nurses' flying pickets bring out 1000 miners

by Colwyn Williamson
Swansea 13 District Committee
MORE THAN 1000 miners in three pits in Swansea, South Wales, came out on strike on Tuesday in response to an appeal for solidarity by the Swansea Nurses' Action Committee.

The committee was started six weeks ago by nurses in two of the biggest city hospitals and trade unionist members of the International Socialists. Its purpose was to give the nurses' dispute to trade unionists in other industries.

At each of the three pits, the nurses leafletted miners as they arrived for work, and unfurled a large banner which proclaimed the headline that appeared in Socialist Worker when the nurses' dispute started: STRIKE A BLOW FOR THE NURSES.

At Mortons Colliery, lodge secretary Gareth Williams welcomed the nurses and agreed at once to call a pithead meeting. Student nurse Ann Addle told the miners:

The miners have led the way before. You are fighting a government down. We learnt our flying pickets from you. Now we're asking you to set another example for the rest of the trade union movement by taking strike action to support the nurses.

Deserve

The response was overwhelming. The miners voted unanimously to stage an immediate 24-hour strike.

Mike Lewis, a miner at Mortons, spoke for the men when he said: 'It was the only decision we could make. You can't live without nurses. It's up to the rest of us to fight alongside the nurses for the wages they deserve.'

At Craig Merthyr pit, the nurses were not so lucky. The lodge committee refused their request for a pithead meeting. But the miners were infuriated by their committee's decision and insisted on a meeting.

The committee - boycotted the meeting, so the rank and file members went.

Nurse Jean Thompson told them: 'Main action is needed not only to improve the lot of the nurses but to save the National Health Service. In this country you only got somewhere when you hit profits. Nurses can't do that, but other workers can. So let's go together, nurses and miners, to other workplaces and demand the same action.'

The miners voted unanimously to go on strike.

At Bryn Lliw colliery lodge officials agreed at once to hold a pithead meeting for the nurses, and nurses Geoff O'Malley and Margaret Jones spoke. They explained that Barbara Castle's inquiry was just a way of delaying the issue. 'There's no need for an inquiry as to whether nurses need more money', said Geoff: 'Everyone knows they do.'

Fantastic

With all the money being spent on expensive equipment to kill people alive, some could be afforded to keep people alive.

The meeting voted overwhelmingly to go on a 24-hour strike the following day - Wednesday - with afternoon and night shifts coming out as well.

Ken Price, convenor of the Public Employers' Union shop stewards in South Wales, summed up the day:

This is a fantastic display of solidarity with our fight. We've had enough sympathy and resolutions. What miners have done today, the rest of the trade union movement must do tomorrow.

Mike Atkinson, NUPE hospital convenor for the North East, said when he heard what had happened in South Wales: 'This action by the South Wales miners sets an example to all workers and, given us in the North East a fantastic incentive to make our day of action on 26 July really effective. If this sort of support and action can be reflected all over the country, we must see an end to the poverty of working in the National Health Service.'

YES SHAH, NO SHAH, THREE BAGS FULL SHAH

NERO is said to have fiddled while Rome burned. Dennis Healey tinkers while the economy slides towards the slump.

Waged, as he is the government and, to try making capital investment, he is reduced to crossing his fingers and hoping for the best.

The reduction in the 'Mini-Budget' of VAT by 2 per cent will have some slight effect on the rate of price increases. The allocation of £50 million extra to the bread subsidy will have some effect on the retail price index and so the government hopes, many employers a threshold payment in the next few months. But all this is peanuts.

Big business gets the limit on dividend increases put up to 125 per cent plus a doubling of the subsidy firms receive for each worker employed "in development areas. The CBI, the employers' organisation, thinks it is peanuts too. It wants effective abolition of price controls to boost profits.

But that is impossible for the Labour government. An election is imminent. The one significant change - the rebate rate increases - is public relations. The Tories were afraid to raise them in local government elections. After the election the rates will go up again. That is certain.

How else is there to say about Healey's performance? Only this: We can anticipate that the Labour government will be ticking the Shah's boots in the months ahead, lest that slyly weighted tyranny take his dollars elsewhere.

HANDS OFF CYPRUS!

-pagels 3 and 16
NIXON: THE PRICE OF 'FREEDOM'

RICHARD MILHOUS NIXON, whose commitment to peace, liberty and law and order depends on whether he is addressing our TVs or his own tape-recorder, has now given us the inside story on ITT.

The latest transcript—and the most revealing yet—of his White House chats, tells what went behind-the-scenes in this story of international subservience. ITT, the International Telephone and Telegraph Company, integraded with the CIA, to try to overthrow President Allende of Chile at the time of his election four years ago. It was, of course, a plot that the United States government and its President, so devout in the defence of democracy, could never espouse.

That, at least, is what they would like the world to believe. In private, it was a rather different story. According to the newly-released Watergate transcript, Nixon made an angry phone call in January 1972 to his Deputy Attorney-General Richard Kleindienst.

He demanded that a prosecution against ITT be stopped and that the man pursuing it, a Justice Department official, be instantly removed. ITT, one of the world's largest multi-national companies, was, meanwhile, paying $160,000 into Nixon's re-election campaign.

Nixon told Kleindienst: 'The ITT thing—stay the hell out of it. Is that clear? That's an order. I don't know whether ITT is good, bad or let's say different. There is no telling to be any more misinformed actions as long as I am in this chair. God damn it, we're going to stop it.'

And this was eventually settled out of court—and Nixon, in another of his totally sincere public announcements, praised the official for 'having moved effectively against ITT.'

