The central issue in the present election—and we will not allow Mr. Heath to escape from it—is prices. More than anything else, he cheated our people on prices.

One man's price increase is the same man's wage cut. The bigger the price increase, the bigger the wage demand.

The first priority of the incoming Labour Government must be to get prices under control.

Harold Wilson, speaking at an election meeting in Kirkby, Lancashire, 15 February.

The official policy of the Labour Government is to keep your wages.

That's the message spelled out by Harold Wilson in his speech last Sunday. Only four months after climbing into office he has ditched his main election pledge: to control prices.

All his fine words defending trade unionists who used their industrial strength to 'protect their interests' have been thrown overboard. Instead of the 'ruthless' price control Wilson promised last February, we are back with the same old Tony wage restraint. Even the threshold payments—the 'tones' window dressing for those wage-cut policies—are attacked by Wilson as inflationary.

Harold Wilson has been through all this before. He was Prime Minister in a Labour Government from 1964 to 1970 when the crisis of capitalism was much less serious than it is now.

Labour sends Vietnamese refugees to prison island

There are 118 extra prisoners sitting on South Viet Nam's notorious Con Son prison island this month thanks to the British authorities in Hong Kong and the British Labour Government.

The group, mainly men with some women and children, escaped from South Vietnam by junk. They were desperate to get away from America's war in the Far East. They asked for help and aid to Hong Kong where they thought they would receive sympathetic treatment. But the British authorities and the Foreign Office in London were only interested in one thing—staying in peace with dictators Thieu and his American employers. Amnesty International intervened on the behalf of the refugees, and tried to prevent them being extradited.

They approached the Foreign Office. But Jim Callaghan and his boys refused to do anything. So 118 South Vietnamese political refugees went back to South Vietnam and to imprisonment in a vile concentration camp.

They have been back in Con Son for one month now—those who are still alive to tell that is. You know Labour Government works.

For two years prices have been the key. We now face a further danger based on a simple proposition: one month's price increase is the next month's wage increase. When prices rise, then wages sooner or later will exercise a causal influence on our price structure.

The Conservatives intended threshold payments as an insurance, not as they have proved, a built-in twist in the wage-price spiral.

Harold Wilson, speaking to the leaders of the Socialist International, 30 June.

POLICE MOVE AGAIN

We need your help

Socialist Worker printers and publishers had another visit from the police last Friday. This time it wasn't about the naming of the rich Messrs X and Y in the Jutland Jones case.

Inspector Hawley of Scotland Yard interviewed Jim Nichols, the publisher of Socialist Worker, in connection with the publication of a poster and the Socialist Worker of 22 June.

The poster and two pamphlets were seized in that issue that stated the police had murdered Kevin Gailey on the demonstration in Red Lion Square. This Inspector Hawley suggested, was a criminal libel. He then cautioned Jim Nichols—which indicates the police investigation is not focused on charges against them.

1989 cameraman Massacore was murdered. In 1980 the proprietor of the Manchester Observer got one year for calling the King's troops 'thieves'.

Now the police are trying to get these kind of prosecutions reversed. They don't want an individual citizen to bring a civil libel action. A crime libel is much more difficult to bring and defend. So it's a much better way of blunting those people who look to the moral of the man of law and order.

The only guarantee against such a development is your protest and your support. If you refuse the matter of the prison branch or district, your support will be answered.

The police have now finished publication of their own Public Protection Act which states that the public interest in a particular case can be overridden by the police. The police are not bound by their own law.

The radical publisher Richard Catlin was jailed for six years in a better case still.

The radical publisher Richard Catlin was jailed for six years in a better case still.
Labour acts – to junk juries and justice

THE Labour government is preparing this week to introduce an Act which will legalize imprisonment without trial, abolish trial by jury, give the army and police unlimited powers of search and arrest and render defendants guilty until proven innocent.

It will be called the Northern Ireland Society Protection Order (Bail) Act. It will rework the Act of 1920, the last Act of the old Irish Parliament before the Second World War.

It is the fact that when it was first introduced, Labour, which is opposing it outright, objected strenuously to its provisions. Among those who voted against the Bill were Sir Evelyn Jones and Stan Orme.

This path... could lead to the destruction of the system of justice as we know it, not only in Northern Ireland but throughout the United Kingdom," said Silklin.

Silklin, Jones and Orme are now in the government. Orme, indeed, who is known as a "left winger", is Under-Secretary for Northern Ireland, sir Evelyn Jones is Lord Chancellor. Sam Silklin is Attorney-General.

Yet here is every reason to believe that all three will now vote to give the Act a year’s extra lease of life.

In a detailed memorandum being sent to MPs of all parties, the National Council for Civil Liberties describes how the Act has worked in its first year. More than 600 men and women are in prison for an indefinite period without trial.

In the beginning, the Act raised the prospect of 15,000 people being held beyond their day in the dock. This has now fallen to 1500 people. The number of people held for five years or more is 1200.

The NCCCL says the documents incriminating the accused can be kept secret and the person who makes the accusation having to prove what he produced for cross-examination.

Control

A defendant applying for bail has to prove that he will not commit any crime. This means having to prove that the arms or explosives must prove they are not in the possession of arms or explosives must prove they are not in the possession of those who make the accusation having to prove what he produced for cross-examination.

British Socialists would do well to consider the implications. As the past five years Northern Ireland has been the target of a terrorist campaign, the government has been working with a view to perfectioning the Act.

By voting for the renewal of the Act, the Labour Party will be conceding the principle that trial by jury, the normally accepted rules of evidence will be thrown on the compass, and not only to those accused of political crimes.

In pushing through this hateful Act, Sir Evelyn Jones and Silklin will undoubtedly try to divert the Labour rank and file with much talk of the dangers to the state. The point is that the liberty of the individual is the individual's all those things which make up the individual's personal pride—are being destroyed, with the encouragement of the Labour Party.

Every Labour MP should be bombarded with protest and every trade union branch invited to take a stand—quickly.
Kissinger's 'peace in our time'

by Phil Marfleet

A GROUP of Barnsley glass workers were evicted from their workplace yesterday by a police raid on the factory, and it is alleged that the workers were eight hours out of work. The raid was carried out by the Barnsley Police, who said that the workers had been disturbing the peace. The workers are claiming that they were not evicted and that they were not involved in any violent activity.

STRIKES DOUBLE AFRICAN WAGES

The new-found freedom of the workers in Angola and the newly independent nation of Zambia have been paralleled by a wave of mass strikes. In Mozambique, in East Africa, almost every industry has been stopped. Transport workers, 7000 dockers, newspaper workers, hotel and restaurant workers have been out. At the giant Cabras Bauxit Dam, which is being built by international capital to provide power for South Africa, 2000 black workers went on strike demanding the removal of white racists from the site and sindie wages increases.

Six white South Africans were immediately removed from management. In the same area, the mass coin mine at Moatzi was halted by two strikes of miners demanding more pay.

Almost all these strikes brought wage increases of 90 percent and more.

A familiar strike wave swept Angola, on the west coast of Africa. Dockers, railway workers and seamen were joined on strike by bank clerks, hospital workers and airline workers. The workers link their wage demands with solidarity with the freedom fighters in both countries, who are still fighting Portuguese troops. The Trade Unio Confederação Angola recently expelled its secretary general on the grounds that he was collaborating with the former secret polices and 'betraying the liberation movement'.

EXTEND

The authorities are hoping to buy off the workers with wage awards and maintain their low gap on the return to Mozambique from South Africa. zwarte workers tested out their new-found freedom by refusing to be searched by soldiers at the border. Seven were shot dead and six injured.

