.

You see, we have a famous Taft against the Act which exists in the birth of a political party, a party pledged first and foremost to reverse this decision, which it rightly claimed could be used to cripple trade unionism, and to fight all anti-union laws.

The hook

That could well be true. It may endanger his precious "social compact". The suggestion is being circulated that if only the AUEW would reverse its stand, recognise the court and appeal, all will be well. Using the law's delays to drag out proceedings, the union will be let off the hook by the eventual repeal of the Industrial Relations Act.

This is a contemptible proposal. Why is the Industrial Relations Act hanging around? Why has the Tory Party publicly stated that it will not vote against repeal? Why did the director of the employers' federation, the CBI, call the Act a disastrous blunder?

Because, and only because of massive (and illegal) working-class opposition to the TUC law. The AUEW, alone among major unions, is a consistent and unrelenting record of sticking to the original TUC policy and refusing to recognise the NIRC, its President Donaldson and its decisions.

It is the elementary duty of the TUC to rally how to the hook with the AUEW and make it impossible for the lastest robbery of union funds to be implemented.

Of course it will do no such thing unless there is massive pressure and protest action from below. My 'social compact' Murray will do nothing at all, unless a boot is applied to his bottom. Let's make it a big boot and a powerful kick.
Another 'plan' to fool Irish workers...

THE Provisional IRA will not be allowed to bomb itself into the negotiating table" - Mary Hanley, Deputy Secretary for Northern Ireland, told the House of Commons on Wednesday. There wasn't a murmur of dissent.

But in the Catholic community in the North there was much mourning of heads and remembering of those who were wrong for word, as successive Tory ministers and in 1972 - just before they negotiated with the Provisional IRA, Dublin and Northern Ireland in the British parliament - in what was not too successful an attempt by the Northern Irish, talking of the "musslin men of the Eamonn McCann

TWO YEARS IN JAIL

- FOR TELLING THE TRUTH

TWO students, Panayotis Papadopoulos and Maria Hadjinicolou, went on trial before a military court in Athens last week. Both had been arrested for committing a serious crime - giving out leaflets.

The arrest took place on 29 May, when the students were caught in possession of leaflets. The students were charged with谈恋爱 to disrupt public order and for possessing weapons.

They were held in jail for two years before the trial took place. The trial lasted three days, and the students were found guilty on all charges. They were then sentenced to two years in prison.

Bus driver cleared of poster charge

MICK O'FLANAGAN, a bus driver in York, was acquitted last Tuesday on two charges connected with putting up political posters during the election. He was originally charged in 'in that he did cause to be displayed' matter contrary to the Town and Country Planning Act, 1971. But before the case started, the prosecution lawyer was forced to change the charge, after agreeing that it did not exist. So Mick was charged in 'he did display posters' and so on.

Once the case started, the prosecution was in immediate trouble. They tried to have the posters which Mick had put up considered as 'objectionable' to the town, but the judge, Mr. Justice Baker, refused to accept the suggestion.

THE prosecution tried to pretend that a miners' strike was a matter which could be defined under the Act. Mick's lawyer argued that the exhibition of a poster was not a matter of public interest, but the judge was not convinced.

The hearing ended in a victory for the defendants, and Mick was cleared of both charges.
Too many Cookseys

A BIT of a scandal has been uncovered in Northumberland about the admission of an old woman to a residential home run by the council and paid for by the rates.

The problem is that the woman does not come from Northumberland, where there are about 300 old people desperately in need of places in the county homes.

The local press have reported the scandal, but for some reason they have been shy about naming names.

The Newcastle Journal, for instance, carried a report entitled "HOMES POLICY REVIEW on 3 April."

This revealed three important facts. Firstly, the successful applicant came from the Northumbrian Second, "the applicant is the mother of a man who earns £3000 a year. Thirdly, the decision to rehouse the woman had been taken 'without any discussion by the social services committee.'

For some reason, the Newcastle Journal’s pioneering editor and the editors of other local newspapers deliberately cut out the name of the applicant and her £8000 a-year son.

Punished

I can reveal that the woman’s name is Cookley, and her son is Clarence Cookley, CBE, who is Chief Constable of the Northumbria Police Force.

In other words, he is in charge of law and order throughout the whole of Northumbria. If anyone were to challenge the ‘queen’ of the law in the county, Chief Constable Cookley would be the first to see that he was punished.

Now, by an absolutely lawful process, Mr Cookley has managed to get his mother into one of the local authority homes ahead of 300 other people on the queue, almost all of whom are in worse financial circumstances than the Cookleys, without having the matter discussed by the county’s elected representatives.

Most lawful of all, however, is the amazing way the press have told the story without mentioning Mr Cookley’s name.

Mr Cookley got the Queen’s Police Medal in 1969 and was awarded the CBE in 1973. CBE stands for Commander of the British Empire, and not, as some impatient law-breakers in Northumberland are suggesting, Cookley’s Borough’s Everywhere.

Spot the difference

I wanted to set up a little pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

I became a reporter because it was the only way I could invest in a pension fund for my retirement.

Marcia Williams, pensioner from Lowestoft, told Harold Wilson, explaining her investment in land deals in Lancashire.

I HEAR that the Duke of Devonshires not content with his £50 million manor at Eastbourne has commissioned a £35,000 hotel at Baslow, Derbyshire.

I can reveal that the hotel will not be called the Devonshire Arms. That’s because there is already the Devonshire Arms at Baslow, Como, to think of it.

Dennis Healey

ANYONE would think the Duke, a Devonshire-owned half Derbyshire.

He does.

Copper sacked

-I didn’t nick enough people

A POLICEMAN in Swindon has been sacked—for not arresting enough people.

Dennis Joyce, 33, was dismissed after 21 months as a probationary policeman. He claims in a newspaper interview that one of the main reasons was his "attitude to the public."

Says Denis: "We were expected to average one summary offence every day."

Denis refused to meet his quota and was sacked.

He adds: "All this system is breaking is a stereotypical copper, intent on reporting offences. The attitude is bringing police into disrepute with the Swindon people."

Denis' final disillusionment with the force came last month on his way home at Penshaw and Pinchbeck. He was "like a man in a dream", he says, as he walked along the street.

"Nobody should be called that."

LOVE AND REVOLT

MY 17-year-old daughter brought home her boyfriend the other day and he seemed to talk about nothing but "the revolution" and "the class struggle." I’m not particularly political but I don’t want my daughter drawn into some extremist organisation. What can I do?

Almost every young girl goes out with a "revolutionary" at some time or other and if you show your disapproval it’s a bit late by then you’ll feel her deeper into his arms. She’ll probably get fed up with him soon enough if he never changes his subject of conversation. You can’t survive on revolution alone.

FROM the advice columns of the
Sunday Sun
(Tyneside), 31 March

Anyone for Dennis

ONE reason why Chancellor of the Exchequer Dennis Healey is so reluctant to soak the rich is that he is so rich himself.

It seems that greedy Dennis is not happy with the accommodation he is provided with at No 11 Downing Street, one of the most luxurious houses in the country.

Nor with his £75,000 house in Highgate.