Getting the —reds taped

THE TOP men in the civil service are now looking for ways to give the impression that they are not in business as usual disturbed. A letter in the current issue of the Society of Civil Servants journal makes this absolutely clear.

SCS member H Clements, who works in the Home Office, describes what happened when he went for an interview in front of the Final Board for Administrative Trade Selection.

Asked whether he believed history was the result of individual efforts or of mass movements, Mr Clements replied that he believed in fate, that 'the moving finger' decided the future.

Obviously relieved, the examiner replied: 'Ah. So you aren't a Marxist.'

In an advertisement, Mr Clements draws the obvious conclusion: 'He (the examiner) is a very good board, as a detached examiner of ability: his function was to smell out political heresy.'

WE HAVE WAYS OF MAKING YOU STAY

THE 'socialist' prison camp known as East Germany is still having trouble with the inmates.

Would-be escapees now face one more hazard—a great scientific advance for communism called the steel-fragment bomb.

It is similar to the splinter bombs used by the French in Vietnam and rightly denounced by the East Germans at the time.

This is what happened to one fugitive from 'socialist democracy': recently, a man cleared all the obstacles, such as minefields, ten-foot deep ditches and barbed wire entanglements, between the East and West German borders at Hansehagen, 130 miles south of Hamburg.

Then, as he climbed the last wire fence, he touched a trip-wire—and was ripped to pieces by a hail of jagged steel-fragmented fragments from the bomb.

The automatic bombs, located every ten yards along the 860-miles, are especially positioned to hit the victim at head and knee height.

Armed Insurance for Dictators

THE US government armed the Greek military dictatorship. The US government armed the Turks, too, along with a collection of the most reactionary and brutal dictatorships.

A US Senator, Allan Cranston, has been looking at the latest 'foreign aid' programme. He shows that more than two-thirds of the $750 million dollars will go to military dictatorships and authoritarian governments who will use the money to undermine revolution and militarism.

Top of the list is General Than's dictatorship in South Vietnam ($200 million dollars). Les Nel's Cambodia gets $51 million and the murderous tyranny of President Park in South Korea collects 416 million.

The Greek colonels get their usual cut along with the right-wing military dictatorships of Brazil and Indonesia.

There is, naturally, new beneficency. The Chilean generals get their reward for overthrowing Allende and smashing the working-class movement. They receive 85 million dollars.

ORME: WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT TORTURE?

WHEN socialists attack the Labour Party's policy, record, Labour's 'left-wingers' often agree with the criticisms. 'Yes, you're right,' many of them say. 'But you should come in to the Party and help us to change it.'

Alas, it is usually the 'left-wingers' who change while the Party goes on as before. Consider the case of honet Stanley, safety officer in October, the Tribune group and the Broad Left, and a great believer in the 'join the Labour Party to change it' philosophy.

If, a year or two ago, you had said to honest Stanley that he would soon be defending internment without trial and the torture of political prisoners, he would have indignantly denounced such vile slanders.

But he might have pointed to his signature on the appeal against internment and for an independent inquiry by MPs and trade unionists into army and police brutality, which appeared in Socialist Worker on 11 September 1971.

But Stanley was not a minister at the time. Today is a and, so the Sunday Times reports, he has asked the Irish Prime Minister, Mr Liam Cosgrave, to drop the charges, now being brought against the British government before the European Human Rights Commission.

What are these charges? They include the following violations of the Human Rights Convention, signed by the UK government in 1951. First, internment without trial, second, torture of prisoners during interrogation.

The hearings on the charges are 'embarrassing' the Wilson government, you see.

So Minister of State for Northern Ireland Orme acts with vigour. Yet, in resigning from a government which maintains the system of internment against which he once protested.

On the contrary, His efforts are devoted to trying to persuade the Irish prime minister to forget the whole thing.

What has changed? Not internment, unfortunately, the Labour Party. What has changed is Orme. He, like so many 'Labour lefts', has seen his career ruined by the right wing Labour establishment.

Perhaps, like the carpeter eating through the cabinet, and so on, he has had several victims. But the consolations of office are immense.

LABOUR'S CHEAP

—AND SO IS WHITEWASH

By a SOGAT worker at Reed's TOVIL and Bridge paper mills at Maidstone, Kent, part of the mighty Reed International empire, are to be the venue of a meeting of the Reed Group's safety agents.

Already the whitewash has started; and instructions have gone out to the safety committee to be extra vigilant for this great occasion.

What a fine start has been made!

A hydro-pulpervisor has received a personal call with a promise to 'clean up the contents of the hydro-pulpiner with the penalty of death' from Mr J. T. Reed.

A mill foreman narrowly escaped death and 'possible instantaneous death' by 'hanging from the book of an overhead crane.'

And there is yet another fire in the machine house, caused this time by friction on paper wrapped round a felt roll. The sparks ignited paper on adjacent rolls which 'continued to burn' and 'the flames were hot enough to melt the copper of the extractor fans in the roof.'

If the machine had been shut and the paper cleared it would never have happened—but the pursuit of profit must go on, and labour is cheap. So is whitewash.
One

The Cyprus Coup was conducted by a tiny minority of armed thugs, whose main purpose was to prevent the inclusion of all socialist and Turkish influence.

As far as the opinion of Cyprus in recent years, every local election, every assembly in membership of the Pun-Cyprus trade union movement has shown. It is a matter which Greeks, the declared aim of the military junta under Niceas Sampson, was losing popularity among the half million Greek Cypriot on the island.

But although the regime was not overthrown, obviously, were also one hundred per cent Greeks, with Greeks under the junta, at the time of last week's coup in Cyprus, was supported by no more than 10 per cent of the Cypriot people.

