If the bosses won't
pay, kick them out the way

There is no such reaction when
the rich and powerful take direct
action. They, we are told, are merely
protecting their property rights,
or their professional standing.

The law and the constitution,
it becomes clear, is only meant for
us not them. They are entitled to
place the burden of the economic crisis on
our shoulders and we are not supposed
to fight back.

The Labour government com-
pletely accepts this state of affairs.
Chancellor of the Exchequer, Dennis
Healey has been boasting that real
wages have fallen by 2 per cent in
the past year and that the social contract
will keep things that way. He has also
told businessmen that controls on
dividends will soon be relaxed.

Every worker needs to learn the
lesson. Fine words, nice speeches,
'social contracts' are no way to
respond to the direct action of the
ruling class. What we need is action
of our own.

For we do have an answer to the
crisis. It is to refuse to accept any of
the burdens and, if the capitalists
cannot put up with that, to replace
them.

If 80 PER CENT WAGE
CREASES. These are the only way
to keep ahead of price rises of more
than 20 per cent.

NO TIME LIMIT ON WAGE
AGREEMENTS. The right to negotiate
when workers decide.

EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN.

A MINIMUM WAGE OF £35 A
WEEK.

FIVE DAYS WORK OR FIVE
DAYS' PAY. It is the bosses' system
which closes factories and causes
unemployment. They should pay for it.

THE 35-HOUR WEEK FOR 40
HOURS WORK. The easiest way to
force employers to mop up un-
employment by taking on more
workers.

NATIONALISATION OF
WORKERS' CONTROL AND WITH-
OUT COMPENSATION. If employers
cannot guarantee full employment
and a living wage, then they have to
be forced out of the way.

BRITAIN'S BOMBS
FOR DESERT OIL
KINGS-PAGES 8-9

FISHER-BENDIX
SIT-IN, ROUND
TWO-PAGES 9 and 16

WHAT JACK JONES
HASN'T DONE FOR
THE TGWU-PAGE 12

CYPRUS: BEHIND
THE COUP
PAGE TWO
DIVIDE AND RULE—IT'S THE OLD, OLD STORY

The coup that spells terror for workers

BY CHRIS HARMAN

THE OUTCOME of the fighting in Cyprus is far from clear as we go to press, but a number of important aspects stand out.

The coup has been the joint work of some sections of the right wing elements inside Cyprus and of the reactionary military regime in Greece.

Between them they hope to rob Cyprus of its last vestige of democratic rights, to rob Cyprus of the most elementary rights, which have been denied in Greece itself since 1967. If the coup is successful, thousands of workers will be smashed and working-class militants will face jail, torture and murder.

There can be no doubt that one of the first targets of the coup will be the left-wing organisation in Cyprus, the Communist Party (AKEL) and the unions, peasant unions and youth organisations which control them.

Nor can there be any doubt that a successful coup would help bolster the regime in Greece, which has been reeling since last November's “Turkish” opposition prevented union leaders from undersigning its complete lack of popular support.

It has been unable to solve any of the major problems facing Greece, and has turned to the left-wing in Cyprus as a Leya, and has turned, the regime in Greece as its best hope for survival.

If Cypriot resistance succeeds in thwarting the coup, there will be a new and potentially powerful force in the region, the Greek regime is not all-powerful.

For these reasons there would be a strong reaction, not only from nationalists and pro-communist union leaders, but from the government in Athens itself, which would be ready to use force to maintain its control over the Cypriot workers.

The coup in Cyprus under Makarios has been successful, and has caused great damage to the Cypriot workers’ movement, which has been unable to overcome the problem of the Turkish invasion.

The government led by a man who on the other hand, has had one day, let alone to launch coups in Cyprus.

Full support for the Cypriot resistance is needed, by the UN, NATO, and the European Community, by all those who support the Cypriot resistance.

Safeguard

However, in our support for the Cypriot resistance, we have to be cautious and not jump to conclusions.

Much of the left wing wants to see a number of Tory politicians, such as Ian Amery, who have supported the coup, but not because they support the workers’ movements in Greece or Cyprus.

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THE MOST revealing part of last week's inquest into Kevin Gately's death wasn't given in evidence. It was a sight from Det Chief Supt Roy Habershon.

Habershon, veteran of the Angry Brigade hunt, is conducting the police conduct in Red Lion Square—while simultaneously campaigning to prosecute Socialist Worker.

PC John Hare-Brown, who was in the first row of the police cordon told St Pancras Coroners Court in London how the order was given to 'let the horses through'.

He said: 'We broke the cordon and ran round behind the mounted police. As the crowd drew back I saw two legs exposed. I ran forward between the horses to get the bodies.'

It was at this point that Habershon's face fell—so well it might. For Hare-Brown had contradicted his main police evidence presented by Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Gerad—who was allowed to grieve other police victims in a 'bed room' after giving his own evidence.

Gerard was concerned to estabilish that Gately had collapsed before the mounted police charged, and had been pulled out of the crowd at the south end of the cordon and carefully carried away.

Hare-Brown wasn't the only one who contradicted the official story. Two Guardian newspaper reporters—

FLASHBACK to Red Lion Square: Even the police情报 sources first start flying

otherwise sympathetic to the police, reported Gately's body appeared much later than Gerard claimed—after the mounted police charged.

The average, thorned Press Association picture of the mounted police in action, contended that 'the body was found before' that.

It was only pointed out to him that Kevin Gately, alive and well, was clearly visible in the photograph.

His attempts to make the police action sound like a dignified piece of crowd control were thin on the ground.

Elsewhere, The Guardian reported that Gately's body was handled after the blow was struck.

NOMINATORs saw the blow which killed Kevin Gately. But medical evidence established that it was inflicted by a round-tipped inlant, travelling, at considerable velocity and clipping the six feet farer in its demonstrator behind the ear.

James McKeag, who 'knew Kevin col-

lem', His eyes were closed: 'I explained. 'I assumed he had fainted but he was totally unconscious before he hit the ground and he fell side-

his back on the floor.'

There was no sign of other injuries which would have suggested trampling or kicking on the ground.

The police admitted that the mounted section had used their long round-tipped batons. City Road mounted PC Roger Parry admitted making contact.

The jury were clearly considering an open verdict. They took 75 minutes to return and issued a middle verdict of 'mismanoer'.

Eventually a majority verdict of misadventure was given, with one juror clearly very unhappy and the other 10 fairly reluctant.

The inquest established that misadventure could indeed be extremely hazardous, especially when the Special Patrol Group go on the rampage.

It will be interesting to see if Justice Scarman's public inquiry will swallow the police story at its pre-

sent level of inconsistancy.

INTERESTS

Margaret Forley told how she saw two policemenknocking on the unconscious Kevin's chest. He heard one of them shout: 'Have you calmed down now?'

A St John's Ambulancewoman des-

cribed how Kevin's body was dumped on the ground. The policeman said: 'I think this one's for you.'

There was also doubt over where the body was found. It shifted, de-

peading on the policeman concerned, 30 up and down the cordon.

The police had not contacted Ronald Farquharson to safeguard their ins-

tructions. He had been a har-

per who had disappeared with the police from a small group of Maori which he clearly wished to see was the murder of another.

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sent level of inconsistancy.

Bombs and hypocrites

THE BOMBINGS in Manchester and Birmingham are being blamed on the IRA. Whether the IRA is responsible or not we do not know. In any case the many letters that have appeared in the press (even over the weekend) that it is essential to make clear, once again, the International Socialist's attitude to the tactic of bombings and shootings.

We are not pacifists. We live in a world where the ruling classes take it for granted that it is necessary for them to use violence for their political ends. It is typical to support that, under certain circumstances, working people are not compelled to use violence in their own interests. An overestimation of the use of violence for political ends. An army is trained and armed for the violent defence of the interests of its political masters.

The same political leaders who condemn the violence of the IRA support the maintenance and development of British nuclear weapons; weapons by their nature of wholesale and indiscriminate destruction. The Labour government has just tested yet another nuclear bomb. A Labour or Tory minister denouncing violence is Satan condemning sin.

Our objection to the tactics of the Provisional IRA is quite different. It is the fundamentalist policy of the Spanish government against the workers in their struggle for freedom, in Nicaragua, in Poland. Far from winning the support of British workers, it alienates them.

As the Ulster Workers Council strike, reactionary as it was, proved yesterday, the Trotskyist movement in the British trade union movement, in the sections of society, heroic individuals with bombs cannot achieve the ends we seek.

An island of socialism, a sea of sharks

WHAT is the correct policy to fight class war? First, of course, a refusal to accept the management decision to close the takeover of the plant to get the leverage to make that refusal matter. But what then?

Two cases going on now are instructive. At the Scottish Daily Express in Glasgow, the employer, Beaverbrook Newspapers, offered to sell the plant to the workers—more exactly to give them first refusal provided they raised enough money to meet the asking price.