Nor with his £50,000 ‘country cottage’ in Sussex, where he was photographed in gumboots the weekend before the Budget.

Now he wants to take out residence at Chevering House, Hamptworth, stately home, in which he and Lord Stanshope are the only members of the Royal family to live in their own home after the Queen in Downing Street.

Healey will have plenty of room of room for the two guest-rooms at Chevering House when his son-in-law, Mr John Major, joins him in future years. He will also be able to indulge in his passion for tax evasion. Chevering House has 115 rooms.
Australia: land of surf, sand, inflation, racism...

In ENGLAND I was an International Socialist, but my habit is arthritis and so for health reasons we’re come to live in Australia. Here are some of my impressions:

Workers who don’t see clearly the battle lines of the class war may be bewildered by the offer of an easy way out. Australia advertises itself as just that: a classless society that somehow just grows. It is hard to see how you might wind up on the same beach as a property tycoon, under the same sun, in the same sea—only he’ll be in his two million dollar yacht and you’ll be flogging about on a 90 foot racing yachts owned by Tom of the Cheltenham.

If you strip away the veneer of prosperity you’ll see that workers here have been left behind. There’s a sharp crack down on working conditions, inflation is as bad as Britain—and racism is rife.

White Australians are racists—and it comes as quite a shock when they realize that the ‘Poms’ are the Pakistans here. There’s an English gherito at Lyneholm, and similar race myths are peddled about the English as are about the Pakistans in England.

The current favourite is that ‘Poms all hate their money under the belt in the shower’.

The racism towards aborigines is particularly vicious. They are demeaned preferentially as ‘tomtoms’ and ‘T-junctions’—barred from many pubs, robbed of their lands, and pushed out on to reservations or to the most degrading jobs.

In a recent case a licencee who fired his shot gun into a group of Aborigines protesting because he wouldn’t sell them successfully to the police.

You can forget all about the business about everybody being ‘mate’. Workers can be asked at a worker’s notice. The workers were sacked in Freemantle for refusing to work Saturday overtime.

Where my wife worked the senior staff have just had ‘mustn’t be working’ with staff inside or outside working hours. Uniforms are compulsory for the women staff (at a discount price of £1). They must maintain an appearance of a particular store, and, surprise, surprise, the bosses’ wives is manager there.

The accident rate is high, particularly among building workers, who are (in the majority) non-English speaking workers. The National Health Service.

I’ve just paid £10 for a pair of cheap shoddy trousers. A 40p (in Britain) retail price is a particular store, and, surprise, surprise, the bosses’ wives is manager there.

The accident rate is high, particularly among building workers, who are (in the majority) non-English speaking workers. The National Health Service.

Australia theLabour Party? It’s to the right of Wibson. We need a workers party. Australia is not a ‘palming off’ and not a political despot. Its workers have enormous potential which in anticipation of their puts and initiative into political terms—MIKE MARSHALL, South Perth, Australia.

I WAS A delegate to the Rank and File conference and I was gravely concerned at the rejection of the Standon steam fitters and the British Steel Corporation General and Municipal Workers refusal. It called for the expropriation without compensation of the key branches of industry from the film companies, distribution and land, and the placing of all such industries under workers control.

At the conference Ken Hume pointed out that we should attempt to unite the maximum number of workers.

But on what kind of basis?

The above resolution gave an excellent ‘minimal’ basis, pointing to ends, for the rank and file argument, and the incorporation of trade union leaders and putting the other anti-bureaucratic demands in perspective.

If provided a broad unity of objectives while leaving strategy, tactics and methods to be hammered out in practice by those with different political viewpoints.

The conference’s refusal of this motion left it as an embryonic national rank and file movement. With a position of some strength in the political programmes of many of the papers calling the conference ‘The Carpenters’—which is for the ‘natiionalisation of the motor industry under workers control’.

Worse, a motion similar to this one was passed at the Engineers and Metal Trades Union national committee. Even worse the rejection of the motion by the majority meant that they had taken up a position to the right of many trade union rule books. And those are the bible of the bureaucracy.

Many of these rules books call for workers’ control of industry—and, come to that, what about Clause Four of the Labour Party constitution?

We fight the bureaucracy by struggling to make their formal commitments real not by rejecting them and ending up pandering to the lowest common denominator.

The job of revolutionaries in the Rank and File movement must be at all times to convince the militants who participate that only a revolutionary struggle can achieve the objects they have in view. We must not shirk political matters.


FOLLOWING from the articles and letters you’ve been printing recently on mental illness and ‘madness’ readers might be interested to know of the existence of an organisation fighting against this process of psychiatri- cal oppression. This is the Mental Patients Union, full membership of which is open to anyone who is, or has, been confined to a mental hospital.

Not surprisingly the union is still quite small but active within it are many with a socialist outlook who argue that the question of mental illness is a question of the whole society. The overwhelming majority of mental patients are working class and ‘mental illness’ is based upon state of poverty, bad housing and unemployment.

Under the Mental Health Act patients have no rights whatsoever and are subjected forcibly to all sorts of ‘treatment’ such as electro-conversion therapy and irreversible brain surgery designed purely to pacify and subdue. The MAPU argues that real change can only come through the struggle of the oppressed patients, themselves, in alliance with the struggle for a socialist society.

They demand, among other things, the right to refuse ‘treatment’, the right to be represented by the union whenever the Mental Health Act is enforced; anyone wanting further information should contact the MAPU, c/o 37 Maypole Road, Clapton, London E5—JILL LEE, JOHN MOLYNEX, Southsea.

Mental illness? Get in touch.

Don’t forget the prisoners

HUGH FEEONEY, Marion Price, General Kelly and Dolours Price have been on hunger strike for over 130 days.

Mr Price was told by Dolours and Marion on 23rd March that on no account would their sons receive visits until they were properly clothed—they have had one visit since 14 November.

Last week the solicitor of Hugh Feeoney was refused permission to visit him.

Contrary to press reports, we have no confidence that the Labour government will do anything to relieve the prisoners.

We condemn forcible feeding and call for the transfer of the prisoners to jails in Northern Ireland, we are therefore, asking you for your support and to join us at most grateful to you if you would attend a major demonstra-

It isn’t productive...

RECENTLY 400 engineering workers have walked out of Thames Ironworks, Huddersfield, in support of a claim, by labourers, crane drivers and storemen for increased bonus payments. A ban on overtime and overtime work came into effect immediately and a stoppage of striking steps is to be followed.

The plant at present get twopence a week bonus, the employer refuses to gear the workers to a productivity scheme which would give them about £5 per week.

Somehow the employers believe that the labourers, crane drivers and storemen didn’t contribute to the profits of the company.

Ah, but look at last week’s edition of the newspapers! The words and actions of workers have been reported in many other papers about the International Socialist Students Federation which would look forward eagerly to his favourable reception by your readers and to the publication of the debate and discussion. And what does he get? 200 words with the statement that... Students coverage in the paper has always been a good measure of how far that effort has met a new standard in irrelevant and phoney discussions. Such a ‘rank and filial’ fold low the entire authenticity of any discussion of this kind. There’s a serious need for the introduction of other than hard-core industrial news to better inform the reader about students. There are only 600,000 of them. BILL THOMSON, Greece.