Two

In spite of all the rhetoric, the coup was not seriously opposed by the British and American governments. In a report from Nicotia last Saturday, Eric Roundhouse of the French daily, "Le Figaro," said: "The Paphos area would probably not offer the kind of resistance that the junta expected. The junta's plans could be frustrated if the British and Americans are not given permission to units of the National Guard to advance towards the northern Akrotiri Base to go from Larnaca to Famagusta along the road through this country." This would stop the coup and place an embargo on the junta in full sovereignty in the United Kingdom.

"Questioned about this, a spokesman for the American government has assured us that it was not an official government position, but for this, a thing could have a different meaning. The junta could have led to a challenge to the junta's very existence, for the junta's leading role in the coup, the junta's role in the coup, the junta's role in the coup, the junta's role in the coup, the junta's role in the coup.

"Is not the view of Cyprus socialist leader Dr. Lyndias, who told us: 'The British High Commissioner, believe, has been given permission to use this strategy to be used by the junta. These elements can be the junta. These elements can be the junta. These elements can be the junta. These elements can be the junta.'

"The British government has insisted at all costs on maintaining close ties with the Greek junta. So Callaghan was quick to whip himself into line.

Three

The Turkish invasion has sparked a major infiltration by Hungarian forces in Cyprus.

British liberal opinion, led by the Sacred Union, has supported the Turkish invasion as 'legitimate defense of a minority.' In fact, the invasion has substantiated all progressive movements in the Turkish Cypriot community.

Such an invasion has long been planned by the Turkish Cypriot

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Five

But the developments in Cyprus show once again how futile are the tactics of working-class leaders who believe in promises with constitutional capitalist governments.

By far the largest political organisation and Cyprus, AKEL, the Communist Party—whom deletes the vote of almost half the Greek Cypriot population because including almost entire Greek Cypriot working class. AKEL has been particularly effective especially in Famagusta, are also members of the junta.

A right-wing Athens-inspired coup in Cyprus, March 14-15, 1974, Archbishop Makarios moved to exploit the Greek National Guard from the 'revolution' to make for the Communist Party or the Communist Party of the Communists. The junta's war against workers for such a coup. No plans for the junta's war against workers for such a coup. No plans for the junta's war against workers for such a coup. No plans for the junta's war against workers for such a coup. No plans for the junta's war against workers for such a coup.

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Prepared

When the coup came, Makarios' police were quickly overwhelmed by the National Guard. The workers were probably the real heroes of the coup, the only people who arrested their leaders and their officers. They threw stones at the troops and blocked the streets. They also tied up the local police. However, the attack on the national guards was too late, the national guards had already taken over the country.

After the massacre, Troj Dedgeon declared that the massacre was a "gibraltar of revenge," that the massacre was a "gibraltar of revenge," that the massacre was a "gibraltar of revenge," that the massacre was a "gibraltar of revenge," that the massacre was a "gibraltar of revenge."

The escalating strike movement to free the five got no help from all from the trade union leaders. These strikes were entirely the work of the junta and the soldiers and they put the fear of God into the establishment.

So much that after day after day the TUC itself declared it had to call it a "gibraltar of revenge," that the massacre was a "gibraltar of revenge," that the massacre was a "gibraltar of revenge," that the massacre was a "gibraltar of revenge," that the massacre was a "gibraltar of revenge."
LEXI: I'm going to sit down and vote myself a bureaucrat

I THINK Gerry Jones earns in calling for election of Transport Union officials by postal ballot (6 July). We in North East England have had experiences with mail ballots which British workers should avoid at all costs.

First, postal ballots almost always tend to favor the more conservative side. Those who don't attend branch meetings and avoid their stewards are encouraged to continue doing so, and vote for people they've heard of (the incumbent)

Second, mail ballots are extra-ordinarily open to manipulation and manipulation.

Third, because members vote in a situation (the privacy of their homes) which both reinforces individual consumerism and takes place where meaningful debate is impossible, postal ballots not only give conservative results but encourage employer meddling in union affairs.

I mean not only that the capitalist media will attempt to influence the outcome of major union elections by using newspaper endorsements of conservative union members, but that 'public relations' people are always important role.

The US and Canada have already had instances of thousands of people being paid to vote in favor of pro-business commercials for union elections. This money, when not bought from union treasuries, was secured by contributions from union staff workers fearful of their jobs and from employers (whose interest may be guessed).

The most honest and democratic way to conduct union elections and to make them the best possible vehicle for well-publicized branch meetings where meaningful debate is allowed...TOM CONDEL, International Socialist, Inc. Brotherhood of Teamsters, California.

HEROES?

REGARDING the editorial, Bombs and Hypocrisy (20 July), I have a problem with all but the last sentence in the editorial. I cannot see anything heroic in placing a bomb in a place full of children of which at least 50 per cent must be children.

We all know that innocent adults and children are being killed in Ireland as they were by the British para-

troopers on Bloody Sunday. The paratroopers who shot down innocent people are certainly not heroes. What is the same of those who have been the leaders in targets full of kids.

AUEW: Tories yes, but socialists no

IN RESPONSE to the article (13 July) about the refusal of the Engineering union executive to give national conference reporting credentials to Socialist Worker reporters, the following resolution was passed at the Edmonton AUEW branch: "We call on the EC to reverse its decision and allow Socialist Worker reporters to attend the conference." 

The resolution was moved by KEITH NICHOLSON and seconded by EDMOND HINDE. A motion to table the resolution was defeated by a vote of 20 to 3.
A million ‘parasites’ wait five more years

IT’S TAKEN nearly five years for the Finer Committee to reach the obvious conclusion that host-parasite relations get no raw deal in society, so I felt a flicker of hope as I scanned the recommendations of a committee announced on the TV.