The cash was to come from redundancy pay, government money if necessary. The paper would then be re-launched under workers' management.

The deal was through this channel will fall through for lack of enough money. But it supposed he had considered the problem of how to save jobs. The running of a newspaper, or any other enterprise, along commercial lines requires that commercial considerations come first. Workers' management sounds attractive but that management would face the same problems as the Beaverbrook management.

It would have to try to solve them by trimming the workforce, by jacking up productivity, by pushing 'flexibility' and generally under-mining the conditions that union action has achieved in the industry. On the other hand it would be in the interest of management to play upon the exact same conflict between the politics of a 'workers' management' newspaper and the demands of the advertisers.

Of course it may be argued that the old management was incompetent, that the workers can do it better. Probably. But this does not support the fundamental principle.

You cannot build islands of socialism in a sea of capitalism. And workers' control of a commercial operation in that sea depends on the operation meeting commercial demands rather than social management.

At the former Fisher-Bendix plant at Kirkby near Liverpool, now, FPD, the workers are holding up £75 million of tax for British Leyland. The Department of Industry is reported as 'urgently looking into the possibility of a government takeover'.

This is the demand to hold for. Not 'feasibility studies' to see if the operation is 'commercially viable' but state action to save jobs. We cannot act right to work and if private firms producing for profit cannot give it, then nationalisation is essential. So's workers' control. But workers' control under capitalism means encroaching on manage-

ussen's interests, putting the state in charge of the factory.

PAY LAWS MYTH EXPOSED

OVER the past ten years the lowest paid workers—those covered by wages councils—have become worse off in relative terms because of a swing from the government to the employers. Information revealed by the conclusion of the report of the Low Pay Unit to Employment Secretary Michael Foot. The process was speeded up by the successive incomes policies of Tory and Labour governments.

For example, male agricultural workers got £1.90 less than the average in 1970. In 1972 they were down to £1.10 less. Milk delivery men got £0.30 less than the average in 1970. In 1973 they were down to £0.40 less.

The position of some well paid workers is even worse. In horticulture they were getting £5.70 less than the average in 1970, £10.60 less in 1973.
Powell: don’t just slag him, explain him!

THE CONCLUDING parts of John Palinger’s article on inflation (13 July) is typical of the increasing shallowness with which Socialist Worker deals with questions of vital importance to the working class.

Although his statement ‘the labour movement is still too strong to lie down under huge wage cuts’ is not too exceptional, he follows up with what can only be described as crude economic determinism.

Commenting on a possible Tory strategy of a ‘controlled recession with higher unemployment’, he says ‘this could be an explosively dangerous recession. A recession could turn into a slump, and even more importantly, working class anger could lead to the democratisation of the strike fund of the whole system. What amazing optimism! How marvellous if revolutionary con- sciousness was formed in such an easy way. It is a far greater danger that inflation and slump (because they now go together) can cause widespread demobilisation of many sections of workers. The idea that revolution springs from crisis has been disproved many times in the past, and in our own conditions it is far more likely that the hold of the trade union leaders and reformists is something needed for revolutionary politics and the party that the leadership demands.

The conclusions of the article are no slip—they are characteristic of the very simplistic statements in SW that substitute for a serious revolutionary strategy.

Miners: we are with the nurses

ON BEHALF of many miners at Houghton Main we would like to endorse the action by hospital workers who are, after many broken promises by different labour governments, implementing a ban on private patients.

We also deplore the attempts by so-called Socialist ministers and councillors to whip up a campaign of hate against hospital staff like Heath did with the miners. This behaviour would lead the NUM to have a one-day strike in support of the miners on 10 July. It was eventually called off because of information action from the miners’ unions.

At our branch some of us tried to step this up to a total overtime ban and no-co-operation but non- participation was the order of the day from Area HQ on such attempts to stop policy making by the rank and file. We would also like to draw attention to the necessity of the rank and file organisation. It must be built in the hospital service between all the different sections, after seeing the betrayal by national union officials in their attempts to impose the social compact on all its members for the sake of the capitalist Labour government.

The miners from our own officials and miners’ MPs in their shrieks and screams that miners were a special case.

The miners have been left alone against the surface worker to keep their wages below the claim of £35 per week to prevent other workers using the figures with the relative board. TREVOR BROWN, ALBERT WILKINSON JOHN OWEN, Barnsley.

HARLAN—NOT ALONE

I MUST congratulate you on your revealing article concerning the Harlan Miners strike (6 July). I believe it is essential for the left if we are to progress and conquer capitalism to illuminate the truth of the vile and disgusting way the just for money and complete disregard for humanist-rian principles occur in the heart of capitalism.

A great many workers in this country still believe that the USA is the ‘land of the free’, where every man is equal, poverty is non-existent and the wages are fantastic. This myth must be exploded and the true picture of man exploitation, corruption and the use of gangster type techniques by the larger companies and big companies must be shown.

It is also imperative that the Harlan miners’ knowledge is not lost in the struggle that we in this country do not just put sympathy to the USA but also look to the USA in the struggle of socialist. All to often we see the self-centred attitudes of our big unions and their leaders who are too involved with their own self-importance with not an ounce of feeling in them for the socialist movement as a whole.

Pressure from branch level must be brought about to show that, we the workers, and students care about our fellow men that we feel for their suffering and lack of basic rights that we take for granted.

Let us crush this lethargy abun- dant in our working class movements and make an effort to show support to these miners and their families who for 11 months have faced a strike of intolerable hardships, rigging highs over the threats of violence and murder.

Are we to let them fall or can we do more to give a united front to the struggle in the workforce that all is not lost to great Britain?

I appeal to your readers to write and donate personally at branch level to support the pressure the union leaders and Harlan to let these heroes and heroines know that we sympathise with and support this struggle.

I also appeal to you to give us a lead and publish where we can channel this support—RAY LAWRENCE, NUM, Calyen South Lodge, Moomouthills, South Wales.

That’s why he’s against trade unions and anti-strike and that’s why he’s against us. He’s written many speeches on these issues. Slowly we are building up a real understanding of what Powell really stands for.

THE world he wants is one where the struggle of workers for a proper amount of importance and we are under constant attack not from the flag, and with still upper lip, working for the Thatcher and the ganze Schreck.

NIKKI MELLOR, London SW11.

National health at £25 a week

EARLIER THIS year an old age pensioner was taken unconscious to the North Wales Hospital, Dinebhy, and was placed in an Assessment Unit at the hospital. After a few days the patient may have suffered from a stroke, but was certainly suffering from arterial sclerosis. This condition left the patient to a totally confused state and was dependent on other people.

He would never be able to return to the job he was placed out of and would require constant supervision.

What happened was that the patient’s relatives in consultation with him and the patient himself that he was transferring the patient to a private hospital. No informa- tion was given about the nursing home concerning the fees or whether the home would be paying these fees.

In a case of protest a patient’s son before the transfer took place asked the Home manager. It was pointed out to the consultant and the hospital secretary that the patient could in no way afford the private nursing home fee of £25 per week since he only received a pension of £7.75 per week (now £10.00) plus a small income somewhere in the region of £4.00 a week.

The patient’s son also objected to the fact that his father had con- tributed to the NHS for a great number of years, as a matter of fact he should now be forced into paying for the private hospital.

The son also challenged the right of the manager to make the transfer without proper consultation. The consultant in charge of the patient said the secretory was not aware of it, but of course they have not produced any tangible evidence of this case.

In the correspondence between the hospital in this particular case the secretary has been unable to satisfy anyone the points raised.

The patient’s MP has been informed of the situation but to date only an acknowledging postcard has been received. The patient is still at the nursing home (Hildene Clinic, Tairry-Bay Road, Rhos-on-Sea, Colwyn Bay) and the matron of the nursing home is in possession of the patient’s pension book. The Director of Health Services for North Wales has written to the patient’s son asking him to arrange payment of the clinical fee and the matron.

The nursing home is registered at Conwy and the patient’s MP raised this with the directors lives in London. It is felt that the patient or his relatives at the nursing home would be paying a combined total of £7,000 a year for their upkeep.

I am sure that you will support the proposal. I am sure that the patient to a private institution and then for the patient to have to pay for the nursing home is a scheme that I believe that there is a question of principle involved in this particular case. The patient is worth a great number of these South Wales.

DAVID WHEATLEY, London SW16.
They come they suffer...

"SUFFER little children to come unto me," is a well-known quote, which with some alteration would suit London's children very well: "Those little children who come unto us suffer..."

How they experience their suffering day by day is something that one cannot but see anything unusual in what happens. They find a situation where they are regularly sent home from school, where they are at school when they don't get taught the lessons they are supposed to. Quite normal. Working class kids in London get used to this second-best early on.