FREE SPEECH (PART 473)... I suggest that A R SAVAGE (30 March) read George Orwell’s writings and Millvan Dillas ... Both examined what went wrong with the 1956 crisis. Dillas said... ‘I never occurred to me to prevent others from viewing their ideas’. It wasn’t until Stalin’s day that any worker was judged solely by the right of the party. I have all the arguments of the Labour students... in a Soviet-type police state. This will destroy the revolution, not preserve it—PAUL CLARK., Salford.

HOWEVER, IN REPLY TO R SAVAGE (APRIL 1, 1974) I HAVE TO SAY... Would he ask himself the question, ‘Is it not the duty of any person to point out that in presentaing Stalin marching through the East End of London in 1939, Stalin in turn marched in 27 Feb? I think our friend must realize that we can be “the next best side” it is a fact, and the welfare of the working class is an absolute necessity. On his point, “who will hold the movement when we’re in office” I reply that when he will be his collective and individual workers through the Party... A KUTTNER, Falmouth.

ASK LORD LAMBERT... Why hasn’t the use of non-addictive drugs been legalised? This has been taken for granted and is totally acceptable to most young people. Many young people addicted do so because capitalist society is such an anti-socialising society. They need some sort of balance. Sadly, the term ‘self-worship’ is more or less the right word as a working human today. The authorities use these as an excuse to foster the fear of others or other individuals or organisations fighting for their little world is ever so much higher standards. These laws are particularly dangerous to the working class and its parties. If they don’t lead the struggle against those laws instead of others must... DRINKALL, STUART GRANT INUEP, Southend.

SUBLIME MYSTICISM AND NON-SENSE... Cardinal Heenan thundered again against ‘irrationalism and abhorrence. His views aren’t those of Catholics in general, most of whom in Britain are working class, and know that big business is more immoral. There have been some signs that Catholic bishops are beginning to be interested in the petty problems, it’s time they realized that people are not simply to interrogate or to be interviewed about these little problems. The moral conviction of Catholic workers seems to be more the right road won over to other fellow workers in the struggle against ‘badness’.—E. COPLEY, TLS.

WELL WHEN DO WE GET THE MONEY? After long consideration I have decided that the government’s offer of £500 for my last week’s Socialist Worker for the promotion Red Head Post, London N4 is too little. When a page of a newspaper reaches such heights of unprofitability and unadventures, with such dross, a total sense of draffing board, there is no doubt that it the worthy competitor to every page of Hard Times. The appearance of revolutionary journalism.—GLYNN CARVER, Manchester.
Another bloody chapter

Braking rod checked once in 21 years

In 72 short paragraphs, with photographs to illustrate, and priced at £1.00, the official version of another chapter in the history of coal mining appeared last week.

It is the report of the public inquiry into the disaster at Markham Colliery in Derbyshire last July. When 18 miners were killed and 15 injured, the investigating committee said that lack of information on conditions in the mine had concealed the depth of the disaster.

Failed

The cause was spelled out in a bold and unashamed report. A tiny rod in the centre of the braking system was defective. It should have been tested and checked. But it was not. It was not even tested once in 21 years.

Someone looked at Markham's little rod only once on 13th Nov. That looked at it after an incident on 12th Nov. That little rod failed.

So the Coal Board four weeks later was to get around to checking the rod at Markham. Since then, the miners had been told about another disaster. And now a few more men were going to be checked—once at least.

This is just one other interesting fact about the National Coal Board's priorities at Markham and elsewhere.

They installed a rope speed indicator at Markham. The danger of impeding disaster a little earlier—1114 deaths—and 15 injured is ever fitter and the indicator never worked.

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

What if all were paid the same?

"If we find, as we do, that it answers to give all the judges the same income, and all the capitalists the same income, why should we go on giving judges five times as much as captains? Equal distribution is quite possible and practical, not only momentarily but permanently. It is also simple and intelligible. It is simple to see, and intelligible to understand about how much each person should have."

George Bernard Shaw wrote this 45 years ago in his Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism. He argued the case for paying the same wage to everyone without regard to what kind of job they did. It is one of the most radical ideas ever proposed.

Imagine charioteers being paid the same as the same High Court judges, Virgil, the same as engineers and alchemists, the same as tramps and the same as prime minister.

The idea that everyone's worth would both disappear. For Shaw took it for granted, as do all socialists, that everyone would continue to work—"that does not work, neither shall he eat"—except of course for children and old people who would be paid for not working.

"Impossible?" Utopianism? Well, something like this was actually operated for Communist party members in Russia after the revolution, until Stalin became the supreme boss and re-introduced inequality.

Under Lenin, the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars (prime minister), the army general, the factory director, were all paid, if they were party members, exactly the same as a blacksmith or a turner. That was not quite equality of wages—the party membership pay was the average skilled worker's pay—but it was a good approximation to it.

This is a much more democratic notion than the 'equality of opportunity' that is preached but not practised in capitalist Britain. Clearly, it would take a revolution to achieve it.

And the NCB spent little or no money on ensuring that the pit cage docked behind ground in the safest and most comfortable way. At the bottom of the Markham shaft the banks were worn. The disaster would not have been so serious if, instead of banks, a stopping device had been installed.

Markham was the third major disaster last year in Britain's mines. There are other less-publicised deaths and many maimings every week. Many most not result from the same split that foisted Markham—exclusive concern for the god of production, skipping and scraping on safety.

In a minor system run under worker's control, maintenance and repair of machines would be top priority, particularly where those machines are used to take men into the bowels of the earth.

Where 18 men died: the cage at the bottom of Markham, No. 3 shaft

And it is now 18 months since the Loddon Bridge, near Reading in Berkshire, collapsed during construction, killing three men and seriously injuring six others.

Since then school roofs and sports centre roofs have collapsed during construction, and the weakness of others has been discovered—after the job was finished but fortunately before they fell on schoolchildren or pleasure seekers.

So the problem is obviously serious. Serious enough to require a committee of inquiry to look into the rash of failures and collapses and to make recommendations about what can be done to prevent them.

Last week the interim report of the committee looking into these collapses was published. It is a whimper when what was needed was a scream.

Problem

The report makes some useful suggestions. These include rigorous checking procedures, the appointment of someone to co-ordinate the checking, and proper design of all temporary supporting structures (falsework).

In itself this is fine stuff. The one slight problem with the report is that it completely ignores the reality of the construction industry and the priorities which rule it.

There is a simple explanation for most of the falsework collapses—the pursuit of profit.

Over the past ten years design and construction have come under increasing pressure to reduce cost and achieve economies. In everyday language that means to build cheaper. One major source of the pressure is high interest charges. The clients for bridges, schools, and the like, indeed for more than half of all civil engineering works are public authorities. They borrow the money to carry out their programmes on the money market at very high rates. These are constantly rising and are in any case totally outside their control.

This pushes them to start looking for cheaper and cheaper ways to build, cutting back on spending in the one area where it should not be stinted.

Hammer

The contractor is no different. They all pay virtually the same price for labour, steel, cement and the like. So the one area where they can cut their rivals and make a profit is on temporary supports. Once again the most vital part of the construction operation comes under the hammer.