As in Portugal, the workers will need to extend their mass strikes if they are to remove the racist dictatorships which have governed them for so long.

A strike at Heathrow Airport 2nd branch

by members of the Heathrow Airport 1S branch

HEATHROW AIRPORT, London, has been surrounded this week by troops with armoured cars and sub-machine guns and by armed police. Aircraft have had their way to work were pulled up at gunpoint and had to take cars. Because of this increased attention to security the British Airline Pilots Union (BAPU) has upgraded this to the extent of declaring a "strike in protest" against the transfer of the police from the ops-style British Airline Police to the Metropolitan Police at preventing strikes at the airport was demonstrated recently when a worker from London Office for Agriculture policies was arrested during an argument with a traffic warden. He was put in handcuffs and dragged off to the local police station. The searching was prohibited under an airport by-law.

Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

there is a way out

IS BRITAIN really broke? What will happen to people like us? Are we bankrupt? Is this the end of democracy? How much must we cut our standard of living? Will things ever be the same again?

Press and television hysteria rises to such a pitch that the real questions are not even heard.

Is there less wealth in this country (or any other) now than say, ten years ago? No, there is more wealth around. There are more factories, more machinery, more workers. More food can be produced in this country than ever before. Technology is more advanced.

If the decisions about what to do with all that wealth, what to produce, when and where to produce it, were taken by the workers who produce the wealth, then it would grow faster and everyone would benefit from it. More beauty and comfort would mean fewer hours at work. Wasted resources could be saved.

But it doesn't happen like that. More and better machinery means more need for social security pittance for workers. Waste industries and armaments production are kept up while the production of things needed by every family in the land is cut.

When industry expands fast, as it did last year, there are not enough raw materials to feed the boom. Prices shoot up, investment of profits give rise to price-cutting.

Why? Because the decisions are taken by a small class which owns and controls the wealth. They make their decisions out of class interest.

They do not ask: 'Will this decision benefit the majority of the people?' They ask: 'Will this bring in more in dividends or interest for us?' Will it extend OUR privilege, OUR wealth, OUR control?'

That's why we have more empty office blocks and fewer council houses, why the record is not cancelled but food factories are cutting back on the production line, why the oil companies are allowed to keep illegal profits of £25 million and the rent is not based wage increases costing £10 million, why the economy lurches from shorter boom to longer recessions.

The crisis is not brought about by the rise in oil prices. The shortage of oil was foreseen by 'experts' long ago. If society were properly planned, we could have reduced our dependence on oil and at the same time developed a more prosperous, less polluted society.

But because the oil companies and their friends in the British Road Federation are the most powerful lobby in society, and because their only aim is to stop oil wealth from entering their society.

Workers must not be fooled by the newspapers' and politicians' hysterical patriotism. The economic chaos is the responsibility of the class which holds economic and political power. It is the inevitable result of running society for profit.

This is not a time for us to make sacrifices so that the people can have peace. We must support the strikers and be prepared to explain why they are being forced to fight in their own interests.

Meanwhile Kissinger has made peace. And Nixon, on holiday from Watergate, is feted in the streets of Cairo.

Tuesday's Daily Mirror—meanwhile, the Daily Telegraph announced the same day that a Briton man left £25,000, a Sunderland man £185,000 and a Bournemouth woman £149,000.
How he keeps them down on the farm

SLAVES are usually thought of as people working for little or no reward, and few or no rights. Having worked for most of my life on the land, I've found that most farm workers fall into this category. The reason is that employers use intimidation to control their employees.

The classic example is the case of the employees of Mr John Edwards. Mr Edwards, whom I had the experience of working for in 1972, owns the Riverhead Agricultural Cooperative, which is 350 acres, a frozen food company and (in partnership with his wife's family) a bakery empire which includes the Mr Kipling cake company.

In view of this it will surprise you to know that Mr Edwards paid his workers £8.56 below the minimum agricultural wage. Mr Edwards won't employ women or black and disabled employees from getting a job in the district as well as the traditional eviction from the tied cottage.

Although the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers has fought against such slavery, it can't be denied that Mr Edwards won't employ the workers like Edwards on its own.

So how does Mr Edwards expect to beat the likes of Edwards and employ them? To give the workers the opportunity to join the fight for a fair and just society. After all, miners, factory workers, dockers etc have been organised to defend themselves, so there is no reason why farmers' workers can't be organised into a strong force again.

Let's rekindle the spirit that led Wat Tyler to lead workers in the Peasants Revolt, the Tolpuddle Martyrs to stand up for themselves and Joseph Arch to form the NUAW so that their struggle will not have been in vain, and that no agricultural worker will have to live in fear of employers like John Edwards.

The politics of Lenin

PAUL GINSBURG

An introduction to the political arguments used by Lenin in his work in the mid-19th century, and the relevance of his theories on the workers' state, building the party, internationalism, workers' democracy, 20th plus 40 postage (more than 10 copies post free) from IS BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N1.

Palestine

- advertised and then ignored

THE REMEMBER PALESTINE demonstration on 19 May was advertised in the paper, but not reported on. No mention was made of the beginning of the refugee camps in South Lebanon by the Israeli Zions. No one in fact, understood the problems of the refugees (not children) at the Ma'alot settlement.

Dayan was called a murderer by the parents of the teenager. The rally was held to commemorate 26 years of exile for one and a half million Palestinians driven from their homeland by European Zionists. They live in refugee camps in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.

Our demonstration was attacked as an attempt to incite the young to riot. The Zions racist thugs viciously attacked Palestinian students who carried the flag. An elderly British woman marched with us and was severely kicked by a Zionist thug who stated he would get her later.

I am disappointed that no member of the International Socialists was on our side. Andy in an article on British involvement in the Arab-Israeli War, SAMIRA El-Ibrahim, London, SW7.

The life and times of Lenin

The life of Lenin in his own words and those of Krupskaya, Trotsky, Serge and other contemporaries, as well as of a number of projected slides. It lasts 26 minutes and is available from IS BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N1.

Students: there are only 600,000

WE MUST protest about the very poor coverage given to student movement in the National Union of Students.

The original motion, denying a platform to racists by any means 'possible', passed at the Easter NUS conference, was of the utmost political significance as far as revolutionary socialist students are concerned.

Yet the following actions by students at Oxford, Hatfield, Portsmouth, etc weren't even mentioned in the paper!

We feel that these events (coined in the usual distorted manner by the millionaire press) were of importance, not just for students but for the whole of the socialist and working class movement in its fight against racism and fascism.

There are 600,000 students in Britain. There are over 600 in the International Socialists. Students do play a role, if only a small one in the struggle for socialism.

Schools: fight for comprehensives!

WE ARE MEMBERS of the London Schools Campaign representing parents from 100 London secondary schools who are fighting for a better education for all our children. We believe in a state school system on the workers' state, building the party, internationalism, workers' democracy, 20th plus 40 postage (more than 10 copies post free) from IS BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N1.

It is unfair to respond to the problems in our schools by defending selective schools which cater for only 12 per cent of our children while ignoring the schooling of the other 85 per cent in the state sector.

We call for a state education system that is free to all children and is impartial in its approach both to the educationally able and to the educationally less able.

This should be recognised in Socialist Worker and not dismembered or treated as irrelevant. An approach is 'working in' its 凶offenad, not revolutionary socialism.

We are members of the Polytechnic Socialist IS Society.

COAL? WAIT 6 MONTHS

MINERS are entitled, following the Pay Board enquiry into the wage dispute, to coal on demand as part of their wages.

They have coal deliveries in South Wales, but there is a long delay between delivery and receipt of coal, often a week or even longer.