A guaranteed maintenance allowance paid as a right to lone parents, the rating of allowable earnings and a suggestion there should be more day nurseries.

What happens? Barbara Castle greets the report with some sympathetic murmurs and promptly shelves it for another five years.

My children and the children of similar families can be seen waiting in the reserve forces of the deprivations and injustices of life on the poverty line.

One million children are living in poverty, and for too long have been denied a resting place of some kind.

To the capitalists we’re non-productive parasites, to the social security bureaucrats we are squatters who deserve no better than we get.

After two and a half years of suffering their insults and patriarchy hands-on I am forced to take my own advice to attend to the things that must be done.

We have no bargaining power.

We can withdraw our labour, we have no economic strength. To trade unions everywhere I say: We need your help. One million children need yours.

If we are to build a better society it can only be by our own efforts and those of the privileged minorities who cannot fight back.

NATIONALISATION . . . We were told that nationalisation has taken over . . .

Today it includes one of our rulers who is waving a large crane on . . .

The term of Labour’s rule has been drawn. The country’s electricity and ownership of the arms industry has been missed by the voters to lower our living standards while prices rise.

ARThUR MITCHELL, Pontypool.

A TALE OF THE General and Municipal Workers Union’s efforts to get us a minimum wage.

We are fighting back from within the executive of the union.

The Stakeman Organisation owns a large number of newspapers and pubs throughout Scotland. A few days ago we began to get copies of the newspapers informed the public and members of the union that we were going to start an industrial action. The workers have set their threshold payments.

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FROM page 1

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TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

MISS Caren Meyer, you will be impressed to know, is the Campaigning Journalist of the Year. This public watchdog was unleased last week in the Evening News, a newspaper not notably obsessed with its concern for the rich and powerful that, perhaps, Britain may soon need a military dictatorship to protect the rich and the power.

Mme Meyer’s five-part series entitled ‘The Carpathian’ is a tradition of mind-numbing dudgeon, the ‘Wreckers’—except the ‘new’ terrorism struggling for power in medical clinics.

She was not, however, exposing the state-owned monopolies or the increasing but still little-publicised suggestions by the rich and powerful that, perhaps, Britain may soon need a military dictatorship to protect the rich and the power.

In fact the conviction was directed towards, directed, in fact, to those who are aware of what is really going on in Britain and who believe that the working class, the majority of our population, should stand up to deal with it accordingly.

Mme Meyer’s Wreckers: in case you can’t guess, are socialists, with a few others thrown in for the National Front so as to establish her journalistic impartially. In any case, the series consisted of a large article lifting the lid off the state-owned monopolies, the state, and what appears, is Public Enemy No 1. A large group of workers who, by thorough research that no doubt won Miss Meyer fame and fortune, are bare the darning and the truthful way about how: They demand the nationalisation of all full-trade union unions.

Heartless

That done, Miss Meyer would supply the in-depth feature, beneath a headline which told of the ‘prosperous gangman’ who was about to cut off your supply. She ran an interview with a gangman, who described a strike was obviously the act of a greedy, heartless and vicious bastard. He justified his method of 45p a week but if further proof was needed of his ‘prosperous gangman’, it was Miss Meyer supplied it. The man listened to records by his wife, even in his own gangroom.

The paragraphs of subtly implying the selfishness being the state-owned monopolies. The readers would hopefully have taken the point and turned the page. Miss Meyer casually left slip the fact that her £545 included nearly 20 hours overtime.

Of such stuff are ‘campaigning journalism’ which Miss Meyer applies to the state-owned monopolies, which Miss Meyer applies to the state-owned monopolies. But it is all too easy for workers attacked by the capitalist Press to use in the strike to the ‘free Press’ made. It is all too easy for workers attacked by the capitalist Press to use in the strike to the ‘free Press’ made. It is all too easy for workers attacked by the capitalist Press to use in the strike to the ‘free Press’ made. It is all too easy for workers attacked by the capitalist Press to use in the strike to the ‘free Press’ made.

Disowned

Not a bad story, you might have thought. Unfortunately, a similar story came up at the back of the Evening News, this time in the Daily Mirror. The same woman who is ‘prosperous gangman’, miss Meyer’s newspapers. She wrote, said ‘I don’t believe’ the story. So it was dropped—for the second time.

It went in days later, suitably ‘re-engaged’. A reporter had been detailed to interview the soldier’s parents. The reporter had already been sent on his way. The story had been dropped, and the news had been sent on to the Daily Mirror. The story had been dropped, and the news had been sent on to the Daily Mirror.

The most marked gain of journalism is shown in this private practice. A room in the London Clinic had been booked by Miss Meyer, and the nurses, who were the backbone of the movement, were the backbone of the movement, were the backbone of the movement, were the backbone of the movement.

The type of illness is found varies with class. Almost all diseases (with the exception of diseases of infancy) are common in the bottom and end of the working class. They are, for example, among the other social classes. They are among the other social classes. They are among the other social classes.

The most marked gain of journalism is shown in this private practice. A room in the London Clinic had been booked by Miss Meyer, and the nurses, who were the backbone of the movement, were the backbone of the movement, were the backbone of the movement. The right to medical care should be the same for all.

Famous figures published by the Government in the House of Commons show that in families where the head of the family has an income of over £30 a week only 9.3 per cent are chronically sick. In households where the head had an income of between £5 and £7.50 a week, 46 per cent were chronically sick.

It’s a vicious circle. People who don’t recover from illness are also those people who live in overcrowded houses, have outside lavatories, rent privately and have a small weekly income.
Mr Wilson and the 'pardon' for Derek Bentley

Derek Bentley was a young man who was wrongly hanged. James Hanratty and Derek Bentley have been campaigning for a public inquiry and a pardon. The Hanratty family have now got a judicial inquiry from the Labour government but the Bentleys have not been faring even that well.