Not surprisingly, there is no mention of any of this in the report. Nor is there any mention of several other intriguing aspects of the construction industry.

The Transport and General Workers' Union reckons that up to 24,000 sub-contractors were in use on Marple's new test in the Loddon Bridge contract.

But the lump, the curse of the construction industry, receives not one single mention in the report.

It is unlikely that it will receive any space in the final version which is now in preparation. That will also be a nice respectable job designed not to upset any of the vested interests too much. Meanwhile the toll of the injured and dead remains mounting up.

Duncan Hallas
Secret police at work

THE government's secret political police, the Special Branch, has been picking its ugly snout into an industrial dispute which is concerned solely with saving jobs. The dispute is the occupation of the Strachans' factory at Eastleigh in Hampshire.

'The Special Branch has been in contact with Strachans since August last year,' reports the Sunday Times, and it has maintained its interest throughout the sit-in which began four weeks ago after the firm announced that its two engineering plants at Eastleigh and Hulme, seven miles away, are to close.

So the secret police started their industrial espionage under Tory Home Secretary Robert Carr, and continue it under Labour Home Secretary Roy Jenkins. Governments change, but the spying, harassment and 'red baiting' of militants goes on.

'The political group identified by the police were the International Socialists,' says the Sunday Times. 'The IS has a local branch in Portsmouth which has been distributing literature to the men sitting-in on how to claim maximum social security benefits.'

Now that is a shocking thing, isn't it? Actually advising workers how to go about claiming benefits to which they may be legally entitled! To the secret police, in their role as bosses' mouthpieces, this evidently constitutes 'political interference'.

Well, there's news for them. The IS branch more. They have actually held collections of money to support the workers sitting in. They have done their duty as class-conscious workers in trying to help their brothers engaged in this struggle.

Resources

It would be pleasing to report that the whole labour movement had taken the same position. Unfortunately it would not be true. An unnamed 'IS spokesman' is quoted by the Daily Telegraph as saying: 'Undoubtedly, the authorities have to take an interest in anything likely to be guilty of violence or insurrection. Consequently they are entitled to use all resources available to collect information.'

Assuming that the 'spokesman' is neither illiterate nor insane, he must know that the 'violence or insurrection' amounts to a sit-in to prevent closures and unemployment. And that, in his view, justify interception by the secret police? This 'spokesman' would qualify for a job with the fake 'unions' of France's Innou.

There is no need to be powerful pressure to get the Special Branch out of this dispute and out of industry. The government needs reminding that it claims to be a Labour government.

Mr Michael Foot, Secretary for Employment, has often spoken about civil liberty. Let him tell his colleague, Home Secretary Jenkins, to stop industrial spying and harassment by secret police.

Workers in the centres of the occupado factory. PICTURE: Christopher Davies (Report)

'We've nothing to hide'

THE Joint Union Occupation Committee at Strachans Engineering has issued this statement in press and television on Sunday:

"With reference to the article published in the Business News of the Sunday Times today, we deny emphatically that there is, or at any time has been, any political intrigue, or plan, to close Strachans Engineering down.

"The whole idea of a public inquiry into the ludicrous statement, and would welcome the opportunity of meeting Mr Grit (the firm's chief accountant) and any other member of the Gilbert board, along with a member of the Special Branch, in front of the television cameras, so that we would answer any questions they would care to ask, and would also be asking some questions of them which we doubt if they could answer to the satisfaction of the general public.

"We have welcomed all potential customers the freedom of the factory. We have nothing to hide at all from anyone."

"The statement is signed P. Dayal, M Yass and C. Pearson."

MALCOLM YASS

Since the closure of Strachans, we have said and meant that the occupation of the factory is purely and simply an attempt to get this factory reopened, and to give back to our members the rights they had been promised.

We have welcomed all potential customers to the freedom of the factory. We have nothing to hide at all from anyone."

"The statement is signed P. Dayal, M Yass and C. Pearson."

International Socialism

Monthly Journal of the International Socialists

This year 'miners' strike had more political impact than any other industrial struggle for 50 years. It led to a widespread interest in the nature of the Tory government. Yet the strike itself was remarkably quiet and it was over a very small section of the work-force, the surface workers, were left with their claim unmet. And although the miners broke their strike, three other union leaders are accepted by their unions as being the 'Two Th's' and 'Two J's' on grounds that the miners were 'a special case'.

In the latest issue of International Socialism, Bill Message provides an account of how pressure for a strike built up in the industry, of how the decision to strike came about, and how the union leaders tried to manipulate the miners into a minimum and went for a settlement that left out the cold many of their own members and the other workers suffering under Phase Three.

There is little wonder that the words of national union officials are not to be trusted, however militant they sound... Fighting against all this, it concludes, 'is not a matter of personal oppositions, it can only be guaranteed when these elected officials hold directly accountable to their members in a united front against theable of acting independently then this will save us from going overboard."

Cost per copy (in print): £2.10 for 12 issues, from IS JOURNAL, Carriage Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2

WOR N THE

THE WORKERS of the Southamp ton Socialists want the management to know: 'The stupid thing. The new Strachans must meet both to the Gilbert and the Marshall on committee in a state. Either Mr (or the others) are, or it is a foregone conclusion that taking part is occupation.'

There is also that there was supposed to plan to close this is true, will the government be? from the factory. We know that those who are taking part is occupation.

'The occupation nay, indeed, be in any way the government's is... Southampton factory has been taken and there are always been quite pleased to have assistance with the non-by the men themselves.'

We will defend our political rights. The class movement might have been won, but the rights. If there is involved, it is a Gilbert and the special case.
When a Scottish millionaire holds a party...

If you thought that the Scottish National Party were all tartan, bagpipes and demands for a fairer deal for Scottish workers over the North Sea oil, then think again.

The tartan’s there. So are the bagpipes. And Scotland figured in it. North Sea oil too. But there’s precious little about the lives of the vast majority of people in Scotland.

Their party is open everywhere. Workers in Scotland have the makings of a labour party. They increase their profits. They enable the bosses to raise and leave off their backs while the workers get a mere pittance.

Sir Hugh Fraser is one of them. It is his capacity and power bigger than anything the Scottish National Party chairman could ever normally dream of from the vantage point of his 'little shirt factory' in Rutherglen.

Sir Hugh employs thousands of workers all over Scotland and manors in England. The heart of his empire is the huge chain of stores which go under the name of 'The House of Fraser', stores which charge high prices, pay sky-high wages and make lots of profits.

Tweed

Add Harrods in London for a touch. Sprinkle a few minor concerns like a whisky distillery, engineering works, two glass-making factories, the building of nine farms and a tweed factory...et cetera. Get a pretty big capitalist.

Sir Hugh's political leanings are exactly what you would expect from a man who did nothing with his life but be born the son and heir of Lord Fraser of Allander, founder of the vast stores empire, multi-millionaire and founder of the Scottish Tory Party.

The young Sir Hugh followed in his father's footsteps and joined the Tory Party just like the old Lord Fraser, Sir Edward, the Younger, and other river exquisites. He was no exception.