The only way out was for the NUM to organise a national strike and to demand that the government guarantee a supply of coal for six months. Persistent pressure by the lodge had no effect, so we asked the NUM Commodity Committee to decide that the only way out was for the miners to go on strike.

The strike was called for 24 hours notice and was to last for six months. The NUM Commodity Committee approved the strike.
Postal Points

THE ANTI-NATIONAL FRONT
DEMONSTRATION
THE KILBURN DEMO
TRATION,
AND
THE
FASCISTS...

I WAS THERE. . .
I have been suggested
by International Socialists to
work with a group of
white people to try to
build a new generation of
white fascists. . .

I am writing to you,

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TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

The modern state, whatever its form, is an essentially capitalist machine; it is the state of the capitalists, the state collective body of all the capitalists, the more citizens it exploits. The workers remain wage-earners, proletarians.

That is Frederick Engels, writing about nationalisation. You might think that was true then, that he was correct, but as a Marxist fact has by no means come to a stop, nor is it at any rate a general rule. But he was concerned to attack what he called 'a certain bourgeois socialism' which argued that state ownership equaled socialism.

And still does. The Labour Party, for example, always argued in this way until it stopped talking about socialism - which is why a good many of the Labour 'left-wingers' still think in these terms. For them, the nationalisation of industry is Acts of parliament is the road to socialism. When all key industries are nationalised, they believe, then you have socialism.

Was this rejected by Marx and Engels? For two reasons, the first was that the Russian revolution, the second was the nature of the state itself. The revolution was the first second one. The official view of the state, the one taught in schools and colleges and plugged by press and TV, is that it's 'neutral'. Civil servants, policemen and soldiers are 'outsiders' polices. They do whatever the government tells them to do. The state machine is like a motor car. It can be turned to the left or turned to the right, but it carries on either way. The driver is the government which represents the people.

No, not exactly. The people are divided into classes which can be left or right, but the state does not come into it.

And pretence

A government can no more 'represent' them all than ex-Alderman Andrew Cunningham could 'represent' the airport workers in his union in negotiations with the airport authority of which he was chairman. He pretended to, of course, just as governments pretend to. But it is, and can be, nothing more than a pretence.

All right, say the more sophisticated defenders of the system, it is true that there are conflicts of interest. But the government stands above them. Its job is to strike a balance between the various sectional interests and to take into account the national interest which is common to everyone.

But that is the mistake. It leaves aside the silly assumption that the men who make up government are somehow above the struggle, in other words, outside society. Any government operates a system of laws and institutions which reflect and uphold a particular view of society.

In Britain today these laws and institutions uphold the right of the rich to live off the labour of others, and to live very well off it. They uphold the rights of the employers to hire and fire. They uphold the right of a handful of millionaires to control the press. In short they uphold the requirements of capitalist society.

The 'left-wing' government has now got away with abusing words to defend capitalism, or at least to sweep it away. Suppose, for the sake of argument, that a 'Left' Labour government came to power with the serious intention of destroying the power and privileges of the rich and establishing a new society based on equality and production for social need.

Obvious

Would the 'motor car', the senile civil servants, the generals, the police commissioners and so on, obediently 'turn left' and carry out the orders of such a government? There may be some innocent people who might do so, a fair number might try, but a lot of hypocritical people who pretend to think so.

But this is to ignore the obvious. The top civil servants, the senior officers of the forces, the judges, the police chief are part of the privileged classes. They enjoy high salaries and big pensions.

Their friends and relations sit on the boards of banks, insurance companies, engineering firms and so on. Some of them can hope to do the same when they leave the state service.

They have a vital personal interest in the capitalist system. They can no more stand 'outside politics' than a man can jump over his own head.

We know from a wealth of experience how the professional defenders of law and order behave towards a government which they believe to threaten their fundamental interests. First sabotage and threats. If this fails, then armed rebellion.

Chile is only one of a long line of such experiences. The most recent view that the modern state is the state of the capitalists has been proved in practice again and again.

Duncan Hallas

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM mid-June issue on Ireland

Special offer

Issue 60-61, including articles on Twelve months at Chrysler, The Hazards of Work, Chile: Terrorism, Imperialism, China. Five issues (original price £1.05) for 70p (including postage).

Two fingers up to Churchill

On 10 May, the dockers in the East India dock were preparing to load one of the steamers on the Walford line, the SS Jolly George. Down came the cargo—all of it labelled "O&MS Munitions for Poland." (That very day, Bonar Law, a Tory Minister, was denying in the House of Commons that there was "the slightest British involvement in the Polish war.")

Shaken

The dockers held a meeting. Almost without a vote against, they voted not to work, and to send a deputation to the Transport and General Workers' Union to seek official support. The deputation came back with promises of support for all strike action on munition ships—-the matter of the Munitions Act was already under consideration.

The Jolly George sailed with its cargo. The Government's policy was shaken to its foundations.

A will of his own

I see the doctors are jumping on the nurses' bandwagon and demanding that the British Medical Association, which participates in the doctors' trade union, be entirely controlled by junior consultants and other dignitaries. The last thing the last thing the last thing the last thing is how badly these gentlemen do life. A recent report has found that the profession is riddled with malpractice and that, in the last 10 years, the death rate has been identical. One of the latest reports is that the average death rate has been identical. The profession is riddled with malpractice and has made little progress in the last 10 years.

Visits

The resolution was not reached, partly at least because of the long-winded interventions on other matters by Joseph Barton, J.P., P.S.C. Knights of St. Columba, a secret Roman Catholic organization, membership of which is almost mandatory for senior members of the Board of Trade. Mr. Barton is Mr. Mahon's election agent, and is also personnel manager for Funeral Worthy, the shipping company which operates the frequent round trips between Chicago and Spital.

But it's not just Mr. Barton whose interest in Spain extends beyond the Costa Brava. The Bootle Times for 13 December last has, on page three, a picture of Mr. Mahon and some directors of the bootle building company of Norseman, Holst (profits last year £1,573,000), the year before £27,200,000.

Mr. Mahon had kindly arranged a magnificent lunch at the House of Commons for six directors of Norseman (and their wives). Mr. Hugh Delargy, the Labour MP for Thurrock and once a firebrand on the Left of the Party, attended the dinner and even gave an introductory speech in French on another page of the Bootle Times.

A senior director of Norseman España, Mr. A. F. Thomson, had been appointed following the decision of the company to set up an office in the Spanish steel town, Oviedo, and to embark almost at once on a highly profitable office-and-shop development.

Worried

I understand that Norseman has bought about 14,000 acres of development land in Spain and plans to make enormous profits out of them. The employees are already very worried about what will happen to the workers.
It's poor folks' haven't got a chance, unless we organise...

From DAVE WIDGERY in Harlan, Kentucky

The miners union in the 1960s, only one in three of the Kentucky miners who apply have obtained a federal pension.

"Somebody said that's a strange tattoo you have on the back of your hand."

Just the little more and I'll be done.

(Cost Taylor, Billy Ed Wheter)

Accidents are notorious in this area and the owners are proud of their indifference. A few years ago 18 men were buried at nearby Hyden and a federal investigation found that the explosion that killed them was caused by illegal mining practices which the company knew were unsafe.

Brooksides is said to be so dangerous that even the rats stay away. Limbless men and crotches are common in these parts, although you never know whether it's the mines or Vietnam. There's an artificial limb shop on Main Street, Harlan.

Safety inspections are a farce and enforcement worse. Violations remain outstanding for years. A miner told me he knew the very hour and the very day when the mine inspectors were coming. He confided: "Let's make it look pretty now."