Derek Bentley was hanged in 1953 for being associated with the murder of PC Sidney Miles. Derek’s friend Christopher Craig was supposed to have shot the man at Bentley’s suggestion.

In his fine book on the case, To Encourage the Others, David Yallop tore this ‘theory’ to shreds. He showed that in all probability no one murdered PC Miles since he was the victim of a stray police bullet.

He showed that Derek Bentley was, in fact, the victim of the law and order brigade.

The Bentley family finally felt a pardon was on the cards after seeing Harold Wilson late in 1971. They came away thinking he had clearly stated that if a Labour government was returned then Derek would be pardoned.

However, the same Harold Wilson, Prime Minister, is denying he said anything of the sort. His denial came just after the announcement of the death of Derek’s father, William, at the age of 70, two weeks ago.

Wilson’s denial wasn’t the only act from the Labour government to mark the death of William Bentley, the Labour Prime Minister after 29 years of constant campaigning to clear his son’s name.

Shirley Williams, now Minister of Prices, also denied David Yallop’s statement that she had said a Labour government would pardon Derek.

The denials have mystified and greatly upset David Yallop who clearly remembers the promise being made. They are of course very pleasing to the police, who do, contrary to popular belief, have a reputation to keep up.

Top policemen of course, have considerable faith in Labour governments. They always recall with pleasure the sensible conversion of Clement Attlee, Labour Prime Minister from 1945 to 1951.

In 1949 when he was the Mayor of Stepney, Attlee supported the police who went on strike for the right to form a union. They were smashed, a federation was imposed and the rebels were drummed out of the force, without compensation and without any guarantee of future employment.

Twenty-six years later the Association of Police Strikes thought they were in with a chance. There was a Labour government. The man who had supported them was Prime Minister. At last they would get their pensions.

They sent a delegation to Attlee. They were met with stony silence.

Brutish is best

HAND IN HAND with the British army war effort, British business is doing a great job in Oman and Dhofar. It’s keeping starving peasants hungry andbach parasites in power.

Last week, Cementation International - part of the giant Trafalgar House Investments shipping to convicted war criminals billion-dollar contract which will be of precisely no use for an assurance that the tin band of shareholders.

They are to build a £5 million royal guest house for Sultan Qaboos. This will take the shape of a self-contained walled city for the foreign dignitaries who scarcely, if ever, visit Oman.

This brings the total value of contracts to which billion-dollar are building in Oman to £20 million. This is called economic development.
A NEW government was formed in Portugal last week. The previous government, formed after the coup which overthrow the fascist regime in April, had fallen apart because of deep divisions over the way to deal with the country's economic crisis.

The coup had been supported by sections of Portuguese big business, who saw the fascist government as obstructing policies they wanted to pursue. But workers took advantage of the new freedom to push for higher wages, to organise freely at their places of work, and to purge management of fascist officials.

The government formed last week has been greeted as a "move to the left" in some quarters. General Spinola, the president, had wanted a conservative-minded government in control, but has been prevented from achieving this by the lower-ranking army officers in the Movement of the Armed Forces. Instead he has been forced to accept a government dominated by the junior officers with the continued part of Communist Party. The new government has also been accused of attempting to impose the new government's will on the workers and to prevent any organised resistance to the government's policies.

ANTONIO Martins dos Santos is a member of the Portuguese Metal Workers Union, who was victimised for his job as an engineering worker for TAP, the Portuguese airline, under the Carmona regime. In June the TAP workers put on a strike to protest against general management. The strike continued for two months. The company tried to break the strike by declaring the union illegal. The workers continued the strike and forced the management to negotiate. The strike ended only after the workers were able to negotiate a new contract that included a wage increase and the restoration of union rights.

The strike was a victory for the workers and a defeat for the management. The workers were able to negotiate a better contract and to establish their union rights. The strike demonstrated the workers' strength and their determination to fight for their rights. It also showed the workers' ability to organise and to take action to improve their working conditions.
and why we fight workers

was to deal with labour conflicts."

The new prime minister, Colonel Vasco Goncalves, has stressed the need for discipline and has called workers to be 'better workers'. Without hard work by all the Portuguese at all levels the development of the nation will never be accomplished.'

The background to such statements is the growing militancy of Portugal's workers. Here, two interviews give the workers' view. The first is with a metaworkers' union official, the second with strikers at Portuguese Timex factory.

STRIKE

It was with no small trepidation that the workers of the Portuguese Timex factory near Lisbon went on strike in May and struck again some weeks later. The workers were angry about the way the management treated them, and they were also concerned about the welfare of their families. The factory was in the midst of a depression and many workers were unemployed. The management was not willing to give in to the workers' demands and the strike continued for several weeks.

On the third day of the strike, some of the workers were arrested by the police. The strike continued for several days and eventually the workers were forced to return to work.

The strikers were able to negotiate with the management for better working conditions and higher wages. The strike was a success and the workers were able to gain some of their demands.

In the end, the workers were able to gain some of their demands and the strike was a success.
THE MOUNTAINS of Europe have been joined by a new peak, the most expensive mountain in the world. Made up of $100,000 tons of meat, it is called the Beef Mountain.

It has grown up at a time when the people of Britain are eating, on average, less meat than at any time since the early 1950s. There is enough of it to give every man, woman and child the nine ounces of meat in the Common Market one pound of beef each.

You must remember beef. It's that dark red meat, which is kept in the museum part of the butchers and supermarkets. You probably remember eating it. But things are different now. You'll probably be told there is a 'shortage'. That there isn't enough around so 'the price has gone up'.