Then the graduates of course. Most teachers are still trying, but who can blame them, if faced with the deplorable background situation the kids don't see.

Their background is one of insufficient resources to teach with, insufficient resources to teach with, insufficient resources to teach with... On...in the..."}

Choice

What can the teacher do? We're faced with a difficult dilemma. We're a bit like the little boy who was asked if he wanted his tea with milk or without... and so forth and so on. The only difference is that no more will be forthcoming indefinitely...

But to fight means to stop administrating aid. Their choice is to live with the results. To give in to despair and that is the least one can do.

Don't Shoot! I didn't mean you!

I wrote a letter (27 June) about the situation in hospitals from the patients' viewpoint. Most nurses reacted violently to the statement that patients were treated as animals to be fed and cleansed (twice daily).

Far from meeting the standards I was condemning the conditions, the patients are expected to deal with being short-staffed and that no one is on duty to look after them. The point is that no one is there to look after them. The point is that no one is there to look after them. The point is that no one is there to look after them. The point is that no one is there to look after them.

Apart from the understandable reaction of the nurses in the hospital hierarchy also took umbrage. I was told to stop writing, to stop writing, to stop writing, to stop writing, to stop writing, to stop writing, to stop writing, to stop writing.

Don't Shoot! I didn't mean you!
‘ONE STEP enough for me,’ Ramsay MacDonald told the cheering crowd at Labour’s Albert Hall post-election victory rally in 1934. He was quoting from a hymn much favoured by Labour folk, Lead Kindly Light, but omitted, significantly, the first part of the line, ‘I will not ask to go to a distant scene’. He omitted also to say in what direction the step was to be taken.

The post-First World War slump, with its high unemployment and widespread poverty, was showing signs of a long-term trend. But registered unemployment stood at 1½ million, and real wages had fallen below pre-1914 levels. A rising trade union membership, a larger Labour vote, and a spluttering of strikes, showed that after the doldrums of the past three years the workers were beginning to press for betterment.

They certainly expected some help from a Labour government, though they were aware of its limited circumstances and powers—indeed, as one sympathetic Cabinet member, not very tolerant; they were observant and quick to notice anything wrong... .

It was hoped that something would be done for the miners; that the unemployment would be found work; that, pending that, adequate benefit payments would be given higher pensions; that a massive programme of long-term, council house building would be launched; and that Sowiet Russia would be given full recognition, and the necessary credits provided for trade between the two countries. Over-riding all, of course, was the hope that the Labour government would change the cause of the poor in pocket against their traders and exploiters on all occasions and in all legislation.

First shock came when the Labour government faced the locomotive drivers, already on strike over pay reductions. Labour ministers talked of the men on strike just as the Conservatives had done before them; and during a national railway strike that followed, the government threatened the use of emergency powers, and the calling out of the army and navy to maintain supplies.

The dockers stood firm, and made some gains, but Ernest Bevin exclaimed: ‘I wish it had been a Tory government. We would not have been frightened by it. If we were we would have listened to the appeal of our own people.’

**Strike**

Ben Tillett, veteran of many bitter-fought dock strikes, spoke indignantly of ‘menacing tones’ and ‘expressions of fear’ from railway ministers, made worse, he said, by any report previously from Tory or Liberal men.

Many thousands of workers, including 16,000 trammen in the metropolitan area for a pay rise and a 48-hour week, went on strike on 21 March, after protracted negotiations; 25,000 busmen came out on strike as the locomotive men’s union, ASLEF, demanded back-pay on the Underground to stop work on 28 March; and electricity workers among others, they would cut off current for the Underground, and much else besides.

The government ordered the re-furbishing of the strikers’ machinery and began to stall emergency powers proclamation, a Constitution of Emergency Powers over the railways. As speaker was appointed, troops were to be called out to protect ‘blacklist’ buses, and 800 men were ordered to keep the power stations going.

**Warned**

At this point, a Cabinet meeting was called, and the Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald, told the government he had been warned by the government privately that if there was no settlement of the strike the government would call out the troops, a merger of the Cabinet and the General Council of the Trades Union Congress into a single power—this time of grand fraternisation, and that the workers’ demands were unreasonable.

**Disavow**

‘We must carry on the government’s work,’ MacDonald more or less in the People’s government’s words, ‘told James Maxton.

But from this point on, a general strike would be called.

MacDonald, who had summoned a last-minute conference of the parties concerned in the dispute, on the evening of 27 March, went on through the night, and agreement was not reached until the following morning.

The trammen made some gains and, with the busses, returned to work. Most socialists were shocked at the behaviour of the government, and probably more at the way that ministers such as J. B. Clynes (Lord Clydeside; Sefton, Tom Shaw (Minister of Labour), J. A. Thomas (Colonial Secretary), and Philip Snowden (Chancellor of the Exchequer) were looking after the workers’ interests as being in their self-interest measures of having shown the Labour government a not so ‘charitable’ reality.

**The Reality for Millions:** The 1926 Labour government did nothing for its supporters. The next one tripled unemployment...

A pandemonium of protest from Labour supporters was met first by a shuffling defence, then to the case being dropped completely.

On 8 October, the Tories moved a vote of censure on the government for dropping the prosecution. The Liberals offered a way out by proposing an inquiry which MacDonald rejected scornfully, made the vote of one confidence and, when defeated by 364 to 198, went to the country.

MacDonald and the other Labour supporters of the King’s government, ‘Law and Order’ and the rest of the mumbo-jumbo now found themselves accused of undermining the ‘Law of the Land’ and though anti-Bolsheviks, of being sympathetic to Communism, a charge sworn to monstrous proportions a few days from polling when MacDonald fell for a Foreign Office trick, and certified as genuine a forged letter supposed to be from Zinoviev, the Russian Communist leader.

Out came the Union Jacks, posters of bighorned Bolsheviks with knives in clenched teeth and demonstrative hand gestures covered the hoardings, elections were won for voting Labour was voting ‘for handing the country over to the Communists and Moscow’.

Frightened Liberals rushed to vote Tory. The Liberals dumped to 44 seats, Labour to 151, and the Tories emerged with 415.

Though disappointed in Labour, Tory lies and deceit and promise was washed away all traces of that first Labour government.

**Jingoes**

Nothing tangible or visible remains except an inscription on a statue in St Martin’s Place, round which bust, unhearing crowds swirl daily, a statue of Napier, Edwin Chadwick placed there by triumphant and vengeful world war victors in 1920, as an indictment of a defeated and enslaved enemy nation.

In 1924, old Fred Jowett of Bradford, occupying the minor post of Commissioner of Works, had carved on that statue, to the distress of the jingo and false patriots, Edwin Chadwick’s last words before her execution by a German firing squad: Patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness for any one.

**As it was in the beginning...**

THE HOPE OF MILLIONS: Ramsay MacDonald acknowledges the cheers of workers who believed everything would be different under Labour.
DOCTOR Walpole Lewis believes in freedom. That’s why he is the chairman of the British Medical Association Council.

That’s why he is leading the consultants in their fight to defend the freedom of choice purely and, incidentally, the ability to make a few thousand a year on top of their salaries.

This is understandable, because after all, Doctor Lewis has a standard of living to maintain. And it’s a pretty nice one, though it costs him a cool £28 a night. So the good doctor’s bill must have been around £450. Still the Trust House Forte management knew they had quality on their hands. They had the finest champagnes and bouquets of roses for the Lewis.

Probably Lewis treated a Forte director privately—for greed or something familiar like that.

TRUST House Forte, by the way, are really playing their part in the war against bureaucracy.

This is particularly clear to members of the Postoffice branch of the International Socialists. They have had the Forte world revealed to them by Neil Pepper.

Neil worked until last Sunday for Forte’s at their Excelor Motor Lodge on the A1 just outside Doncaster.

One of his jobs was to take the original wrapper off Wall’s delicious pork pies. Those have a 10p price tag on them and Neil had to replace them with plain cellulose plus a new Forte logo.

Forte’s paid Neil 23p an hour just a little more than the retail price of one pork pie. Anything more would clearly have been inflationary.

So sad... life at the top.

ONE myth about the pressures of business life is that top executives die young from worry, anxiety and strain. Some entertainment has been caused among rich men in America by the revelations in this month’s Fortune for executives that ‘executives live longer than other people.

We all know they are rich, but the men presumably coping with the most pressures are living longer than other executives.

The figures emerge from a detailed study of the careers of 1078 former chairman, vice-chairman, and executive vice-presidents of America’s top 500 companies.

By comparison with ‘white males with the same age distribution’, these gentlemen lived no less than 37 percent longer. No one even bothered to ask how much longer their lives were than black men.