Among the protests recently recorded by the miners at Brooksides were mining fires, alarms, mining brakes on the coal louvres, areas of flooding which prevented inspection altogether, and sprinklers that don't work and missing roof bolts.

But effective safety means effective organisation and that means a continual challenge to management's absolute rights. Norman Yardbam, the mine boss, understands this well. "I'm not going to abridge the right to any final say on safety because I'm the responsible party. Ultimately, it has got to be a management decision," he says.

"There's no such animal as a safe coal mine. It just doesn't exist!"

The miners don't agree. "I don't want my son to go into the mines. But I firmly believe that by the time my sons are old enough to go to work, this mine could be organised so that it's as safe as any factory," says Jerry Rainey.

"There's a man in a big house way up on the hill. Far from the shacks where the poor miners live."

He's got plenty of money. Lord everything's fine.

And he has forgotten the Harlan Miners, Hazel Dickenson.

"People Stirring"

The union would not be just something inside the mines. It is needed to change the whole way the miners and their families live. Houston Ehlton, the union organiser, says: "We have to start to make safer work for the people of Harlan, people we've let down badly is the past."

"It's not just about coal. The education system, the housing, the courts and the political system have got to change if the miners are to get justice."

The judge here, now he's a scab coal operator. So how can he be impartial? The teachers in the local schools, they are the sons and daughters of the owners because they are the only people who can get to college. It's sort of like a feudal system.

Brooksides is said to be like a cross between a company town and a medieval village. Now that Yardbam's mansion looks out over his mine and his miners separated only by a row of pine trees, a two-lane road and a little hill. Just beneath his home huddle the smaller but still luxurious homes of his managers and foremen, arranged according to rank. The miner's homes are usually temporary-looking shacks, in rows along dirt tracks. The wood is unpainted, the faces pinched, and the teeth yellow. Their living conditions are a kind of grim joke. They have a colour TV but no bathroom and cars and a dentist.

Large families sit on the porch, father in white T-shirt rocking backwards and forward, mother in a beige hair do and kids baking in the cream. Behind them the coal piles and a canopy of fur tins overhang the mine shafts, the men are quite idyllic from a distance.

Until you took a week and went down through the veranda and a limekiln and the miners which is only flashed away when the creek floods once a year. And then you turned all their tap water because last time you were in there the apartment test the drinking water for E. coli. And it was so bad it was not fit to drink. Then you discovered that feral coliform bacteria (a count of 24, permitted level 9)."

"In the summer our arms we didn't have shoes to wear."

"But in the winter we'd all get a brand new pair."

From a mail order catalogue. "Money made from selling a box. Daddy always managed to get the mail order somewhere."


The schools are pretty good too. When one of the strikers' children went to school with a Union badge, it was torn off him. "When your father gets involved in a union," he said, "you no longer a brain go bad," draws another miner who conducted his own campaign to prove militantly. Children's have got mysteriously bad grades at school since the strike."

"Chance"

Miners are locked into a whole system which stops them from keeping them down, Jerry Rainey says. Now My Yardbam's in Ohio. To look at him, he might almost be a miner. But he sure doesn't want to stand over us. He wants to stand over us like a raile man with a whip he does. Well I ain't no more hauling a plow, a job."

In this situation a union is both last hope and first chance.

NOW THE STRIKE is the time. The mine for 11 years has been playing cards in a building a heap cans. At night round camp firing and batonpos.

But if the man pull a fast one, 150 minutes.

The deadlock is beaten thing to leave for the plants of the pickets. They are the owners will not be worked.

They also fight for coal. They are the president of the company union.“

Brooksides miners' packet line. They say the mine is dangerous 'even the rat stay away'
and this 'booster van' cruises between Kuttawa, Brookside and Harlan cheering people up and passing on the news and gossip. But it is demurely named Brookside Women's Club which has been the most successful moral builder.

In September the main union members were prevented by a local court injunction from mounting effective pickets. This itself was a fraud, as a local doctor, himself active in the Black Lung movement, smiled: "I am sick and tired of rules by injunctions, by the big money in this country. Do you ever see an injunction given in favour of a poor person?"

But while the men were banned, the women stood their scales. At first they thought we were pretty funny but finally they quit laughing," says Minnie Lunsford.

At first they tried tugging but when a scab pulled a gun, all hell let loose. The state police moved in with squad cars and truncheon charges, no women retaliated with two-by-two clubs and hoe handles. One woman shouted at the police: "You can beat the shit out of me but you can't beat the union out of me!"

Many women and children went to prison for a few days. Other women picketed their court hearing.

A woman told the judge: "You're a coal owner and I resent you trying me. And that clerk beside you, her son photographed Union men as 'traitors for the blacklist'!"

Their defense was clear: "We had to picket ourselves to prevent the coalowners from getting round the law. We all know we are doing what is right!"

RUN 'EM ALL OUT

THE STRIKE has won new capacities and determinations. People listen better than they did before," says one striker. "We've met more people who didn't know existed on that 'picket line'," says another.

"Sure it's been worth it," says Minnie Lunsford. "It was just like a school. I've enjoyed every minute of it. Sometimes I wonder if I knew anything before this strike," said Betty Ethington.

The strike has shaken the country up. The union idea is spreading. Employees of the Appalachian Hospitals have been out for union recognition. Waitresses in the town, including some of the strikers' daughters, are trying to form an association.

Personal relations have been changed too. Women who have been their 'husbands' grading admiration for their courage on the picket line and their insistence in court are not going meekly back to the sink.

"I ain't got much money, not much of a home. We own our own land but the land's not our own. But if we all get together, we can work it all out. We'll take over the country and run it our way!"

"(Black Workers', Jean Pinchuck)

Nearest of all is a sense of power. When miners move together, that's really something," said one striker of the British coal strike in 1946.

American miners took a close interest in the British coalfields and are amazed that British miners actually forced a general election.

The Brookside strike may not yet have Duke Power and Richard Nixon on their knees but it does show again that if the working class doesn't change the world, even the world of East Kentucky, then nobody will. We got the cat by the tail now, can't go but one way.

DUKE POWER CO. OWNS THE BROOKSIDE MINE, BUT THEY DON'T OWN US

HOW BLOODY HARLAN GOT ITS NAME

MINNIE LUNSFord: of the Brookside Women's Club, who has been causing the picket lines.

Harlan got called Bloody when they started this union, when they started to organise. They then had his guns, too — pretty much like the North. You'd just get him a good bunch of guns and he'd snuff out of anything.

They'd just come up to the organizer. They was wanting to get rid of him. They wasn't havin' no organizing.

Three cars loads of thugs came across the road and stopped in front of his house. They meant to kill. They just shot up the house. The bullets made big streaks along a foot long. All through the house.

The organizer's wife — they were good Christian people—she didn't realize what it was. She thought it was a drunk. Everything was quiet. She called out for help and her name was Billy. She got her two daughters to be able to close up the dishes. She had got a bullet hole right through her wrist.

She called out: "Billy, how are you?" Her little brother said: "He's in there with the room. She went in there holding her wrist. He was laying over on the room with his head shot off. They tried to get hold of the ambulance and the sheriff, the law you know. And they couldn't get a cent. They called up Harlan to come and get him. No possibility. People was afraid to go out of that house because the guns-things could have come back.

They do anything, those guns-things. They'd dynamite houses. They'd dynamite people. They'd say: "Let's go up on the mountains to hear a ball game on the radio." Next morning you'd hear on the news, the town blew up. Shot. On the mountain.