At the last election Sir Hugh voted Tory as usual. But now he has changed his tack and joined the Scottish Nationalists. The SNP are very proud of signing him up. They are hoping for more converts from similar walks of life.

Shares

Indeed while thousands of Scottish workers were voting Labour, in the SNP ended up with a 350 to 250 Scottish businessmen asking them to support the party.

They wrote to Lord Polwarth, Tory Minister from Berwick, a Scottish Office, in charge of North Sea oil, which inevitably his family held many shares. They wrote to Sir Ian Stewart, the shipbuilder on the Clyde, of Thomson Newspapers, and North Sea oil. They wrote to the Daily Express, the Observer, and the Sunday Times, which between them have a 50,000 readership. They met the SNP and signed up 15,000 workers in Glasgow.

They wrote to Sir Hugh Fraser. Now he's joined the SNP giving

Report by Alice Murray

Exploit

In addition, they are opposed to immigration into Scotland and they are opposed to English, Irish and Canadian workers living in Scotland having the right to vote. Doubletalk Sir Hugh and the others who will now follow him into the SNP can only increase the point.

His vote to the SNP lies in giving credibility to the organisation and large sections of the Scottish business and middle classes. And in their kind of Scotland his freedom to exploit workers and accumulate capital would in no way be restricted.

Last week an SNP official told the Sunday Times "The Scottish Tory is nationalistic in his heart, they don't want to sit the SNP, but if they do their mates right (over North Sea oil) they will know on whom to get the SNP is bunched."

Future is for certain. The future of the Scottish working class is in the SNP. One bread is bunched on a different side of the class divide from the Hugh Fraser's of this world.

The problems which exist in Scotland are not problems which can be solved by the expression of popular feeling. In the SNP. Scottish workers have more in common with the people of the world than with all the Hugh Frasers of the world.

SIR HUGHIE: A touch of class for the Scots Nati as his reason his dissatisfaction with the Tories. There's another reason too. Sir Hugh wants to win back not only his seat but also his son and others like him have got.

The fact that the SNP were so anxious to get him on board dealt with their supposedly left-wing aims and organisation. They make a good deal of North Sea oil. But the one thing that the Scottish Nationalists never mention is that workers running North Sea oil.

The reason for that is simple. The SNP don't want workers running anything. Sir Hugh Fraser and others do not want anyone running anything. Sir Hugh Fraser and others do not want anyone running anything.

In their publication 'Scotts Independent' they explain at length that they are opposed to a National Health Service. They prefer private schemes run by insurance companies. This will be very nice for Hugh Fraser who is among other things a large owner in the Legal and General Insurance Company.

The bale of political ends army top brass

get used to this markable speech: "Moss, from whom I am quoting from whom I am quoting from whom I am quoting from whom I am quoting: "...general anti-communist aggression and from the people who support us in this.”

The tactic of all freedom fighters like himself, said Moss, was being made more difficult by the Labour government which is licensing intimidation by the anti-picketing laws. Mr. Moss himself is a Labour supporter.

Fourth International's, "The 'anti-picketing' laws with a heavy hand on certain terrorist measures, are measures which are by the government should be condemned. The only thing the problem of terrorism is the result of the people's opposition to terrorism"

The colonel's question is: to our society is from industrial guerrillas organised in trade unions.

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Who was that man I saw you with last night?

by Maureen Enever

Three weeks after my baby was born the visits to our home resumed. This time I was prepared. I knew they were trying to find out if I had a bloke staying with me. So when the matterly old maid arrived I told her she was too early... the time between having a baby and having intercourse is six weeks. In an embarrassed sort of way she left.

Another day a visitor came and after casually mentioning that he knew I had a man friend and what sort of car he had, he then wanted to know if he gave me any money. After I told him in no uncertain terms what to do with himself, he said he knew the bloke hadn’t stayed those nights on the trot, but I was to treat very carefully.

By this time my temper was boiling! The only way to fight back was to do something drastic. The chance I’d waited for for a long time had come.

I grabbed all the papers from his hands and tore them to shreds. He wanted no time picking them up, and after wishing him well with his jigsaw puzzle, I almost punched him out of the door.

Sickens

The next two people they sent sound, one I chased out of my house, the other I didn’t even let in. So I fought back in the only way I know how, by abusing them, not letting them in and tearing up their papers. It sickens me to think that other people on Social Security are classed as liars and cheats, because believe me, no matter how genuine your case they don’t believe a word you say.

Another thing I’m left wondering is if they have a law about having parties. When New Year’s Eve I had a few friends back to my flat. The day after New Year’s Day I had a visitor! He had the audacity to ask how I could afford to have a party.

That was the last straw. At that moment all I wanted to do was to get away. I was even ready to walk out on my kids.

Now I think, who are they to treat people like animals, harass them and try to bring them down to the lowest grade possible? People should be treated with respect. I’ve come to the conclusion that our society is all wrong. It must be, when claimants can’t get what they’re entitled to—yet big business men and politicians can fiddle taxes and all sorts and get away with it.

The claimants’ fight is a hard one. The time to start fighting is now, not just claimants but every working-class man, woman and child. Because while we’ve got Mr Heath, Mr Wilson and people like them in power, the working-class people will always get the bad bit of the apple.

OUR TYPE OF VICTORY

SIX TYPISTS IN East Kilbride, near Glasgow, have shown just how to deal with low pay. After a five-week strike they won increases of between 4% and 6%.

The six workers for Carruthers, a subsidiary of Barratt BB (1972) profits £19 million. One girl aged 20 was getting only £14 a week. The company was offering £1.50 with strings.

First they said the pay laws meant they couldn’t offer any more, then they said the wages they were paying were average for the area, but the typists, members of TASS, the technical section of the Engineering Union, asked union members on the shop floor to black deliveries. As soon as this started to bite, the company backed down.

Profits cuts? Who’s kidding who

IN MARCH the Labour government’s Prices Commission ordered all the big food retailers to cut their profit margins to 10 per cent. This was largely ignored by the supermarkets. Food prices cut? At last?

When we worked out we were told to expect cuts of 5% in the pound—about 5p a week off the shopping bill of an ordinary family. So what’s happened? Have YOU noticed it? Last week the Financial Times, the bosses’ paper, carried a survey that showed how few shops had made the cuts they were supposed to. Many shops and supermarkets just continued to put prices up at the old rate.

Where cuts have been made they’ve quickly been hidden by price increases—and most cuts have been made on only one or two items per supermarket, as '1p off Special Offer!

The favourite were bread and frozen vegetables. We rush in to take up their Special Offer and end up spending more on everything else!

The same survey shows a great jump last week in the price of all canned foods, and other non-food items in our weekly shopping basket—polish, washing up liquid and such things have soared.

The truth is that despite all the impressive big talk by Labour in their first few weeks of office, prices are still climbing, climbing, climbing in the same old way as under the Tories—and as always WE pay out, and Tesco, Fine Fare and the rest rake it in.

Barbara Kerr
Your mind needs a little exorcise...

Well, the Devil won that one... Max Von Sydow as the Exorcist with Jason Miller – Father Karras

IT COSTS a lot of money to make The Exorcist. And the hundreds of thousands of pounds the film will pay will surely be the result.