‘Why do top executives live longer?’ asks Fortune, worried at the smashing of the businessmen’s favourite myth. ‘It is possible, of course, that their companies provide them with superior medical service. It answers. OK, not sure. Fortune reassures its readers quickly.

‘It is possible that physical vitality is such an important prerequisite of business success that men with disabilities tend not to get there.’

It’s fair Dew

LABOUR Councillor Colin Dew was recently charged in connection with the Poulover corruption trials, and it is on remand. But this is not interfering in any way with his active public life.

Just last week, he was able to attend £50 for attendance allowances for serving on the Wakefield District Council. The attendance allowance is £10 a day and there were 5 days in May. This means that Councillor Dew was so busy he only took one day off in the whole month.

To compete or to cooperate?

IN A REASONABLE world men would choose to live in societies only because by co-operation and joint industry people are able to live better than by their own usual unaided efforts.

Look at mankind today. Despite all the advanced methods of production—two-thirds of humanity are having a hard time. The profit systems everywhere are there, capable of fulfilling the needs of mankind.

Why then are they not using that starvation and poverty are abolished?

Most of the energies of the working class under capitalism are engaged in making rubbish, goods destined to fall into an awful man-made waste, to be bought for nothing but time so that we will buy more. They are made to use up as much of the resources of the planet as would properly make good funds. More in fact—for who doesn’t know that one good pair of shoes outlives three cheap pairs?

Capitalism is fast using up the irreplaceable wealth it took the earth millions of years to produce—the coal, oil, gas, and other metals. It is polluting the planet with its man-made chemicals and gases which pours unnecessarily into the rivers, sea, land and atmosphere. Chemicals and gases which are not only poisonous to mankind but to all life.

Now there is heard that the latest gadgets for sale—the rockets, super sonic airliners and aerospray— are destroying that part of the atmosphere that prevents the ultra-violet rays from the sun killing us all.

How would we, the working class, run things differently in the interests of mankind as a whole?

Take a look at any town or city.

More than three-quarters of shops and offices are owned by the super-wealthy from the centre. Socialism would make all these shops and offices redundant, opening up the town centres and cities for the places of living, resting and entertainment of the people.

THE OTHER AMERICA

A PICTURE of the Other America—where millions are too poor to eat—has emerged in a survey by a US Senate Committee. Amidst a society of fabulous wealth, 48 million of the world’s poorest people live in poverty. They are, however, enjoying the consumer society.

Inflation, the survey reports, has pushed up the price of the things they must buy by 27 per cent. The deeply-concerned government has pushed up the prices of food stamps. The food stamp allowance, a sort of All-American soup kitchen, is received by only a third of those eligible. They offer crumbs from the rich man’s table. The government’s lowest-priced Economy Fortune package often only the lowest-priced food of course—does not provide an adequate diet, the report says.

THE OLD WAY NATIONAL FOOTPATH

THE NEW WAY NATIONAL FOOTPATH

Wasted

Think of all the labour that would be saved if all the country’s workers, clerks, bus conductors, cashiers, post offices, you name it! Why, most of today’s computers are working full-out making out invoices and bills! Think of all the resources wasted in advertising and packaging, while our health services and schools are scrapping.

Under socialism, as techniques advanced, 8 hours of work would be reduced. Nowadays when production advances you end up doing overtime just to keep up.

Socialism means mankind cooperating in fulfilling the needs of mankind as a whole. Socialism would free the factories, the mines, the means of production, so they could be turned to fulfilling the needs of people. No more unemployment. It would mean the end of a situation where one half of the world is starving, the other half is destroying food.

Socialism means the people themselves, who own the land, owning the wealth—enjoying the benefits.

Socialism means the people themselves running the world and having a direct say in what the priorities are.
RED RUIN is on the way if Labour stays in office—and no expense is being spared to make everyone’s flesh creep at the prospect.

Aims of Industry "officially" opened its £500,000 anti-nationalisation advertising campaign this week, although in fact it has been running for weeks already. The Institute of Directors is chipping in with a pamphlet titled Profits. A Counter-Attack for Freedom. The CBI too is underwriting for a sustained defence of "free enterprise" and the Tory Party is launching what its spokesman, Michael Headfort, calls "one of the most intensive political campaigns ever conducted.

Not since the days of the early 1950s when Taw and Lyle's Mr Cube used to denounce the evils of socialism from the pages of every daily newspaper—apart from the old Daily Worker—has there been such a torrent.

What is all about it? It has precious little to do with the kind of political discussion and full compensation and under orthodox capital management that the Wilson government is prey to.

There are indeed some differences between Tory-Liberal and Labour on the issue. Take the aircraft industry, or rather the aero-engine industry, since the aero-engine makers, Rolls-Royce, were nationalised by the last Tory government. Airframe manufacture depends on massive state subsidies. That £1000 million going to the industry is, in most graphic illustration of this. This sum comes out of public funds. But the British Aircraft Corporation, which could not survive without state military orders and state hand-outs, is "private enterprise" and the man who runs it naturally wants to keep it that way.

Since they and the directors of firms in other industries are the paymasters of the Tory Party, the Tories will help them if they can.

Labour, on the other hand, is not tied to particular groups of capitalists. A Labour government finds it much easier to disregard sectional capitalist interests and to nationalise when the interests of British capitalism as a whole seem to require it.

Labour leaders nationalised the mines and the railways on this basis. But this is not the main factor behind the present big campaign.

What the Tories and big business really fear is a wave of demands to nationalise to save jobs as the lay-offs and closures really get underway this winter.

They fear a wave of factory occupations on this basis. They fear that the speeches of Wedgwood Benn and other Left ministers are encouraging workers to demand jobs as of it the nationalisation of firms that were once employers. The anti-nationalisation propaganda is in counterattack any such move.

The Labour leaders' red menace: that is a job that demands of workers to take-over to save jobs is important and progressing.

Without having any ill will, always produced the NCB and Royal, with 25,000 workers just sit back and support the halt all

BY LAURIE FLYNN

Last century, Oman was a vital staging post for maintaining British business control of the seaways. Today’s refined version of the same operation finds Oman still crucial for only slightly different reasons.

Oman provides an important strategic base linking the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean. But there is one other vital considera— the black, black oil.

There are deposits in Dhofar and Oman. And British interests in the interior of Oman and Dhofar has increased significantly, but the oil and the puppet United Arab Emirates next door are important for another reason. The Gulf is at its south west of the Point of Oman. One oil tanker every 12 minutes passes through the strait.

If the dreaded guerrilla con- tracts, the Gulf would be a tiny piece of the economic power structure of the world. For that, clearly, just could not be allowed.

From 1964 to 1970 British troops helped Sultan Said bin Taimur(?) over the people of Oman and Dhofar. But he was a bit too much of a feudal despot, Britain’s rulers, preparing for the East of Suez disengagement, con- vired against him.

His son Qabus (Arabic for nightmare) was installed. He had been educated at Britain’s top military academy, Sandhurst, and a better appreciated modern traditions.

Tinker

Qabus made a few token changes. He did not, of course, tinker with the essentials of power—black mail, torture, assassination, association and capital punishment for anyone who proved to be a member of the rebel organisation, the League for the Liberation of Oman and the Arabian Gulf.

But repackaged tyranny is still pretty much the same. The rebels, based in Dhofar, battled on and the war was stepped up.

Much of it has been along the lines developed by the British Army in Aden, since employed in Northern Ireland and presently scheduled for adaptation for use in Britain. It is, in short, the Kiston brand of counter-insurgency warfare.

In Dhofar and Oman, this has involved British soldiers in the usual methods of "winning" support away from the guerrillas.

Wells, a country where water is a most precious commodity, have been ploughed up. Cattle have been slaughtered and crops destroyed. Outside the monsoon season there is an all war in British-made planes flown by British pilots.

The war in Oman has one other distinguishing feature. It has not received the kind of official backing it has in officiallying.

On 4 May 1970, Michael Stewart—then Labour Foreign Secretary—told the House of Commons in glowing terms of Britain’s civilising mission.

The Sultanate is now receiving oil revenues on a considerable scale. This will be used to enable all its people to enjoy the standard of living which they are entitled to expect. Our policy is orderly progress and development for the welfare of the people in the area.

His Tory successors refined the deceit. Isl Glimmer, Tony, Defence Secretary, said last January that only 123 British servicemen are acknowledged as operating in Oman.

In fact, there are many more

AGBESIS 20

The dust that kills in the name of profit

A new Socialist Worker pamphlet tells the story of the Glentworth, "cropper's" comment. "It's all over the place," he said, died because of asbestos—and of their fight to save others from it. To the series of articles originally published in Socialist Worker, the pamphlet has been added a guide to where workers are likely to encounter asbestos, what it does to the health of those exposed, and how to force management to keep to them.