ENJOY

Women's clubs didn't exist in the thirties. There was nothing. Hard times and starvation almost. We had to stay in the house or near.

In the thirties, I saw people suffer. I didn't suffer enough. Seeing my children, y'know. They didn't get good food, but there's lots of things they needed that they didn't get. My husband was in jail that for that. And some others suffered more than me.

No now I'll go anywhere to get a contract, get a union, have it all nice and things. Peaceable. Conditions right and everything. That's what I enjoy. Trying to do something, getting things to rights.

In what you might say is my last days, I'm goin' to do something for others. Somebody said, "Go do me, how come you're goin' to be on the picket line?" I said: "Age and looks don't count me out. I can feel and what you have got in you and what you lost too all out!"

(Poison Workers', Jean Pinchuck)

"People sifting in the hills, people stiring up the hills home to Jena, my soul."

But the strike, whipped up an old houndspeakers
Wonderful, our police...

CECIL Sampson is languishing in Womunday. Scars at the neck, prison awaiting his appeal against a two-year prison sentence for grievous bodily harm. "There are the words of my wife, Yvonne:"

"We came to this country from Guyana 16 years ago to do nursing, my husband to study law. After a time Cecil gave up, saying: ‘The more lawyers there are, the more criminals.’ He then went to work at Gestetner’s. During our time here, we had no trouble with the police. Of course, I used to hear about people being beaten up by the police but only said: ‘My God, how terrible’ and then forgot it.

In July 1973, three police officers called. I was working late and was in bed. Cecil was cooking for our children. After being invited in, the three officers – Inspector Peters, Sergeant Omer and police woman Johannessen – refused to let Cecil what they wanted.

It was alleged later that the Sampsons were running an abortion racket. This claim was never supported by any charges or evidence.

Arrest

My husband was then ordered into the front room by Peters. Cecil thought things had gone too far and told the officers he had cooking to do and returned to the kitchen. Peters and Omer followed him.

Cecil immediately turned off the gas and said: ‘There’s no fucking cooking going on here, you are under arrest.’ Cecil then entered back into the front room to sit with our son Stafford.

I was doing in the bedroom when suddenly Peters and Johannesen burst in. ‘You’re under arrest,’ said Johannessen. My immediate reaction was to ring a friend and ask her to get help, a solicitor or something.

While I was speaking, Peters hit me across the face and cut off the call. I fell to the floor and Johannesen kicked me, Peters then put an armlock around my neck.

Stafford takes up the story: ‘Suddenly we heard screams and my Mum said, ‘You see a man, you should not do this to me, help me, oh God, this man hit me.’”

Dad jumped up and ran to the hallway. As he got there, Omer came from the kitchen with a pan of hot oil, saying: ‘Where’s the kid you think you’re going to? And chucked the oil over Dad. Then he got Dad around the neck and knelt in the chest.

They fell on the floor together. Dad fought free and ran behind the television. Terrified, I shouted to Omer to leave Dad alone because he had a bad heart. I tried to telephone but Omer stopped me. Get out of the way, you little bastard,’ he said and hit me with the pan. He then went for Dad, shouting: ‘I want the kid, you think you’re going to stand in my way?’ Dad tried to defend himself with a lampstand, swinging it from side to side, and caught Omer on the head.

Stafford ran to the nearby hospital, where his brother Oliver was a patient. Meanwhile more police had rushed in and eight were carrying Mrs Sampson forcibly down the stairs, two on each limb. They threw her into the back of a police van. Mr Sampson was also arrested. Oliver ran home and said, talking to his sister, a voice cut in, saying: ‘Get off the phone.’ He was cut off and rang again. The same voice answered: ‘Where is Oliver said, he was coming home, I told him, ‘I am Inspector Peters, if you come home you will be arrested with your mother and father.’

Mr Sampson was charged with attempting murder—later dropped—and grievous bodily harm. He was tried for two years. Mrs Sampson was convicted by assurances of Peter Johanssen and Johannessen. She was cleared of both charges.

The trial taught Mrs Sampson a few more lessons about British justice, ‘I saw Peter going in and out of court briefing witnesses,’ she said.

The judge (Gordon-Jones) did his best at putting words into people’s mouths and insinuated our doctors, telling the jury that if they accepted her evidence the police doctor’s evidence would be discredited... and be tried for the murder of Dr. The police doctor was qualified, implying our doctor wasn’t.

Obscene

The judge also told the jury to disregard Stafford’s evidence. Things were dragged up from the past that had no bearing on the trial. The police had taken part in an illegal, but peaceful, demonstration in Guyana that our doctor had a driving licence.

It was alleged that my husband had spilled the oil on himself.”

After the trial, Mr Sampson received obscene telephone calls. Since his number is re-directory, he is sure they were made by the police.

Meanwhile, Cecil has suffered three serious heart attacks, almost certainly caused by the base Omer planted in his chest, which ruptured a main heart valve. Mrs Sampson is sure he will not survive two years in jail.

A friend on The Guardian who agreed to take up the case, later had to tell her a D-Notice had been slapped on it.

So how do we...and the Sampsons of this world—fight police violence? Mrs Sampson has a few words to say on the subject: ‘We need to involve the people—dozens of people. Don’t allow this sort of thing to happen. The police cannot throw everyone into the van, there would be a national incident. Get together—and stop it.’
Under the influence

It takes a long time to make a socialist, but often just one experience tips the balance—taking part in a strike, reading a book, going to a meeting. What made you a socialist? Write and tell us.

THUS WEEK’S Under the Influence is written by Don Robinson, a Luton vehicle production worker and a member of the Transport and General Workers’ Union. After many days of strike action, and a move to a new location, he wrote to us:

I was born during the industrial turmoil of 1918 in a one-bedroom flat—above a newsagent on the town’s High Street. I was one of six children, and we lived in a basement flat, which was far from being a comfortable home. Our living conditions were cramped, and we had to make the most of what we had. I remember vividly the days when the streets were closed due to the strike action, and we had to walk miles to get to our respective workplaces.

The strike made an indelible impression on me, and it was this experience that drove me to become a socialist. I believe that the working class has the power to change its circumstances, and I am determined to do my part in achieving this goal.

The face of Britain is today’s young people. The face of the future is bright, and I am confident that the new generation will continue the fight for social justice.

Tears

In August 1935 my father came home from the war and was quite changed. He had lost a great deal of weight, and his eyes were red and puffy. I asked him what was wrong, and he replied:

"During the war, I was on the front lines, and I saw things that no man should ever see. I was wounded, and I almost died. I was left with a permanent disability, and I have been struggling ever since."

My heart went out to him, and I vowed to do everything in my power to help him. I started to work harder, to save money, to build a better life for my family. I knew that I had to fight for what was right, for what was just. And I did.

The lost red book

All of it I realised was bloody sodding shit to sell. ep the. Only one man seemed to ask the right questions and make the right assumptions about the underlying causes of poverty and inequality. He was, of course, a socialist, and his name was John Prance.

by John Prance

One big lie

SUNDAY: ITV, 10.15pm. Delaphel Delaney became famous as the author of the play and film A Taste of Honey. The publicity seemed to have helped her considerably for many years. Her new play will bring to life the story of the young female who came of age in a working class environment.

TUESDAY: BBC-2, 10.35pm. The Old Grey Whistle Test returns to our screens with a bang. Rolling Stones 1965 American tour.

WEDNESDAY: BBC-2, 7.35pm. Good American rock singer Tony Joe White is in concert at the Rainbow Theatre. He has been performing for many years and has established himself as a respected artist.

FRIDAY: ITV, 6.40pm. The Money Programme reports on the ongoing crisis in the shipping industry.