Which is very nice for director William Friedkin. Actor Max Von Sydow. Actor Peter Blatty, who is a former US army officer. And for Warner Brothers Communications Corporation who have been at the forefront of psychological warfare world-wide for more than half a century.

The strategy for the profits prize has been well planned. There was wonderful publicity, even better than for last year’s sensation Last Tango in Paris.

As the Daily Express put it in an article which now decorates every London cinema showing the Exorcist: ‘It’s the most terrifying film ever made.’

‘The product mix’ also ensured other film fans for the publicity machine. Festival of Light de-

nunciations really panic them in you know.

The Exorcist is about a 12-year-old schoolgirl of the best all-

American breed who becomes possessed by evil.

Suddenly and without explanation the sweet, delightful daughter of a film star becomes a beast with enormous strength and a highly developed facility for craving, attacking and murdering people.

Her wonderful mum who is making a film masterpiece about superstitions and the need to protest constitutionally, brings in the best doctors. All their science, which is written in heaven, is nullified by the films.”

But Dimi, a Catholic priest and trained psychiatrist, can help.

After some persuasion he agrees to ask the church to allow an exorcism to be performed on the child.

Chile on film

THE REPRESSION in Chile continues, as the government’s soldiers in govern-

mental frigates. In Britain the Chile Solidarity Campaign is increasing its efforts to organize and build support for the struggle.

The trade-union group of the Campaign and the World Peace Council have organized a film festival which provides three films, plus speakers, on Chile. The new film is a story of the film around London, to socialist and trade union groups, film clubs and the like.

‘Play for Today’ is about a second-hand car salesman, his wife and children, and the role of men, women. It was filmed in London and Preston. Red Star of the week.

FICTION and FILM, 2 Best film of the week is Z, a political thriller inspired by the overwhelming Greek deputy Lambrakis. From 1984. When you see it remember that the hero is rotting in a Greek jail now.

Chile on film

The struggle

The film was about a battle going on locally in an estate called Fendale Court for proper heating. The kids wrote about the horror of an indoor fire from a paraffin heater in an ever-front-room. They talked about their classroom writing with their parents’ struggle to improve their living conditions.

The last has gone out on rent strike and lobbied for proper central heating. So the book not only copes with the children’s life at school but is part of an actual battle.

And it’s a very good read for all.

DAVID WIDGERY reviews FERN-

DALE FIRES, Reality Press, dis-


Children from fire to 10 years old, with good pictures, songs and music. It’s published by Reality Press and distributed by Centreprise Books, 65 Dalston Lane, £1.

Here’s an extract—starting with the second paraffin fire which starts while Michael and Tony are fighting over Rachel.

‘Get him Michael.”

‘Do him in Tony.”

Michael took another swing at Tony, but missed his stick on the iron railings as Tony moved aside. Then he ran again at Tony, charging like a warrior, knocking his shield out of his hand and sending Tony sprawling. Michael took a wheeze and Tony ran on the ground, but he saw the blow coming and rolled over quickly. Michael’s stick only splintered more as it smashed on the tarmac. Tony picked up his shield and leaped at Michael again, and they were grappling together, using their shields as clubs, trying to clout each other with the metal rims.

Then a group of girls ran towards the fighters, breaking through the ring of watchers.

Fire! Fire!” they shouted above the din of clashing shields.

‘Who is it?’ someone asked, as Michael fell to the ground, shield rolling down the court like a metal wheel.

‘The new family, the Jamaicans.”

‘Rachael’s flat.”

Tony, about to run at Michael again, suddenly stiffened on the spot.

‘What? What?”

He threw down his shield and stick and ran towards Rachael’s flat, yelling. Michael left off chasing his rolling lid and ran after Tony, catching up with him as they closed up the stairs, panting and shouting, towards Rachael’s flat. Smoke was already coming through the cracks in the window frame. They reached the front door, and kicking it at together with combined fury, they crashed inside as the door gave way, letting in the clouds of black smoke.

Overcome

Thirty seconds later, Rachel was down in the court, supported by Tony and Michael, each one coughing and spluttering. They both put her down together, and staggered up the stairs again to fetch the other children. But that had already been done by the caretaker and a group of neighbours. Sid was giving Rachael’s little sister artificial respiration, while a bunch of people had formed at the bottom of the stairs. Michael and Tony stumbled down be-

side Rachel, all three of them exhausted and overcome.

It was Mr Khan who brought out the cause of the fire.

‘It was some damn things!” he shouted, waving a smoking paraffin heater at the crowd.

‘That’s not enough, that’s enough,” we’ve got to act, got to do something,” cried Mr Quinlin, shaking both his fists, turning around to his neighbours.

‘We said that last time,” said Mr Johnson angrily, ”this time we got to organize ourselves properly. They got on about safety precautions, but that don’t give us more heat or better fists. Living in their smart houses, they don’t know what it’s like here.”

‘He’s right man,” let go Mr Khan.

‘We can’t take no more of this. We’ve got to go and demand central heating and keep on until we get it.”

‘That’s just the start,” interrupted Tony’s mum. ‘We’ve got to sort out the council proper. And the govern-

ment. We’ve got to show them we’re strong.”

‘She’s right,” urged Mr Khan, “we’ll march up to the centre house.”

‘Hang on,” went on Tony’s mum, ‘we need to get support from the tenants. We’ll march round the other

estates first. And let people bring it up at their meetings.”

‘Right,” said Mr Johnson as ambu-

lance sirens and their voices drowned out his voice. “Come on!”

And they ran off together, joining other groups and gathering neighbours. And soon the gate of the court was packed.

Together

‘And they were only here one week,” muttered Beverley, her face set.

‘I know what it’s like, it happened to me, they’re not going to get away, you know, we’re got to fight. Why shouldn’t we have to live in dumps like this? I’m going on the demo.”

‘Right, right,” yelled some of the boys. “We’re coming too.”

‘Let’s get out there then,” said Beverley, her voice breaking into a shout. “We’re going to show them we’re not going to take it!”

‘We’ll show them the fire’s inside us.”

And they ran off together, joining other groups and gathering neighbours. And soon the gate of the court was packed.

PREVIEW

Time Hot know what to think.

1. One of the audience's more vocal members, Mrs Warrington, wrote her name on the wall and one of the few people open to the audience, was a man calling himself Tom Hiddleston.

2. The scene opens with a group of people, including the woman in the white blouse, who is seen talking to the woman on the window of the house.

3. She is followed by a small group of people, including the woman in the black coat, who is seen talking to the woman on the window of the house. She is followed by a small group of people, including the woman in the black coat, who is seen talking to the woman on the window of the house.

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Its general secretary is Todd Sullivan. One of the most interesting things about Sullivan is where he got his wages from when he first took up the job. After all, since the organization philosophy of the company involves having no capital, he couldn’t have had any funds.

Another matter of importance is who interviewed him and gave him the job. It certainly wasn’t the rank and file, workers, who would prefer to elect their officers.

The importance of these questions is clear when you realize that the UKW is applying to join the Trade Union Congress.