30p plus 4p postage (10 copies or more post free) from IS Books, 205 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.
How Fisher-Bendix workers took over—again

NORTH SEA

Giant companies in Labour's plans

TOWARDS A RANK AND FILE MOVEMENT, by Andrea Nagiati

What International Socialists have written on TRADE UNIONISM

THE FIRST SHOP STEWARD MOVEMENT, by Jim Higgins

The Showdown: Barclays Bank receivers, eager to protect the £2.5 million worth of stock and tools in the Kirkby factory, are ordered to get out.

The vote: Convener Jack Sprigg has addressed the mass meeting. Now the 1200 workers—most of whom took part in the 1972 sit-in at Fisher-Bendix—vote to take over its successor, IPD Industrial.

Excess

Why has Labour given ground on its own modest and respectable proposals? One reason is that the oil sheikhs can afford to be tougher with the oil companies, because they don’t have to convince the bankers and ruling classes of the world that they are respectable and “safe”. Labour’s massive borrowings from the international bankers are based on mortgaging the oil revenues before the oil has even started flowing. The slightest hint that any oil company may slow down on getting the oil might make these loans dry up. With an economic gap threatening to hit the economy in the autumn, respectability in the eyes of world capital is once again more important than election pledges.

Come the election it’s a safe bet that at least one threat to the sovereignty of Parliament won’t be denounced by any of the party leaders.
DIVIDE AND FOOL

by Jill Lovey

workers for our demands.
The trade union movement must recognise that the discrimination we experience as women serves to divide the working class against itself—to the continuing benefit of the employers. Many, many AMSTs are committed to progressive policies voted at annual conference, equality of pay, training and job opportunity. But delegates argued that these basic demands weren’t won.

They don’t deal with discrimination operating against women coming from their role in the family.

Women workers need a whole programme of related demands. Like paid maternity leave which is not dependent on being married, theirs and non-mothers at the workplace, and equal pension rights with men. They will have to organise massive propaganda within the trade union movement on these issues.

Women need new machinery to attack the sex barriers for which the trade unions. This is crucial. It is not sufficient to have good women workers themselves. Only they can make the real and important stake in winning these rights, and only their activity will do.

Women workers’ trade unions must support this. They voted overwhelmingly to support the union’s lay executive committee that women workers should be elected to: one delegate from each division.

The proposals were criticised by some AMSTS members. They saw our demands as a form of separatism, which would split the movement.

Undoubtedly this will be the reaction of other trade unions. But as the delegate from Ireland, Pat Redmond, observed, the final analysis discrimination against women is only a special kind of condition of work in the working class because a divided working class is a new form of slavery.

At the workshop, even when delegates asserted the right of women to organise separately to ensure their demands, the needs are taken into account they did so in terms of the very real benefits our struggle will bring. For example, we fight for maternity leave as well as maternity leave for the adult rate of pay at 18 instead of 21 as at present applied to male workers.

CAMPAIGN

As the South Wales delegate pointed out, what we mean to mean equally low pay in the profession. The Women’s shop steward who sees women workers will have to push forward active all relations against the scandal of low wages and for across the board flat rate increase.

But above all the women workers are recognising that they will have to fight to organise and utilise their own strength.

Our campaign will be an essential part of building a militant rank and file movement.

For this issue heart of the movement, we need a whole new shop.

Women workers are coming through the paid and unpaid, their own collective effort will win their rights.

As this means finishing with a system outside and inside the trade union movement, women workers are offered positions of extra privilege and power to a minority to act on behalf of all.

All trade unionists should campaign for similar conditions to be held by their union, they should strive to organise an AMST number 11 division for trade unionists of their members who suffer racial discrimination.

LEGAL SLAVERY

by Chantel Parer and Yvonne Dos

WE CAME to England as a pair girls from the Caribbean. An agency asked us a lot of stupid questions and then we ended up in contact with a family in the North-East.

We signed a contract which is almost as bad as the other. Our pair is supposed to help with housework; in fact, we are only allowed to help with the children, and ends up looking after the dogs.

She is to be married to a member of the family. They are going to have a "wedding" and we are going to be waiting for them. We are supposed to help with the children, and ends up looking after the dogs.

We are expected to be available any time of day and any day of the week, when she usually ends up having to be there and has to be there only five or six hours a day, but works regularly fourteen hours.

The "wedding" system is legal and smarter than slavery, but it is much the same. We have no more than five or six hours’ work a day, which is the same as in other countries.

We are not given any freedom or treatment in this society run by drarks without pay for the workers.
It's not only Granada who've got us under their spell...

ONCE IN a while the Labour Party gets worried that there is not enough cultural activity about, that Robin Day is being rude to Harold Wilson again and that, with nine national and 15 evening papers closed in the last 20 years, there will very soon be no newspapers left to issue press dot lines.

So they set up an inquiry made up of leftist academics, MPs and journalists who draft a 'discussion document' for the membership. These documents are usually a mixture of high-minded platitudes and bright little ideas. Nobody discusses it; it gets submited to a Royal Commission and everybody forgets all about it.

Most of a few more newspapers close, a few more cinemas get knocked down for car parks, and a few more left-wing newspapers are taken over.

Last week the Labour Party published The Power of the Media in the Municipal World. It contains some good ideas like the scrapping of the Official Secrets Act, the relaxation of the Home Office antiterror laws and a new Freedom of Information Act. But they are unlikely to do anything about it at least not until the excuse used for the extreme journalistical cowardice of Fleet Street.

Hand-outs

It has some hairbrained schemes like the plan to merge BBC local radio stations into one giant public broadcasting commission. It contains some schemes for democracy on the cheap, like the idea that papers for pensioners and trade unionists could be subsidised from a central fund financed by higher VAT.

Pensioners' and industrial militants anxious to unionise have found a new way of obtaining hand-outs from big business should work very well.

As for workers in films and newspapers who are quite literally watching their jobs fold up under their eyes and who are starting to campaign for effective nationalisation under trade union control the Labour Party's advice is 'Wait for a Royal Commission.'

The interesting part of the pamphlet is its appendix. Here at last are the facts and figures about the owners and operators.

'Culture' is not some kind of fragrant, improve smell coming from the arts of men of taste and culture, it's very big business, run in exactly the same way as General Motors or ITT.

EMI's Chief Executive puts it bluntly 'I firmly believe that running a business in the leisure industry is basically no different from running any other.' EMI started in 1898 making phonographs; now it employs 46,600 people in 23 countries and declared a pre-tax profit of £27,272,000 in 1973.

EMI is a major force in records and tapes, sharing the big markets with Decca an owning Music for Pleasure which takes about 40 per cent of the budget LP trade. They acquired the Associated British Picture Corporation and Anglia Pictures in the Labour Party's late 1960s merger boom.

Golden Egg

This gave them control over one in four of all cinema seats in Britain. They have a controlling interest in Republic, one of the major distribution and booking agencies facing commercial and military electronics as well as Disney.

They own EMI Studios, the New London Theatre, the Sandle Hotel, the Water Square, Mace's dance halls and Swindon cable TV. Their empire stretches from music publishing to the Golden Egg restaurants.

Rank-Xerox is another cultural corporation that has successfully devoured everything, including holidays, and dumped i into stero sets. They employ 30,500 workers and have a pre-tax profit of £130 million in 1973.

The core of their operation is their monopoly on photocopying; they are the sole bullwhacker against a rising tide of crime which threatens our lives, property and civilisation itself. Other things they have in common are their infallibility, their incomprehensibility and their 100 per cent efficiency.

The real-life police force is not unlike that at all. Private detectives are rather unpleasant, seedy people who spend most of their time hanging around cheap hotels. CID men are not infrequently arrogant, bigoted racists whose ideas on justice do not extend beyond simple retribution; they are not above using unscrupulous methods to boost the low percentage of crimes that can be marked 'cleared up' - not solved much worse on their books.

If the real extent of corruption and incompetence in the CID was public knowledge then perhaps the police force as an organisation would not survive in its present form.

However, when the occasional scandal does get to see the light of day and the public feels twinges of shame about our wonderful police men then there is always the reassuring image of the police car, the running TV image of the steadfast, stainless copper in the background.

DRIP

Every time you switch on he's there, and no matter how incredible the situation or implausible the story the constant drip-drip of each edition series provides the myth that supports the illusion that there's really nothing to worry about. It is this illusion that TV exerts to maintain.

ON THE BOX

SATURDAY: BBC-2, 8.45pm. H G Wells' novel LOVE AND MR LEWISHAM begins serialisation. John Osborne's new play, based on 1956's angry, mildly left, critical of Britain, to an angry right-wing audience, could come inadvisably close to the point of giving cause for concern.

SUNDAY: ITV (London area) 11.20pm. The Campaign for Homosexual Equality is featured in SPEAK FOR YOURSELF.