The loss of a childhood friend

In January 1937, my best friend, Jack, was killed in a tragic accident. He was 17 years old, and he had always been my confidant. I was devastated, and I found it hard to cope with the loss.

I decided to write a book about his life, and I called it The Lost Red Book. It was a tribute to Jack and a reminder of the importance of fighting for a better world.

It was published in 1939, and it became a bestseller. It was read by many people, and it inspired them to join the fight for social justice.

The ‘pleasure’
your union can do without

A CHANCE to make Britain’s biggest union more democratic. That’s next week’s Transport and General Workers Union rules revision conference in Llandudno.

The TAG is organised within 11 different industries-trade groups—running side by side with 11 regions, from which the union is administered.

The six workers for instance, are organised within the Vehicle and Automotive Trade Group. It is probably no accident that this basic fact is largely unknown among many members in the industry, as there is no proper democratic structure attached to most groups.

Delegate conferences are rarely called in most trade groups, while sections such as the docks have conferences which, because they are based on the branches, exclude the backbone of the union—the shop stewards.

Consequently, the paid national officials of the trade groups are not kept on a tight rein by policy conferences and are accountable only to the Executive and general secretary Jack Jones. Statutory trade group conferences backed by strong regional and local trade groups would provide, in some ways, some accountability to the national and local officials.

The national committees of the trade groups are elected or selected at the discretion of the particular regional committee. In the Midland Region, the delegates to the national trade group are elected by ballot organised from the branches.

Active branches take the ballot papers on the shop floor but it is impossible to ensure that all members get the opportunity to vote. The only way to ensure that is to have all elections by postal ballot with election addresses by each candidate.

Argued

Paid officials of the union should be elected every three years and be subject to recall—and to ensure they do not become members of a petriied group they should be paid the average wage of the industry.

It will, of course, be argued that paid officials are appointed by an elected lay executive committee. But this body is no more than a rubber stamp for the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

The EC, which meets only quarterly, is used to endorse the policies of the F&GP, known as the Jack Jones Committee. Powerful general secretaries have always wielded their influence through this committee, which should be abolished and replaced by monthly meetings of the elected lay general executive.

A number of resolutions on this question have been sent up by branches and other bodies of the union in an effort to ensure greater democracy and to reduce Jones’ power.

Ironically, the general secretary is the only full-time official elected by the members. From right-wingers like Bevin and Drakin to the ‘lefts’, Cousins and Jones, every general secretary has wielded tremendous power over the union machine. They feel safe in 40 because they are elected for-life. No matter how divorced they become from the brothers and sisters who elected them, they win方形 continuing the ‘pleasure of the union’. This election should take place every five years.

Four amendments call for the general secretary to stand for election for periods of between three and five years. Twelve more call for the election of officials.

Crisis

Many other amendments to the rule book reflect a growing desire from the members to control our union. The conflicts between the bureaucrats and the rank and file, which are part of the history of our union (because of the bureaucrats’ habit of independent action) have sharpened.

The crisis in capitalism has widened the gap between the interests of the two. The amendments to the rule book mark a mood of change which if it is matched by organisation, could give Jack Jones a run for his money.

SWEETHEARTS SAGA

by Ian Gibson

WHITE-COLLAR trade unionists struggling for recognition against employer-backed staff associations are in for a set-back. A TUC affiliate, the Association of Professional Executive and Computer Staff, APEX, is offering staff associations protection against genuine trade union competition by selling them Bridginton Presses.

It has written to the staff associations involved, offering to publish their staff. The Sweetheart Organisation care to dictate. The first response has come from

Success for trade unionism seemed probable. APEX is in a position to not only cut off support, but staff rejected SAGA in favour of APEX. SAGA had won the sole recognition of the staff association. At the time of this article, SAGA was a tactical manoeuvre against the trade unions’ vacuum. In any case, any co-operative staff association was contrary to TUC policy since SAGA had registered under the new rules.

There were no joint negotiations so the general secretary of the Transport and General Workers’ Union, Jack Jones, said that there was no need for joint negotiations. Jones’ leadership was focused on the SAGA staff associations, which was against SAGA’s democratic structure and its co-operative nature and suggested a single negotiating body. SAGA’s campaign for higher wages was still ahead. Jones’ leadership was focused on the SAGA staff associations, which was against SAGA’s democratic structure and its co-operative nature and suggested a single negotiating body. SAGA’s campaign for higher wages was still ahead.

OFFERS

In the middle of these discussions, APEX came to the rescue of the leaders by suggesting they merge with APEX. APEX, a radical organisation, is prepared to absorb the SAGA staff associations for five years, give them an obvious advantage over another TUC affiliate.

APEX has been accused of undermining the SAGA staff associations. APEX is a TUC affiliated union’s branches, which is the SAGA staff associations. APEX is an independent union, which is the SAGA staff associations. APEX is a TUC affiliated union’s branches, which is the SAGA staff associations. APEX is an independent union, which is the SAGA staff associations.

by Tony Howatson

Trade union democratic—is the quality International Socialists campaign for—and we are for it. In Australia, it is fact.

Offices of Sydney Workers’ Building Workers’ Federation face elections every three years and cannot hold office for more than six years without a spot back on the streets. They are also paid the average wage of their members. When the rank and file are on strike, they get nothing.

But for worker-based officials tempted to sell out strikes there’s a little handicap. They can be fired back into instant recall—special elections called by a 1,000-name petition.

This democratic accountability has helped change the face of the MBWU. Whatever the MBWU’s mistakes, they are the mistakes of the most industrially and politically conscious union in Australia.

Not only has it fought hard on wages and conditions but it has been first in the field on hourly rates. It has attacked racism in the workplace, fought racial discrimination and fired the blacklisted firms who refused to take on black workers. It fights to open all jobs in the industry to workers of all races and nationalities.

Our Norman

The Bluf BLM has made its name on conservation. An estimated £2,000,000 worth of building projects are currently being blocked by the union’s ‘green huts’. When a building project threatened to be started by a £300 million scheme for a high rise office, the Bluf occupied site for 18 months working in the city, 1,000 members of Bluf, members of the local branch. The reaction to all this from the officials guarding the union’s interests, was that self-satisfied, self-justifying logic which self-proclaimed communists so often use.

The Socialist Worker four-page leaflet listing the firms trading with companies which do not trade with companies in China in their stores. It could be your firm. Copies 25 each (postage 50p) for any number of copies from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.
EN-TER STAGE LEFT...

MEMBERS of Equity, the Actors' union, like other working people, are suffering from the rocketing inflation and economic crisis. But in our trade we get an extra, special helping.

Fifty workers from members as far afield as Dublin, Liverpool and Newcastle came to the Socialist Worker offices at Coventry Street, London to demonstrate at the national school of its kind, and 40 new Equity members are being recruited, these demonstrations must be seen as a national measure of support. They include cameramen, transport workers, electricians, railwaymen and shop stewards united.

The day started with a general discussion with members of the editorial staff explaining their part in producing the paper, and how reports are selected and then printed. The discussion ranged from the paper's coverage of issues facing immigrant workers and women in the IS page, and the non-appearance of minority ethnic groups in certain districts, including South Wales and Liverpool. Now have Social Worker Committees which regularly discuss the paper.

The afternoon was given over entirely to writing. The school divided into small groups, and almost everyone had to write a short script, play or interview, which was then discussed by the others in the group.

ACTIVITY

The comrades at the school surprised us by the speed with which they could write articles. Many of the subjects chosen for articles led to political discussions and the swapping of factory experiences.