It isn't a shortage. It's in the Common Market intervention stores.

It is beef you won't eat. If it was released the price of beef would fall. Farmers would complain. And you wouldn't even be able to look at it during your weekly sight-seeing tours of Britain's meat markets.

All round the world people starve. In Britain people are hungry. Last year, as economic depression hit the western world, demand for beef fell. The price was too high. While that was going on, the cost of producing beef went up.

So people couldn't afford it—and demand fell. As a result of which the farmers and governments sit round waiting for the day that people can afford to buy it. Except by then it will be un affordable. They'll need to live on it. Or do what they are doing with hens in Britain these days, put them into...fertilisers.

The price of eggs was 'too low'. The farmers killed the hens and make them do fertilisers. The price of eggs will rise and the farmers will be happy, and people will eat fewer, or no eggs, and get steadily more unhealthy.

And then what happens to the fertilisers? Simple. It will make the price of producing food cheaper. So then what happens to...the food. Price is too low you understand....

And so the cow you can't afford. You'll be pleased to know that the Common Market and the Minister of Agriculture have found a solution.

To deal with the glut of these European cows. The ones from Argentina, the ones from Europe, the ones that were brought into...fertilisers.

And the great European Beef Mountain! That'll stay there. Odd chunks will be dished out to the arabs of the world. Europe, of course, will end up with its own mountains.

The time in history a total ban has been placed on their entry into Europe. That might make prices (but not your wages) rise.

The great British Beef Mountain. And the food. Price is too low you understand.

Women who mean business

SISTERS', announced Addie Wyatt from the plinth, 'you can all tell George Meany from me. We ain't coming here to swap recipes.'

Addie Wyatt is the black woman's Director of the Americanized Meatcutters Union. George Meany is the ultra-conservative leader of the America's TUC, a man who makes Len Murray look like a Bolshevik.

Thrilling

The sisters were 3200 American women workers who had crossed America this March to ename to a crisy Chicago hotel for the foundations convention of the Coalition of Labour Unions Women (CLUW). There was a thrilling meeting overflowing with a passion and fervour which astonished the union fellows who had brought CLUW into being.

When 3200 working women joined ams at the end of the session to sing out the old union song Solidarity for Ever, more than a few were openly crying. A socialist observer wrote: 'All the excitement and hopes of the week-end were captured in that moment of solidarity'.

The Statement of Purpose which the delegates took away, while lacking a clear direction for action, provides an excellent starting point for a working women's movement. It calls for complete equality on the job, a drive to organise women into trade unions, equal rights, legalisation, demands for state financed 'parent-controlled' childcare and improved maternity and pension benefits.

Conference delegates stressed the particular difficulties which women workers face in working up the sheer nerve to challenge their employers and the ingrained prejudice they still experience among many male trade unionists.

They insisted that for women genuinely to participate on equal terms in the unions, democracy was not a luxury but a must.

Common

And they called for the formation of women's caucuses in the unions where women could meet to discuss in an informal atmosphere the directions and problems of organising.

For despite the fact that it is much more common for women to work in America than in England, the unions have clearly failed to match up to the challenge of the modern woman worker. They have organised family allowances and secretarial workers, a third of the total membership of the slippery-roaming service industries where women work. The annual numbers of women who won't be able to afford it at subsidised prices.

But there are two simple names for the Beef Mountain. One is capitalism. The other is hungry.

On the Front at War

600 soldiers on strike after eight of their comrades were court-martialised for distributing a revolutionary soldiers' newspaper. Their banner says: 'abandon the trial'.

The accused, members of Sweden's I 11 regiment, were also charged with going sick so they could get free nights off.

The trial, in the Southern Sweden town of Varjo, was brought under government orders after a chief of staff urged an example to be made of the men in case their actions spread to other regiments.

After a lawyer prosecution witness told the trial that the men had been forced to lie under police interrogation, the case collapsed into farce.

The witness altered his entire account to the advantage of one of the accused—and then, after the other, more prosecution witnesses did the same.

But the trial is still going on and there is every possibility of the men being found guilty.

The other page is a photo of a group of people.
UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Brainwashed--then music struck the right note

by BRUCE SCOTT, a building worker, folk singer and member of Kirkby IS.

and then a few years later, some of the defeated Irish, conscripted into the British Army after being starved and burned from the land, were used to drive and burn out the Highland crofters from the clumps of Lenovo-shire and Sutherland, all because sheep were more profitable than human beings.

Then, as now, the ruling class were setting working men against working men.

Then I heard the mournful, touching ballads of the so-called Irish Famine when two million people were pursued and disfigured.

Then the roaring rebel songs of Dublin's Easter Rising when, led by the Countess Markievicz, a couple of hundred men in a tragic blood struggle were fighting against the British state machine—and after a week of courageous battle fought out there, they had to destroy the enemy property as well as hundreds of immolate the prisoners in the system.

The songs of the Civil War taught me most of all that workers should stop killing each other in the interests of British and international imperialism. That they should unite and struggle for the interests of international socialism.

relevant

From the British folk-song revival I learned the industrial working-class history—how the struggles of the miners, mill-hands, railwaymen, coal-diggers, and agriculture, the land, the workers against the injustices of the rich and that struggle against the system of the evictions from company-owned dwarf holds like Oakley Errington and The Blackleg Miners. The latter fellow, and the like, had imported indigestible Irish labour into this country in an effort to smash the unities, the co-operatives, the workers. The oldest trick in the book.