MONDAY: ITV. 8pm. WHICKERS WORLD returns with R D Alan. Would you buy a used TV programme from this man? Whickers looks at Brazil and might get round to mentioning it is one of the most vicious military dictatorships in the world.

On BBC-1 at 9pm is HOW TO IMPROVE A PRESIDENT, which re-creates the last US presidential impeachment in 1868.

TUESDAY: ITV. 11pm. LE PRIX DE L'ÉPÉE, is about a mythical Leeds International Festival of Television, and should be good. It is preceded by GOSLING'S TRAVELS, looking at the army town of Aldershot, at 10.30pm. TOWARDS JERUSALEM on BBC-2 at 7.30pm, has an interesting look at the impact of the Industrial Revolution on British society.

WEDNESDAY: BBC-2, 9.30pm. THE LONG DISTANCE RUNNER, about how and why a Borstal boy says sod off to the Borstal governor, with Tom Courtenay, should be seen.
Hotels: Now militancy is on the menu

by George Lambert, GMWU shop steward
WHEN I started working in hotels 20 years ago, I was paid £2.50 for an 84-hour week, living in. Accommodation was the corner of a furniture store. When I went to the cinema in my own time, but on a day that wasn’t my day off, I got the sack.

The 1954 Catering Act changed that, but the bad old days still colour the attitudes of half the hotel workers.

Today the 400,000 workers in hotels are a happy hunting ground for members of the GMWU. So have recruited 2,300 workers and split up almost as thoroughly as the bosses. Time and again we find hotel workers in the same towns are in different unions without knowing of each other’s existence. Workers in the same company, doing the same work but in different parts of the country, are in different unions.

Co-ordination between unions is a dirty word. Contact between members of the same union in different regions can be made only under threat of expulsion.

The hotel industry is difficult to organise, anyway. Half the workers are seasonal or part-time — they make useful scabs. Few hotels outside London have as many as 100 workers.

Many profitable restaurants and boarding houses have fewer than 12 workers, and others are part of a massive combine such as Wimpy or Trust Houses Forte.

Many hotel workers, after years of hounding as servants to the capitalist class, are now aware that confrontations have done little in the past. They have realised that Trust Houses Forte are management creatures to stop the growth of the unions. The new disputes are important because they have shown up the failure of the unions to understand the problems of hotel and catering workers. They’re going to stop the GMWU if it can.

The newsheet Hotel and Catering Workers (HCW) was formed last year by rank and file trade unionists in the industry. It has already been the subject of shop stewards and activists in different parts of the country.

As a result, 17 activists met in London recently and set up a Hotel and Catering Workers Joint Trade Union Committee. The Joint Trade Union Committee held a successful conference of activists in the industry.

This is a significant development because it provides a means for the new-sheet and for joint action. It is a mark of the fact that Trust Houses Forte workers at Ipswich and Croydon are getting involved.

Many people still think Jack Jones is a militant left wing trade union leader. He has built up a reputation as a consistent conference campaigner on issues such as pensions. He demonstrates his power by winning 1.5 million votes at the TUC against entry into the NEC. In reality, he is neither consistent nor a campaigner.

Pensions are now worse off than ever. Yet Jack is silent, presumably for fear of embarrassing the Labour government. When the situation calls for something more positive than fine speeches, Jack is nowhere to be seen.

One of the leading Labour critics of the Industrial Relations Bill, his opposition

by John Deason

Jack was apparently unwilling to oppose the law in practice

When another law was used against trade unionists, including his own members, at Shrewsbury, he did nothing. Many trade unionists believe, mistakenly, that Ford workers are well paid. Ford’s were the first carworkers to be forced onto Managed Day Working and are consequently the poor relations of the car industry. At present workers in the lowest of the five grades get £32.40 for 440 hours and those in the top grade get the enormous sum of £39.40.

In 1971, a growing determination to improve wages led to a strike for parity. The initiative came from the rank and file. By early February, workers throughout the country were involved and 44,000 were out on strike.

Jack Jones, Hugh Scallon, president of the AESU, and Leonard Woodcock, president of the American United Auto-workers, visited Prime Minister Heath and took part in secret talks on 29 March with Stanley Gillon, chairman of Ford Europe, and a Ford industrial relations officer.

No-strike

Shop stewards, committees and full-time union officials involved in the dispute were excluded. This negotiating body produced the notorious two-year deal with Ford.

At the same time, the press began to talk of splits in the strike. On 31 March, at a secret meeting of stewards, Jones and Scallon recommended acceptance of the proposed deal, an immediate return to work and a secret ballot.

The ballot was forced through despite opposition from DAGENHAM, HAWKWOOD and WOODBRIDGE.

The ballot was successful in confining and demoralising the strike. Abused, with the workforce voted and gave an overall majority for the agreement. At the end of the day, HAWKWOOD and SWANSEA laid down their jobs on their own. The rest united the return to work was complete.

The aftermath of the ‘secret’ deal by Jones and Scallon was speed-up, clamp-downs on the activities of shop stewards and a vicious tightening of discipline.

Jones played a similar role in wrecking rank and file unity and confidence during the docks dispute in 1972. Dockers in most major ports took part in the shop stewards’ blocking campaign against the registered ports and wharves.

Jones, trying to reassert official control of the TUC, has broken with the union over the question of a national dock strike.

The report of ‘transgressing’ talks between union officials and employers was enough for Jones to prosecute the strike and issue an unauthorised call to the blacking. On 18 June, Jones purged the strike a further six weeks. Stewards were outraged. Albert Chisham from Hull put it: It is absolutely ridiculous, we have got rid of Jones and O’Leary. All the major ports voted for a stoppage.

Massive

The NEC was threatening to kick the shop stewards, Rank and file dockers continued with an all-out one-day strike. Meanwhile, left-wing Jack was drawing up the Jones’/Adlington agreement for ratification and counter-signing the document.

This Jones’/Adlington commission was called upon to consider ways of making dockers redundant — presumably, then dockers were killed.

Stewards and members were stuck with the proposal and Jones’ role was to be party to the TUC call for a one-day national strike the day it was all over.

From the beginning of the dispute, Jones saw himself as a conciliator, an "arbiter of man", instead of fighting for his members’ jobs, he cooperated with Lord Adlington to get the report of the commission accepted.

The hypocrisy of trade union leaders such as Jones, who parade left-wing policies at conferences but sell out rank and file workers, in only too clear at work. It is sickening to see workers fighting on issues over which he can appear very left-wing.

At the moment Jones is against the Common Market. His opposition on the issue is indicated by the disgusting recent report of him demanding a plotters’ list on the issue with Enoch Powell.

Jack Jones is in it for life. His left-wing reputation comes in handy and yet is belied by his actions. Rank and file militancy is an embarrassment to him.

These are precisely the qualities of an aristocrat who intends to do things (gradually) on behalf of the rest of us. If he intends them to be done at all.

Above all, he believes in being reasonable, and doing things through the proper channels. Much too much even if nothing is being achieved at least the sanctity of the channels is preserved intact.
TEN SLUGS OF WINE

 scars on the sides of his hands. He had been working on the plantation for 10 years and was severely injured when a tractor overturned on him. He was taken to the nearest hospital, where he was treated for his injuries. He was released from the hospital after a week and returned to work on the plantation.

The man was later interviewed by the media and spoke about his experience. He said that he was working on a planting field when the tractor overturned. He had no time to react and was thrown into the air. He landed on his side, and the tractor fell on his hands, causing the injuries.

The man's family has filed a lawsuit against the owner of the plantation, accusing them of maintaining a dangerous working environment. The lawsuit is ongoing, and the plantation owner has denied any wrongdoing.

The community is outraged by the incident and has called for safety measures to be put in place on the plantation. The plantation owner has promised to conduct a thorough investigation and to make necessary changes to prevent similar incidents in the future.

The local government has also been called upon to ensure that safety regulations are strictly enforced. The community is hoping for a just outcome and is demanding accountability from the plantation owner.

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BLACK WORKERS BETRAYED AGAIN - AND AGAIN...

The struggle for workplace justice continues to be a reality for many black workers across the country. Despite recent gains, the fight for fair treatment and equal opportunities is far from over. The black community is divided on the best approach to take, with some advocating for a more confrontational stance while others prefer a more measured approach.

In the face of ongoing discrimination and exploitation, black workers must come together to demand better conditions and wages. The Black Workers Committee has been at the forefront of this struggle, calling for boycotts and other forms of protest to show solidarity with their colleagues.

Their efforts have led to some notable victories, such as the successful campaign to ban the sale of certain products produced by companies with a history of racial discrimination. However, much work remains to be done.

The black community must continue to rally behind the Black Workers Committee and other organizations fighting for workplace justice. Only through collective action will we be able to overcome the systemic barriers that keep black workers trapped in the cycle of poverty and inequality.