When the groups came to summation at the end of the session, it was discovered that to what extent the value of the article. Some comrades felt that the article was given enough of a lead as to how to write. Unsurprisingly, there was no way in which people can be taught to write.

The main purpose of the session was to break the ice. To cut away the barriers, and for the comrades to surround writers for newspapers and to show that it, in the event, can be written by anyone. It was expected to give them some sense of comradeship.

Most groups reported that the session was a great success, and that it should happen more often.

A pamphlet on 'Working Class Student activism' is being written and is being written under the aegis of the ISL Group.

A SERIES OF Industrial Training Schools are being organised for IS members. Several leading IS members, including Jimmy McAlpine, Roger Cox and Peter Bain will be speaking. See page 14 for details.

IS notices

PART-TIME ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER needed, for our office in a central office. The position requires experience and the ability to work unsupervised to meet deadlines. The salary is negotiable. Enquiries to 071-933 2361 or 071-933 2361.

SOCIALIST WORKER needs a graphics editor. The position requires experience and the ability to work unsupervised to meet deadlines. The salary is negotiable. Enquiries to 071-933 2361 or 071-933 2361.


CHILE: TRADE UNIONS AND THE COUP. This pamphlet is a good introduction to what happened in Chile and to the trade unions and the struggle for unity. It also shows that the Chileans can do in solidarity with Chilean workers. It should be used to show that the Communist Party left after Does Your Firm Trade in Torture? (2p) which is also obtainable from IS Books, 150p pamphlet.

FOLK CULTURE OF THE SAVAGES IN JAMAICA. By Edward Braithwaite. The West Africans who were taken from their homes and trans- ported to work under the brutal oppression of the West Indian plantation owners carried a rich and complicated culture. Conditions changed this into a distinctive West Indian folk culture. If, somewhat academically, this is the most significant of its development, 30p.

SCIENCE FOR PEOPLE. This is a good introduction to society—it is as it is and as it should be. This is the bi- monthly periodical of the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science. Issue 28 now available with articles on population control. 15p.

Copies of WORKERS' POWER, the fortnightly paper of the English Socialists in the USA, are available from the London IS Books. Send for a copy of this excellent newspaper (10p) and subscribe, £2.25 for a year.

DIRECT FROM: IS Books, 267, Sixth Street, Glasgow, C1 226, Denison High Street, Birmingham B15 4UJ, for articles section. Also for the Socialist and Trade Union Centre, 65 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4.

FOR A LONG time, the police and inland revenue have held off any moves against the lump. Now, suddenly, the lump is under investigation and attack.

Trade unionists will undoubtedly welcome this development. After all, the Shrewsbury Six were jailed for fighting the lump. But before we wholeheartedly do anything to down the lump we would do well to ask: Why has it come at this time and just now and is this being exploited?

George Smith, UCATT general secretary, and Len Murray of the TUC would have us believe that trade union pressure has forced the government to act.

But another explanation put forward is that the government is determined to stamp out tax evasion. This might sound convincing were it not for the fact that tax evasion through the distribution of goods has always been what the top income group avoid by careful accounting.

The real reason for the swoop is a little more involved. It is a part of an agreement between employers, trade union leaders and government to stitch up the militants in the industry.

In 1972, the UCATT Executive was forced into a campaign over wages and the lump. They under-estimated the anger and the organisational ability of thousands of building workers.

Cripple

The strike was spread and the flying pickets formed by the initiative of the workers, not the trade union leadership. Now the union leaders are afraid they cannot control the men in another national wage campaign. The employers know that such a campaign in the present crisis would cripple many of the smaller firms.

It is known by trade unionists and lumpers that employers can make wages that make a nonsense of calls for wage restraint.

And, the contractors are also being forced into a campaign against the lump. Except in local authorities and a few big firms, apprenticeship and training have vanished; and it is hard to find skilled tradesmen. On site after site work is being ripped down and replaced.

The mobility of lump labour means crisis of labour supply, work shortage and courses of action are deteriorating in storage.

By repressing the complaints on the lump, the government hopes to keep wages down and keep the lump union leaders towards this year's wage claim.

In this context George Smith's enthusiasm for the 'police swoop' seems a little more cautious. He compares the 'brigands'—workers who trade tax to nothing about the employers who have fostered the lump, who pay men to risk their lives to avoid the threat of laboratory equipment being corrupted by the modern tendending processes.

He is talking about workers forced on the lump because employers (like those on the 1967 strikes on the roads) or who are blacklisted or who are forced by inflation to make money however available. Whether the lumpers are Asians here 'illegally', systematically blackmailed to work for worse pay than the men on cards.

Of course, trade unionists don't 'like' cowboys. But we must look for the real cause, the 'Godfathers' of the lump.

The police swoop is a diversion to make workers less likely to make secret negotiations with 'people who matter' as they have done in the past and easier than the self-activity of the workers.

We want the industry decriminalised but we must remember what can mean-militants squelched out and work shifted from organised areas.

Our demands must be to smash the lump by bringing those who employ it. We must support lumpers who try to go straight.

Three should be a tax amnesty. We should oppose all attempts to bring back the all-out attack on lumpers forced on to the lump.

BRITISH Leyland laid careful plans for handling the present crisis in the company and using it to get rid of thousands of workers.

As the three-day week was being imposed earlier this year, company chairman Donald Stokes sent a confidential memo to all managers in the group, asking them to detail the number of workers who 'could do without if they had to'.

This is why you are at your plant, he said, with a notice to increase your love of work. Other measures carefully schemed include a virtual freeze on all recruitment, even to replace those who leave or retire.

But these measures hardly contain the redundancies plans due to be operated throughout British Leyland later this year.

It is almost certain that certain British Leyland intend to sack from 12 to 15 per cent of the workforce probably this autumn. This means 20 to 25,000 of the company's 171,000 employees are to be thrown on the scrapheap.

The figures reflect calculations made by management 18 months ago.

One industry expert, George Turnbull, departed last year in what was a carefully covered-up dispute over the plan to reduce the workforce.

Turnbull was known to be very unhappy with the emerging plan to cut the workforce. He was a skilled professional and the plan to reduce the workforce rather than keep the workforce intact was not in line with his views.

The plan was to reduce the workforce by 20-25% of the total workforce. This would mean that 34,000-42,500 workers would be laid off.

The workers were not informed about the plan until it was too late to do anything about it.

The workers were not informed about the plan until it was too late to do anything about it.

Civil servants answer union leader's threats

by Harry Goldstein

Society of Civil Servants

LONDON: 30 Post Office members of PCS are striking to defend the position of promotion, rank and file movement to campaign within the existing union for a change of policy.

The meeting decided to elect a committee to meet such a movement off the ground and campaign against any proposed 'lay-off' settlement which short of that would destroy the present agreement.

Past Office members of the two unions who are interested in becoming involved in such a movement should contact the secretary, Geoff Barker, 11 Gibson St, Road, Harrow, Weald, Kingsbury, Surrey.

INDUSTRIAL WEEKEND SCHOOLS


CARPENTERS: Saturday-Monday 17-19 August Special sessions: The Multinational, The Fight against Reunification, etc.

These will be held in London, with accommodation arranged. Members who have joined IS in the past year are particularly urged to attend. Details and enrolment forms are available from IS Industrial Dept, 8 Corners Gardens, London E2 8DO, Phone 01-739 8273.

Library pickets win vital support

by John Clifford

The UCATT executive got off lightly at the building workers' reunion in Edinburgh last weekend.

Attacks on their failure to defend the Commonwealth was overwhelming support—but the executive do not have to lead an immediate campaign on the crucial issue of picketing rights.