All these songs of the past are quite relevant today. Nothing has changed. The Great Britain Disaster, the Tragedy Empire—THEN-England, the East End Labyrinth and Louthborough and Flintham and SE, the English and Scots coal-miners in red-coats led by bourgeois officers against Irish peasants THEN-England, the English and Scots coal-miners in red-coats led by the Tory descendants of the chieftains against Irish workers NOW.

But it was good to learn from the songs and to go into craftsmanship and sing them to kids who were living in the midst of history, to listen to the lessons but who listened to the songs with eyes and ears of class struggles from them.

And Irish music itself came under the influence of socialist ideas. I heard on one day when hundreds of thousands more were living and dying under the dictatorship of capitalism for far too long.

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THE SCALE of chest diseases and ruined lives in the mining industry is unbelievable. There are 40,000 registered sufferers with the dust, causing emphysema and tuberculosis, as well as pneumoconiosis.

Miners, like other workers, had a certain freedom in this matter. They could, without knowing and thanks to the employers’ negligence, obtain a disease.

Then after they got it and managed to get it confirmed, they were free to try and win damages from their employers.

This was not the only thing that made redress difficult. Miners with the dust could go to doctors and it would be put down as something entirely different. Others would not go near a doctor or the Pneumoconiosis Board (when it came into being) for fear that diagnosis would mean being taken off the face and losing money.

Then the inhuman limitation act had a particularly vicious impact on miners. It said you could not sue more than a year after the incident that caused the injury. With a lung disease that did not show until years later, it meant that thousands of cases were cut of time or thought to be. It meant that miners were thwarted by a mere technicality.

In short, miners like other workers, were vulnerable. They were so obviously wrong before the law, that the union was the only hope. The union, too, failed them.

Despite the fact that one Welsh miner had won damages for pneumoconiosis in the thirties, the miners’ organizations and the national organizations that succeeded them fought no campaign. After the second world war, their leaders worshipped at the shrine of nationalisation and were too weak and light. The miners paid the price.

But in 1969 a miner, William Pickles, in a case supported by his new union, the Engineering Workers, got £7000 damages. The Coal Board coughed up at the eleventh hour outside the court.

That put the cat among the pigeons. 3000 miners dropped in claims. Others waited and waited. 37,000 others had the disease with more being diagnosed every week. Clearly the Coal Board had to do something about pneumoconiosis . . .

by LAURIE FLYNN

IS THIS WHY THE COAL BOARD ‘SAW SENSE’?

The dust has little to say about preventing future cases of pneumoconiosis. It is concerned with improving the condition of men who have already caught pneumoconiosis and of those who will catch it in the future.

Behind all the talk of a new era in industrial relations, the Coal Board is still set on the same targets getting production higher and ever higher. And more coal means more dust. So does another productivity drive now on the cards.

There is a possibility that the Coal Board’s policy of negotiating this package is to buy the right to give miners more pollution of an industry in which they must be guarded against.

Interestingly enough it was the last

FINALLY POSTPONED’ THE LEGAL ACTIONS FOR DAMAGES DUE TO BE HEARD AT MIDDLETOFT IN OCTOBER.

Furthermore, even before detailed negotiations take place, the NUM has virtually agreed to this.

Has agreed to encourage all members to accept the deal—and that it will not finance any member’s attempts to get common law damages.

This news has been warmly welcomed in the mining industry. People feel that at last going to get redress for the disease which has crippled and laid low thousands of men.

But is it worth probing the matter a little, not least because what the NUM has achieved unilaterally, the most powerful section of the working class, agans on will help determine what happens in every other industry.

Crucial

The deliberations of the Pearson Commission into personal injury compensation are nearly over. This collection of insurance lawyers, employers’ insurance men, a judge and a retired trade union leader, certainly worthy men, but are no more than the tip of the iceberg.

The miners are on the right track: they were not entitled to any compensation. They were prepared to take it on.

The Coal Board and the government stand accused of doing nothing about the disease. They were supposed to be involved in getting the miners from the NCB. This is why the settlement is so crucial.

A vital deal but it’s not everything

THE COAL Board took swift and determined action over pneumoconiosis. The first thing these miners of ‘moderation and the new era of industrial relations’ did was to deny their responsibility.

Each case was to be fought on its own. The NCB would not accept that four Durham claimants were test cases.

This wasn’t all. The Coal Board’s lawyers stated they would pursue another line of attack. They would contest the claims on the grounds that they were out of time. They were prepared to cheat injured miners by a technicality.

The Board set out to get as much limitation trialed on its own. Independent of any miners and their miners’ unions. The idea was to increase the chances of ‘winning’ on a technicality.

Nor was this the limit of their ruthlessness. The Board even declared that it was not responsible for the damage it would inflict on the claimants.

The government can be said to have been there to defend its interests. The NCB can be said to have been there to protect the rights of the miners, so far.

The NUM would be fully justified in pressing this. Common Law damages are pretty dammings messed. Indeed, the union would be wise to press for a good deal more if the redress for the dust is to be on anything like the scale of the misery inflicted on the mining community.

But the NUM does not look like pushing these issues at all. The union is understandably pleased at the advance which at long last has been won.

But this is not the best available deal. In some ways it is very, very seriously defective.

For many a long year the NUM has been pushing to have two other industrial diseases, chronic bronchitis and emphysema, recognised as such.

But they have agreed to leave these out of the present negotiations. They will not be compensated for. Men struck down by them will still be flung on the scrapheap.

The package doesn’t cover one or two other groups of injured men—those who had their lungs destroyed courtesy of the Coal Board in yet another way—nitrates fumes in shot firing. They, too, are excluded.