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ASBESTOS ACTION COMMITTEE FORMED

The formation of the Asbestos Action Committee is a welcome development in the fight against the dangerous and deadly asbestos. The committee aims to raise awareness about the dangers of asbestos and to push for stricter regulations to protect workers and the general public.

Asbestos is a mineral that has been used in various industries for decades, but its use has been linked to serious health problems, including cancer and lung disease. The Asbestos Action Committee will work to educate the public about the risks associated with asbestos and to advocate for better protections for workers.

The committee has already begun to organize events and workshops to raise awareness about the dangers of asbestos. They are calling on businesses and government agencies to take action to protect workers and the public.

The Asbestos Action Committee is a valuable resource for those concerned about the dangers of asbestos. By working together, we can make a difference in the fight against this deadly mineral.
Watching we don't disturb the profit

by members of the 15th branch.

Pinfield, Bibring-Trent WE KNOW this is a democracy, we're not compelled to go, but we're here to prevent a breach of the peace.

Union officials were spoken to Bill Burton in his own kitchen by Detective Constable Lee. The detective and his mate were there to see if they could interview Mr Burton on the issue of profit—making of the shareholders of Price's Limited. Bill was for many years a member of the engineering branch of the Engineering Union and held the post of chairman. Bill was in his home at the time of the incident and the police said that he did nothing to precipitate it.

The police are still investigating the case and have not yet decided what action they will take.

The claim is that the police are acting in breach of the peace.

BMC management are rolling up their sleeves to break what is becoming the most important dispute in BMC history.

The 81 Production Assistants (PAs) in light entertainment and drama, who are up everything from the programme from catering to safety and from wing to stage, just want to be paid for the massive amount of overtime they have had to work. They want payment by the hour, in cash instead of the present 'time in lieu' which they are seldom able to take. They have been on strike for four weeks now.

In 1968, without being consulted, they were 'upgraded' to a management grade. In gratitude for entering television's box shop, they were supposed to forget nasty greedy trade union demands about such things as lunch times, overtime and holidays.

The junior hospital doctors and classroom teachers before them, the production assistants are weary of sacrificing themselves before the altar of 'professionalism'. They want to be downgraded, to rejoin the working class.

As the BMC management digs in its heels, they are taking the road from being passengers in a staff association into determined, if rather reluctant, militants. The good will has just run out,” said Val Sheppard, a drama PA, picketing the BMC Television Centre in West London.

BULLETIN

'We're supposed to be the Ladies and Gentlemen of the BMC aren't we? Grateful just to be there,' said Graham Bens, another PA. 'They don't mind us getting as long as it's not effective.'

The picket line has a slightly arid atmosphere, with a lot of embraces and 'Delphic knowledge' about, but it is tightly hung.

The strike committee issues a daily bulletin for all TV Centre staff and has been very successful despite setbacks. The BMC management are acting rather like a 19th century aristocratic factory owner facing his first strike. They can't really believe it's happening.

For the BMC executives want to be liberal, decent people. But they face incredible demands for open government censure, and Red Guillotine's latest broadcast and now the spectre of real trade unionism. Their patricianism could easily be destroyed.

Strike breaking is a lot less easy than most people think. Get to know something about the legions of dodging BMC administrators waiting to be retired, the crats of 'homeowners' in the city, the creative geniuses on expenses accounts hoodwinking and the mass expense account tax bills. The BMC didn't hesitate to go to the Industrial Relations Court in March to get an injunction against the ACT and ACTT, and makes things as hard as possible for the unrepresented ACTT, forcing it to hold meetings off the premises. Many of its members are latterly trade union members. Victimization is easy in an industry where control and suppression can mysteriously never appear.

DRAGGING

Nevertheless the strike has overwhelming support. If the ABS expels us for this strike for the future of TV trade unionism they are going to have to pull out their members in the film and the production departments to finish the strike or face the more militant ACTT shops would wipe them out. If they have to go to general strike — and from all the rumour of the next week there is a real danger of the dispute escalating — until the strikers become demoralized and set up a general strike. The strike is a legitimate overtime 'allowance'—which would be a defeat.

Rank and file unity has never been stronger at the TV Centre. Union meetings which used to attract 20 people now draw 200 and there is a determination to strip the company of the ability to overcome the patronism and the hierarchies and talk about what other people think.

But that means not a byw of respect for the personal character of the general strike, but leading and winning strikes against the TV companies before TV becomes one endless report. The comrades at the TV Centre are workers interested in contacting more people who work in television and radio who want to do something about the situation, in Clissold Gardens, London E2.

STRIKE SHOCKED FOR BBC BOSS

by Dave Wdigery

A picket at the BBC television centre, where 81 production assistants (PAs) are on strike. PICTURE: Chris Davies

A picket at the BBC television centre, where 81 production assistants (PAs) are on strike. PICTURE: Chris Davies

Union victimised steward over leaflet

by Arthur Seymour (TGWU)

CORNWALL—Transport Workers Union deproblems at the University of Plymouth over the distribution of leaflets in support of clerical workers' demands (for a wage rise) which are under discussion. Negotiations broke down on Friday when management said that the leaflets would not be put in staff pay packets if they were not agreed to.

Although the union had no contact with the company's political adviser, it was taking care that the leaflets, which were on a leaflet-size A4 paper, were not distributed.

TGWU, the white-collar section of the Engineers Union, is holding a picketing and at a meeting of the Society of Central Council and Plantworkers to discuss a sympathy strike.

Rory's anger at underhand bid to beat strike

WESLONDON—The 143 technical staff at the ACE box and truck plant in the heart of the East End have been involved in the strike called in support of the threshold wage claim for the whole of the shop.

The attitude of the men outside the factory has hardened due to the underhand methods used by management to ensure the unimpeded flow of production and make the picket ineffective. Letters and telegrams have been sent out to members of the union and the 300 inside the factory. The shop's manager has been round in their decimation communications without his consent or his approval.

Rory has given the regional committee notice of appeal.

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VICTORY ROLLS

SUNDERLAND—600 engineering and Electrical Union members at Rolls-Royce have returned to work after a successful seven-day strike. The engineering department suspended a machine operator after a two-week suspension, and the worker returned to work after the successful seven-day victory.

The suspended worker has reinstated and management have agreed to negotiate over the matter. Recent actions have clearly proved that the union's position is well founded, according to the workers, and they are now planning to negotiate an agreement and force full mobilisation.

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Lorry drivers fight union steamroller

MANCHESTER—John Stevenson has been sacked as regional official for the United Road Transport Union for failing to give satisfaction to the executive committee.

John's request for 14 days to pay up was rejected by the regional committee. He was asked if he would withdraw the claim and he refused. The regional committee then asked him to withdraw the claim and he agreed. John's request for 14 days to pay up was rejected by the regional committee.

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Making London allowances

ONE WAY London workers can get some compensation for inflation on the London allowance formula. The Pay Board and the Labour government have been forced to agree a £400 payment to some women workers who live within four miles of Charing Cross. This is a tiny step forward for the movement but doesn’t raise any slower than 40° more.

Teachers and local government workers are now seeking an allowance of 14 of a week and more.

Everyone works as hard as head out of London. The Pay Board has no formula you can use. This is a classic case of a government in trouble, and they’ve already fixed the next unofficial round for 14 of a week.

So be careful and set up market place rules for leafleting and picketing.

Education Ministry Reg Pres is taking a hard line. But there is growing movement for action in September if there is no settlement satisfactory.

The Executive has given them until the end of August for a strike ballot early in the next term.

The strike is already fixed. The company is cracking up. If the government doesn’t do anything we’ll strike. We’re going to stop ourselves and other workers from being squeezed. No more London Allowance is the first step in keeping teachers.

A fight to effect the £112 million London teachers was the next.

Geoff Woolfe. Leuchten NALGO

Despite the attempt of our union leaders to keep the workers’ action over the London allowance of the ranks the file has been magnified.

The Greenwich Compress Branch has been out for four months and the South East London Electricity Branch has been striking for seven weeks.

And the strikes have learnt that they can have an effect. Refusal is beginning to per se at Newman and Tower Hamlets. Rates and rents are not being collected in Lewisham, Bexley, Romford, Greenwich and Kensington. 15 million has been lost but this has brought about a trip.

Ticket lines at Thurrock and Tilbury stations have soared in demand for tickets on and supplies too.

Since the Pay Board reported, the membership of the government has been rejected the idea that there is an agreement now. Some socialists are calling for a 14 of a week to be fixed for the next round.

Since the national negotiations have been fixed the NALGO branch is considering increasing the strike compensation of the workers in the NALGO members can take effective action—many councils are paralysed.