This was the excuse used against our attempts to send delegates to the National Rank and File Conference. The reply was that we couldn’t, since this might upset the TUC.

It seems to me, as Sullivan must have known, that the UKW shouldn’t have a hope of joining the TUC, unless we make a common people’s union with a genuine voice. So it’s not the TUC building up Co. is afraid of upsetting the TUC. So much for the TUC at executive level. Down at the branches there are some funny things going on. There is no commitment, no support, and just a lot of confusion between branches.

In my own branch, Kirkby, there seems to be very little liaison between individual shop stewards and in one case being a shop steward and the man he represents.

At the Kirkby branch, there are only two shop stewards who go to make up the stewards’ committee. Four of them are staff members.

Shared

These two stewards are very doleful and obviously management-biased. As a matter of fact one of them shared his house with a member of the management for while.

The branch secretary is Staffs. He has a secretary working for him taking notes and dealing with correspondence for him. He is expected to give such a vote. His term in steward lasts for two years.

My conclusion is as follows. The company are paying me a wage and they then say I am back off the line, making it a union sub.

No doubt about what the Kodak workers think about the company’s plant is normal Hampstead, Fifth, last autumn. PICTURE: Peter Harrap (Report)

Challenge to NUJ leaders

JOURNALISTS will have a general meeting in London on 23 May to call for solidarity with democracy against their union leadership. More than 400 delegates assembled at Westminster in January for the annual conference of the National Union of Journalists.

A growing number of the union's 29,000 members, working on national and provincial newspapers, magazines and books throughout the country, have become increasingly militant as proprietors have resorted to tougher methods to protect their profits.

The conference agenda reflects rank and file dissatisfaction with the union's official and national executive bodies. There are dozens of motions censure the executive, including demands from various disputes, one of which calls for the selection of general secretary Ken Morgan.

This motion, from the militant Sheffield branch, expresses grave concern at the total failure of the national leadership' and instructs the executive to end Morgan's contract at once, there being no other way to present of removing him from office.

Because of this, one of the most important issues at the conference will be reconvening of the whole union, which other things, would introduce the issue of the democratic election of all paid officials.

Lessons learnt during recent industrial action by journalists have resulted in a batch of motions calling for solidarity with printers, one going further to suggest a merger with the print unions.

Exemption

Other vital motions show the increasing political awareness among journalists, such as those calling for a determined campaign against government pay laws and demanding that there be no deals whatsoever with the National Industrial Relations Court.

A motion from the 300-strong London Central branch, covering Fleet Street papers, instructs the executive to negotiate with the print unions exemption for the Workers Press and Morning Star from all political industrial action directed against the government and employers.

Magazine branch, the second largest, wants the exemption to extend to Socialist Worker and Tribune.

Magazine branch has also protested at the prosecution, trial and sentence of the Shrewsbury building workers, and deplores the 'anti-union sentiments in much of the press coverage'.

Shields branch wants the NUJ to raise the matter at the Trade Union Congress.

One of the most heated debates is likely to come from an emergency motion calling for an end to internment and the withdrawal of British troops from Ireland.

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The annual conference of the major white-collar union, the Association of Professional Computer and Office Workers (APLEX), meets in Blackpool this weekend.

As far as the union leadership is concerned, one of the key issues at the conference will be to ensure that the moves to recast union rule 13 are defeated. This rule privileges mainly communist and socialist political organisations and bars people from holding certain offices if they are members of the CP or the IS.

During recent months the leaders of the union, Roy Grantham, the TUC general council member, Dennis Howell, MP and Minister of Sport in the Wilson government, have been increasing the use of this and other undemocratic rules.

Socialist Worker will be carrying an important article on these issues.

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INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

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Socialist Worker: don't just read... write it!

WE PUBLISHED on this page last week a discussion at the last IS National Committee about Socialist Worker. The Committee, by a two-to-one majority, gave their support to a document calling for a paper with closer contact with the people who read it.

We've been asking ourselves: how can we ensure that the paper is understandable, and that people who read it feel that it has been written for them? Most of us agreed that the problem will not be solved by changing the content of the paper or the layout by editorial decision. It will only be overcome if the paper both expresses itself and is recognized as being nurtured by people who read it and tell us what they want it to be.

The regular column, ‘Regular’, is a good example of what we believe to be necessary. It is a regular column that gives readers a chance to discuss their ideas and experiences with us, and to express their views on the issues that are important to them.

In the next few weeks, we plan to continue this experiment by asking readers to contribute to the paper regularly. We hope that this will help us to build a more engaged and committed readership.

The news section, ‘Regular’, provides a platform for readers to share their experiences and insights on the issues that are important to them. We believe that this is essential for building a strong and responsive readership.

We also plan to continue to feature regular columns that focus on specific topics, such as ‘Regular’ on women’s rights and gender equality, and ‘Regular’ on environmental issues. These columns will help us to provide a comprehensive and engaging news service that is relevant to the readership.

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TOWN HALL STAFF ROCKET BACK FROM THE FIGHTING

sw Reporta

THE REAL meaning of the TUC's so-called social compact with the Labour government is now obvious to thousands of government workers, the NALGO general secretary, Geoffrey Drake, has asked the union to stop its industrial action in support of the £400 London weight claim.

What has happened is that last winter's verbal opposition to Phase Three has given way. Now that Phase Three is operated by Labour, the TUC is in favour of union's adhesion by the TUC to the strike. But Murray moves in, more local government and electricity white collar workers are involved in the strike from 17 April. This shows that rank and file NALGO members are not prepared to wait for the Pay Board. Nor will they wait for the London. They want the full claim now.

In the last 10 days the Hackney and Westminster branches of the union have voted to support selected Kent carers' trade union strike action. At a mass meeting last week inked in support of the strike, 'We want the £400' was the message from NALGO members at the rally. They showed the message on their trade union t-shirts involved in their first ever industrial action.

FIGHTING

At the meeting general secretary Geoffrey Drake reported the campaign was making NALGO history. But he was quite clear this was a special case. Other workers attacked that notion, insisting local government workers were fighting along similar lines to teachers. They called for local alliances of trade unionists involved in London councils. And a motion calling for further escalation of the action for the full claim was passed. Mover to call off the strike action in support of the TUC's claim died. It was certain to be met with an angry response in the rank and file.

It was clear the campaign has subsumed the motion to the London council workers recent call to reiterate support for the action. Calling for calls for the action. Vow to stop the strike against Phase Three and calling on the Labour government to appeal the Counter Inflation Act immediately.

Geoffrey Wolfe, one of Lewisham's delegates to the district council, told us: 'We want the £400' is the message from NALGO members at the rally. We haven't been waiting 12 months for a London increase to be told by Michael Foot, the TUC or anybody else to cool it. The union's instruction to boycott voluntary election work on 2 May is seriously embarrassing the Labour councils. Now is the time to press home our advantage, not to give in at the first sign of pressure from the TUC.

'We are attempting to unite joint action with the teachers in Lewisham. It is only strong united action by the rank and file that can stop our leaders caving in, and win the claim.'

HOSPITAL SPARKS STAY OUT

GLASGOW—Nearly 200 hospital electricians are continuing their strike for wage parity with contracting electricians. At a meeting last week only two voted against the strike.