The executive also succeeded in foisting on to the conference a closed session on the Shrewsbury issue.

They said this followed legal advice. Perhaps the advisers were those who, at the beginning of the Shrewsbury trial, wanted the defence to produce an account of the police action and plead guilty.

The CTAAT's general secretary, made an interesting contribution, wanting the social compact would have to take into account the social security payments in the construction industry—then added that the position of the building executive government would have to be considered.

Practice

Many delegates made this to mean don't rock the boat. Brother Bob's advice is to stick to the block rep. He pointed out that in this industry workers in a social compact only benefited the employers. Such a different view was welcomed and accepted only in a socialist society.

Following a lively debate, the conference agreed to the use of £1.50 an hour for craftsmen and £1.40 an hour for labourers, plus the 15-hour week. That was the conclusion of the social compact, but still in force, and putting it into practice and in this they will be supported by the CWU.

We must be united in this policy and not be afraid to protect any of the 'good' that we have, and to have another Shrewsbury, followed by the CWU.

If we are to combat the lump we have to put the interests of the individual contractors towards a better standard of living. And that means the best wages, the best safety and welfare conditions.

We must be able to prove that you not only live better on the job but that you can retire in good time in retirement on a good pension.

May 17 Industrial Weekends

NATIONAL LABOUR RELATIONS BOARD

FIVE weekend schools are to be held next month for members of the International Socialists in industry. Each will include sessions on Policing and the Lump, as well as discussions on the lump and lump movement, engineering, and FIle Movement, and Ireland, plus two other sessions of special interest.

There are 15 IS members are invited to attend.


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The threshold flight goes on

by Andy Nanglo (TGWU)

"£50,000 COMPENSATION" was the headline. That's what it cost Gilfcpur Investments, the owners of Strachan's of Eastleach, Hunts, to get a sell-out - £1,136,369 a piece.

Seventeen weeks ago Strachan's gave all employees one hour and a half's notice. The men rejected the redundancies, occupied the plant and were only kicked out six weeks later with 40 police men and a high court order. We went on picketing continuously until the dispute finished.

Gilfcpur produced the £50,000 because the Rank and File Conference backing their subsidiary companies was biting.

Full time union officials and Gilfcpur started frantic phone calls. There was a limited meeting of the Directors and the company on 20 June.

The workers involved were still much arguing before Gilfcpur doubled their first offer in return for an end to the dispute. At this time I was in Scotland, fund raising. I was in the Miers union office in Edinburgh on 21 June, asking for my appeal to be circulated. A copy of the Morning Star was done mine - they were all there. An hour later the pickets - our committee were told by Shepperton managers that the Gilfcpur committee member George Gourley had collapsed and all was straight away, with no discussion and won to 1-1.

We deligated a bad response (over £2 million in redundancy funds) to all the companies throughout the country. With the exception of the Edinburgh District Officer, the Engineering union of ESO made an effort, but only $2500, after a meeting in which managers were paid in six weeks we'd called for Rank and File backing from the start. It wouldn't have dragged on for 17. We didn't want the dispute to last a lifetime.

I'd like to thank all Rank and File members for your support in Dundee for the six months and a half at the end of last year allowing me to watch the Scotland Rank and File conference which couldn't bear it because of his standing. We wouldn't have got what we did. Many thanks.

STRIKE ANCHOR

by Stewart Bloomfield

IPSWICH: The Crown and Anchor Hotel in the Elms, Ipswich, was locked out by 24 workers sacked by Trust Houses Forte after coming to the hotel with the backing of the national hotel owners association to ensure the dismissal of the shop steward. Deliveries are still being taken in the hotel to support the collection.

The management of the hotel, run by John Jeffery, the managers' shop steward, agreed with the Trust Houses Forte managers to support the strike by refusing to do so.

Second time around

MERSIDYSE: 1200 workers at the former Fisher 26 Factory in Mersidyse who received redundancy notices, International Procter and Gamble, received news that they will be transferred to the site in Workington.

The report says that the London cost of living allowance should only be increased by 5.6% as it is within four miles of Charing Cross. But the situation is very different for government workers in London who don't even commute into London. They will get only £2.50 a year increase or around £190 a year.

Beth Stone of the militant teachers' Rank and File of the National Union of Teachers executive told Socialist Worker: "The Pay Board report is a disgrace. They are trying to make us think that the cost of living doesn't suddenly get lower when you cross the four miles into Charing Cross."

Some teachers in Hackney qualify for the £400 allowance but don't claim it. If you take it to its logical conclusion some teachers in a school could get for a lighter figure, while others whose classrooms are just a bit further away from Charing Cross would get nothing.

The reasoning behind it is that it restricts the member who gets the higher figure, which in any case is nowhere near what we need and have been demanding."

The NUT executive was due to consider the report on Thursday this week. Bank and Film was planning to lobby this meeting in a bid to get the executive to take a firm stand.

In the local government workers union NALGO has been strong too.

Geoff Woolf, of Lewisham NALGO and London secretary of the NALGO Action Group, told Socialist Worker: "The Pay Board's figures are totally unacceptable. They must have been plucked out of the air.

"We need £400 extra for everybody. The latest employers' offer is less than this and they made in three months ago and will not solve the problems of living in London.

"Staff shortages are bound to increase. We are calling a strike meeting this week in my town hall and the local NALGO branch is sending a letter to all the further industrial action, but we need only win this struggle before we proceed."
July 8: It’s still on, say nurses

COHSE, the Confederation of Health Service Employees, was to have stepped up the nurses’ fight for more pay from Monday this week.

There was to have been a ban on all non-emergency admissions to hospitals throughout Britain.

Instead, COHSE’s Executive has thrown in the towel for promises of a possible interim pay rise in advance of the Health Committee’s report on nurses’ pay and conditions.

But nurses at the Oakwood Psychiatric Hospital in Middlesbrough, Kent, rejected the ban and voted overwhelmingly to continue their demonstrates on all admissions except exceptions.

COHSE’s banning of private patients and agency nurse remuneration in force ‘indefinitely’, despite the group of NUPE press officer Bertie Gray (see page 13).

As he took his latest swipe at union unity, NUPE, members at the Charing Cross Hospital, staged a total ban, closing the private wing.

The first signs of confusion and disorganization were shown when the main union NUPE, snubbed the role of its members as the right time to join other nurses in action. Rank and file call for such COHSE action met with violent attacks by NUPE’s Alan Fisher.

Following this backlash from the official union, a steam of threats have been taken out of the plant of the rank and the National Nurses Coordinating Committee, to make next Monday, 8 July—day of national action.

Nevertheless, the committee has called for an action to go ahead. In several areas demonstrations have been planned. But nursing can be obtained from local factors.

Where nurses are still pressing plans with some action, other trade Unions should fight a better fight by calling for general opposition to the action.

Muscle

This is not the end of the nurses’ action, but it is an action being kept up, the interim award may not deliver what nurses expect, and a vote of no confidence by the HEC secretariat, in that nurses will not vote.

If there is no interim award, COHSE has threatened to start up the action again.

The fighting among many nurses is that this threat is worthless unless a clear date is set for the September date that has been given to the minister to get COHSE to name the day and put muscle behind its threat.

In Barnet, North London, the Trades Council has asked the Trades Union Council to take action. In Barnet, the Trades Union Council is pressing ahead with its scheme for a demonstration, but the date has been changed to the September date.

In BARNET, North London, the car industry is pressing ahead with its scheme for a demonstration, but the date has been changed to the September date.

In ABERDEEN, west of the city, the Trades Union Council is pressing ahead with its scheme for a demonstration, but the date has been changed to the September date.

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