The time is ripe for stepping up the action for the full £400 claim.

by Ron Singer, ASTMS

THE REVOLT in the health service is still rolling. Now the technicians, on strike since last Monday, have been joined by a national strike of radiographers, the people who take the X-rays. The medical physics and physiological measurement technicians are still waiting for a 30 per cent rise to give them parity with other NHS technicians.

Ray Waterman is the secretary of the London Joint Strike Committee, and has been involved in the claims for three years. ‘I’ve never thought I’d be out on strike... What we are doing is in the patients’ own good.

Five London hospitals have extended their strike—Hamfild, Middleton, Guy’s, National Heart and Charing Cross, Gerry Lindsey, senior technician at Guy’s, said: ‘We’re all angry and feel we should stick it out for the full offer.’

Technicians are realising the only way to improve their own pay and conditions and save the NHS is to take all-out industrial action.

Strike Action

‘The Whitley Council meeting (on 17 July) has only been brought forward by the threat of indefinite strike action,’ said Bill Appleton, NUPE technician, who is on strike at Charing Cross. Only mass strike action will get us anywhere. Now they can see we’re serious.’

They are fed up with the Whitley Council sham, radiographers too want their wages to be negotiated. Strike action started last week at the Royal Free Hospital.

The radiographers, as in the North East, are providing emergency cover only for patients already at the hospital. They will not be servicing new admissions. This is because the casualty rate of pay.

From those activities the patterns is clear. If you work in the NHS you need to get in the union, organise locally and nationally and be prepared to take out all indefinite strike action for your own sake. Your action is also the only thing which will save the NHS.

Young— not cheap!

GLASGOW—100 young workers at Barr and Stroud have announced that they will not be paid for the week beginning next Wednesday to force management to pay them the promised London allowance payment, which is only a penny short of a large portion of the total. The firm’s latest offer is 50 shillings, or 9 shillings an increase on their offer before the weekend.

The strikers, members of five different unions, are members of the TASS and were stopped at a meeting by the management. It is not clear if the strike is over.

The strike decision was taken after a meeting of all workers in the factory. The official picketing list included which which included the percentage of workers present is 14 of a week on the offer before the weekend.

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Forte Weaken

THE LONG fight for trade unionism in the hotel and catering industry took a step forward this week when Trust House Forte contacted the General and Municipal Workers Union with an offer to re-employ —as opposed to re-engage—to 23 of the workers from the Crown and Anchor Hotel, Ipswich, who were sacked last week.

But THF will not take strike-breaking housekeepers back. The offer has been rejected.

Donations and messages of support to Stuart Ferguson, 33 Laidmen Place, Glasgow G5 0RH

Lay us off? We'll sit in

NORTH LONDON—Workers at Smith’s brewery, Walthamstow, have started a sit-in on Tuesday in response to the lay-off of 177 women who are members of the NUPE. The management claim that a government with rumour has caused a shortage of ciders for the speedometer movements, which in turn has had the baiting of several assembly lines.

In fact management is trying to insist on the beer being sent to the local gites in Cricklewood and other plants at the same time.

The timing of the lay-off—a week before the annual holiday shutdown—suggests that management has been planning this move.

If you agree with the views expressed in this "paper" and would like more information, or would like to join the International Socialists, then send this form to: The International Socialists, 8 Cotton Gardens, London E2 8DN

Name

Address

Trade Union

International Socialists
It’s justice

Jenkins

-style

IAN GIBSON, member of the executive of ASTMS, the white-collar union for East Anglia and the North-East, has been banned from holding office in the union for three years for writing an article in Socialist Worker that was critical of the union leadership.

This attack on a trade unionist’s right to express himself freely reached its conclusion at last Saturday’s meeting of the ASTMS regional council, which voted to go ahead with a case against him after hearing the findings of an investigation committee. In a four and a half hour session interrupted only by 45 minutes of Anthony Woodley being explained his schemes to disrupt the meeting, the council voted to bar Ian from office and kick him off the executive.

The reasons given were: the climax of a long campaign against Ian, who is a member of the executive for being critical of the ASTMS leadership.

He was censured earlier this year for criticizing the way minutes of executive meetings were compiled and set out on the agenda. He has later challenged this decision.

Previously he had been fined £9 for not unionizing a factory in the region and had been repeatedly asked to resign by the union leaders.

The resolution against Ian Jenkins and his activities was carried at the regional council meeting.

There is no alternative. When faced with the cold-blooded determination of the management to close Fisher Bendix again, we just had to sack the management and throw out the liars.

But to understand what’s going on, we have to look at the history of this somewhat notorious factory and try to analyse the events which have led to this situation.

The factory, a taxpayers’ gift, opened in 1913. It started some of the British Motor Corporation’s most obsolete machinery. After a few years they had to offload some cash.

The new owners and the new workers were Parkinson Caines, who developed a remarkable new line in business. Wherever something looked viable they would sell it off to their dealers. The Monday boys went to Raleigh. Then the short-lived Four-cores line was sold off.

All right, some would say. But when you’re talking about a factory being shut down you have to put the blame where it belongs-their owners and their management.

In the years we have been honoured with the presence of 14 different managing directors. We have accepted annual redundancies, massive shifts in production, a general feeling of insecurity. Not a few men and women, of course,

There had been a honeymoon. Then when the intention to close the factory was announced, there was a long and protracted struggle.

PREPARED

Again he decided to remove a visible factory. It was cheaper to allow it to fit in our factory. That—and the one-fifth of the company’s market value—was just too much. We struck for weeks and achieved a total victory. Success was shortlived. It soon became apparent that the price of the factory was going to make the company’s mind to close the factory completely.

On 3 January 1973, while management were telling our steward we were all sacked, we found the boardroom, we all talked to the general manager and agreed to go back to the factory. The management meeting that followed was the most

sketchy, exciting and stimulating mystery anyone can imagine.

The details of that occupation are probably well-known. From March the action was not in the factory. Fine entertainment and stimulating discussions became a daily event. It was one of the best managed occupations.

But we made mistakes. A certain degree of isolation developed between the occupation committee in the admin block and the workforce in the factory.

We also lost Thor’s off the hook. We had got their goods blocked at every dock and airport.

Then Harold Wilson intervened. This resulted in an agreement to allow the factory to be taken over yet again.

The new owner was Halifax Ltd of the RD, a property developer and conspicuously unsympathetic to the union. Our pressure had been so great that Thor was prepared to give the factory away.

If King hadn’t taken it off him, the Thor group would have had to make the factory viable or pay up and keep on as work.

Concrete Jack Sprigg was on a political mission during the occupation. He had been派 as master in making decisions, including the decision to accept King’s takeover. But Jack was admitted to the workforce as the only representative. In the two years since, this occupation has increased.

King’s press campaign aimed at the new nickname for the management was certainly a success. The strike committee then bombed out the factory, turned the workforce into a political force.


CONTROL

He has made his money from developing the land next door. He is making more in the West Indies. Nevertheless he has declared that our factory will close unless the government coughs up £1 million.

The new crisis produced a belated reaction from Jack Sprigg. At the meeting he said the situation was so serious that he was prepared to give the factory away.

But Jack was not the only one who was prepared. The factory was given away to our occupation.

But we are fighting, though with grim determination rather than the fantastic enthusiasm of last time.

There is a general reluctance to work for the occupation. People are saying there are plenty of radiators in stock and more we’ve said them we will produce more. In short there is a lack of working purpose in the occupation that springs from the lack of control over events by the shop floor.

There was due to be another mass meeting this week. But it was postponed because the occupiers went to London to meet Industry Minister Woodley. From the strike committee can be used to point the way forward. The only real solution to this is now to wage a political campaign to force the nationalisation of the factory under our control.

There can be no more gimmicky solutions worked out with the Labour Party leaders, no call for co-operative or new owners. That could only lead to disaster. These must be nationalised with no loss of jobs and conditions and under workers control.

Without a clear political fight for this without support from other workers, there is a danger the dispute will degenerate into a fight over redundancy pay. The past two years have taught us what it means to have control...it wasn’t an easy business. But it’s one we can’t forget.

Going well against Shell

by John Deacon

ELLESMORE PORT—Despite official pressure, the 1800 Stanlow refinery workers narrowly rejected a 25 per cent deal offered by Shell last week. But this same offer was accepted in confused votes at the Crompton chemical plant and the Shellhaven, Adrossan and Teesport refineries.

What the national press presents simply as a 25 per cent settlement, is in a complicated package. This includes new men already paid under Phase Three, plus a five per cent on the flat rate and another 5.5 per cent for the full day.

Millions throughout Shell object to the “split-claim” situation is being included in this package. This means that the threshold is being allowed rather than consolidated. They also object to the $5.50 per ton levied on the agreement.

As we go to print the staff of the Tees Transport Union National Shell Committee

Socialist Worker

by an AEU member, IPD

Radiator Department (formerly Fisher Bendix), Kirkby

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