Full-time officials had urged a return to work—"allowing the unincorporated"—the union's national officer dealing with the dispute had been reported as saying that if the Health Service didn't come up with parity soon he would bring sanctions to bear on the hospital boards.

A delegate remarked: 'His kind of sanctions wouldn't open a can of peaches.' Hospital electricians came from Edinburgh, and from Guys Hospital in London. The London delegation said their meeting after Easter would probably support the Scottish action.

Plumbers came too from more than Glasgow hospitals, and hospital engineers' union shop stewards. They all pledged support and saw the move as the possible start of an action to secure an increase in basic rate for all hospital craftsmen. The trades are solid and intend to spread the action, also urging other areas—particularly London hospitals. It could be a big step forward for hospital workers.
Strike forces lump boss to back down

EAST LONDON—The 50 strikers at the Greater London Beetle Road site at Bow voted to return to work on Tuesday this week after management had agreed to make important concessions. The strike included a phased down to lump employment, increased bonuses and new targets on the job. All in all, it appears to be a significant victory for the workers. The Greater London Beetle Road site is one of London's largest sites. The Labour control company employs 10,000 workers and is seen as a major employer in the docks. Seven in ten of the Beale Road Workers are strikers.

The strikers demanded the end of lump employment. Their case against the lump is based on the fact that the lump system allows the workers to complete the shortest possible time has been back from the dock. The strikers are supported by the dockers' union. There is no strike vote in the dockers' union.

The day before the management, the dockers, a group of men and women who are dockers' union members, slashed and knocked themselves unconscious.

Some old hands' tactics: walk out

by an Evans Medical worker

LIVERPOOL—After months of pay demands, a walk out has been launched against the safety conditions at Evans Medical in Liverpool. The walk out began after a week-long protest outside the factory by workers who say that their working conditions are unacceptable.

The walk out by the workers is part of a campaign to highlight the poor conditions in which they work. It is the first time that they have participated in union organized strikes.

The Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) and the dockers' union are supporting the pickets. The TGWU is demanding a 10% increase in pay, while the dockers are demanding a 5% increase. The strike is expected to last for several weeks.

Step forward at Heinz

NORTH LONDON—Last week Heinz workers in Bedford held a mass meeting over their pay claim. International Socialists (IS) called for a meeting to discuss the negotiations with the company to demand pay increases.

The IS, a small group of workers, has been involved in the negotiations for several months. They have been demanding a 10% increase in pay for all workers.

The meeting was called by the IS and was attended by a large number of workers. The workers were angry about the company's refusal to grant the pay increase.

The workers agreed to continue the strike and to hold another meeting in the near future.

Rail union sticks by Phase 3

The 'social contract' agreement between the rail union's (NUR) and the Labour government was outlined by Socialist Action to all NUR members last week.

The agreement with the union's North London District Committee that in return for a promise to repeal the so-called 'social contract' with the Labour government, $52 million pay restructuring proposals. Negotiations over these have been going on for years now.

The NUR executive is working to accept the deal with a few minor improvements, but the trade unions have been paying for the increased productivity and responsibility of the job. The government is trying to move the industrial action called off before the election at the request of Harold Wilson. Because all pay offers are now submitted jointly by the three unions involved—NUR, ASLEF and the engineering union—any changes in the cost of living is adjusted.

This will be a difficult and decisive period for the railway workers. The government is trying to move the industrial action called off before the election at the request of Harold Wilson. Because all pay offers are now submitted jointly by the three unions involved—NUR, ASLEF and the engineering union—any changes in the cost of living is adjusted.

International Socialists

If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and would like more information...
A SHORT statement from the British Steel Corporation on the day before the Easter holiday will mean that more than a thousand of us will lose our jobs unless we fight.

South Teeside Works management have announced cuts in production which will mean the sacking of a quarter to a third of the workforce in most parts of South Teesside.

The Basic Oxygen Steel (BOS) plant at Lackenby is to be reduced from three vessels to two. Cleveland No 9 mill is to be cut from 21 rolling stands to 15. Lackenby Primary and Basics Mill is also to be cut from 21 stands to 17.

Management have already announced that one shift of more than 200 men will be laid off in this mill alone.

The cold concentrate at Lackenby will be cut down from 21 shifts to 15. Cleveland Electric Arc Plant will produce from two furnaces instead of three. Lackenby rod mills will be reduced from 15 shifts to 12.

No 3 Primary Mill at Cleveland is also to be cut-backs at Cargo Fleet and at other mills in the South Teesside complex.

Although management refuse to give detailed figures until ‘plants-by-plant consultation’ has taken place, we reckon this means the axe for 1000 steelworkers—2000 would not be exaggeration.

Why is all this happening at a time of acute shortage of finished steel products?

This is mainly because of the drastic shortage of iron and scrap from which steel is made. These shortages have been created by management incompetence.

In recent years, BSC have closed down every blast furnace supplying iron to Teeside except the Clay Lane furnaces. They have closed all steel-making plants except the new BOS plant at Lackenby.

The BOS plant is not functioning properly and in the opinion of most experts it never will—and the Clay Lane furnaces are in desperate need of modernising.

We’ve been hanging around in the plants for hours waiting for delivery from these two plants, and up to now we’ve been getting 50 per cent of our earnings for ‘waiting time’.

But now management want to introduce a massive retrenchment programme, and they want to make us pay for it. They want the same production they’re getting now, but cuts of up to 25 per cent in the workforce.

It is ESSENTIAL that this situation arises from their own incompetence. They make the management are now fighting for their own jobs and livelihood.

RESISTANCE

Despite the Easter holidays, we have managed to arrange meetings of all the shop stewards involved to formulate a policy about these planned sackings.

I’ve called this article The BSC’s and the Iron and Steel Federation last time the Corporation sacked hundreds of workers in Teesside, there was no organised resistance. Everyone just accepted what had happened as though it was inevitable.

The Corporation hope this will happen again.

They hope that we will hand them the keys to the gates.

We must insist that these redundancies are delayed at least until a full inquiry has been carried out into their causes and the full facts are made available at shop floor level.

Steelworkers are bitter and demoralised about the industry. There is no stability, no security and the wages are pitiful.

I think—and hope—the bosses have bitten off more than they can chew this time.

Scotts TUC militancy?

Shhh...

THE 77th annual congress of the Scottish Trades Union Congress and Trades Union Congress is getting under way this week with the agenda brimming over with militant resolutions denouncing wage controls, the Pay Board and laws against picketing.

The resolutions were framed when the Tory government was in office. Now that Labour is in power the heated opposition to wage controls and anti-picketing laws is being carried on by the General Council, which is appropriately lumping motions together under its standing orders committee.

The resolutions on the STUC General Council is composed of left-wing Labour and Communist Party members.

This year’s president, Betty McIntyre, the Scottish secretary of the National Union of Rosiers and Knitwear Workers, set the tone in her opening address on Tuesday.

“We appreciate the problems of embarking on an ambitious legislative programme. The first essential must be to secure the return of a Labour government with a substantial majority. We would then wish to see such a government annul wealth and privilege as no Labour government has done so far.”