SOCIALIST WORKER would like to hear the opinions of NUM members on pneumoconiosis.
EX-PARATROOP speaks on Ireland

MORE than 100 IS members attended a day school on Ireland which covered the historical development of the situation, the role of the Protestant ascendency in Ireland, the effects of British military policy on the work of INLA and the role of Sinn Fein and the IRA.

Niall Davie, a building worker and ex-paratrooper, told how he and other young workers had been attracted to the UVF when they were told that British employment had been added to the list of 'incentive work'. Once in, they were told the army is 'in the business of killing Irish people in Kenya, Aden and Cyprus. He came to realise it was really purging the economic interests of the British employing class to which he had been drawn.

He said troops were beginning to appear in the streets of Belfast. 'Only the government were trying to paper this over with Chamberlainian "saviors" and "saviours" such as colour TV sets.'

BLOODBATH

The job of socialists in Britain, he said, was to help young workers to break the withdrawal of troops from Ireland. To those who argued that there would be a bloodbath, he answered that the British government would be forced to use the troops to defend the British economic interest in Ireland.

John Palmer told the meeting that only direct action in Britain, resolving the problems of Northern Ireland and Ireland would solve the trouble in Britain and the Irish workers would not fail to work solidarity with all workers in North and South who were against war and oppression.

Similar schools in Ireland are to be held in Manchester and Sheffield. Watch the WHAT'S ON column for details, as well as meetings on "Trends out of Ireland", "Labour and the Crisis in Northern Ireland" and the "Crisis in Ireland" at the Cambridge Workers' Club, Cambridge Street, London E2 on Sat., Oct. 6.

WHAT'S ON

ENTRIES for this column must be posted to Richard Ayre, 8 Adam Street, London W1, morning and remember the "first class" rule! Meetings, lectures and publications of all political parties, groups and organisations over the phone. Entries have priority over the section before IS members meetings. Branches and other IS organisations.

IS public meetings

KINGSTON IS public meeting: Solidarity with the Potato growers of Northern Ireland, speakers on the Chartist struggle, Thursday 29th September, Headingley, Castle Park, Kingston.

THICKERMAN IS public meeting: "The Middle East: Anatomy of a Crisis", in London, London E1 on Friday 24th October, Socialists Against the War, 237 Blackfriars Road, Harrow (opposite Granada Cinema).

TOWER HAMLETS IS public meeting: "The Middle East: Anatomy of a Crisis", in London, London E1 on Saturday 24th October, Socialists Against the War, 237 Blackfriars Road, Harrow (opposite Granada Cinema).

CITY OF WESTMINSTER IS public meeting: "The Middle East: Anatomy of a Crisis", in London, London E1 on Sunday 25th October, Socialists Against the War, 237 Blackfriars Road, Harrow (opposite Granada Cinema).

Events are advertised in What's On or Contact the Socialist Worker, 237 Blackfriars Road, London E1.

Meetings for IS members

BIRMINGHAM IS District meeting for IS members on Saturday 6th October at 3.30pm, St. Augustines, Paddington. The meeting is open to all IS members. The full agenda will be announced well in advance. Any members who wish to attend are asked to contact the local organiser.

THE IS AUGUST/SEPTEMBER meeting in Newcastle on Saturday 27th October at 2.00pm in the hall of the Alice Street Workers Club, Newcastle. The meeting has been cancelled due to the closure of gates of divisional meetings. The meeting will now be held in the hall of the Alice Street Workers Club, Newcastle on Saturday 27th October at 2.00pm. The meeting will now be held in the hall of the Alice Street Workers Club, Newcastle on Saturday 27th October at 2.00pm.

YORKSHIRE AND NORTH DERBY IS District meeting on Saturday 6th October at 3.30pm, St. Augustines, Paddington. The meeting is open to all IS members. The full agenda will be announced well in advance. Any members who wish to attend are asked to contact the local organiser.

MIDLANDS IS members meeting: Saturday 6th October at 3.30pm, St. Augustines, Paddington. The meeting is open to all IS members. The full agenda will be announced well in advance. Any members who wish to attend are asked to contact the local organiser.

DAY SCHOOL, on Saturday, Speakers on the Chartist struggle and the buildings crisis. Thursday 24th October, 3.30pm, 237 Blackfriars Road, Harrow (opposite Granada Cinema). The venue is open to all IS members. The full agenda will be announced well in advance. Any members who wish to attend are asked to contact the local organiser.

IS notices

COMRADE needs area voice in house or office in London (or any area). On 759 2032 daytime/457 2016 evening.

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Redundancies ... prod deals. The battle warms up!

by John Owen, Houghton Main NUM

MOVES now afoot to negotiate a separate deal in the mining industry are dangerous. Any deal would give far more concessions than to rank and file miners.

It would produce more coal for the winter and the production is stockpiled it can be used against the NUM in future wage negotiations.

Extra pressure to reach bonus production levels will inevitably increase accidents and worsen working conditions.

It was predicted that sooner or later the NUM would have to disunite the miners. Since 1966 the coal agreement has united the miners in a way that was unforeseen by the NUM and NCB.

One obvious play was to go new, and from this an easier, more favourable scheme or maybe to modify the existing one.

They seem to have put all their efforts to the latter. Why the NUM and the NCB leaders are putting all the steps to sell a productivity scheme to the miners.

The NUM leaders will admit to the pressures of the Labour Government and JUC's 'social contract' and take the way of least resistance. This year they are under more pressure from management and the ruling class than ever before.

So it would seem that they will take decisions in favour of the system and against our interests.

For the NCB, it will solve several problems. It will solve staffing problems by accelerating the closure of so-called uneconomic pits. It will also provide a work force that can be used to staff the Selby Coalfield by freeing redundant unemployed miners to move against the local strength.

If the Coal Board can implement a scheme to satisfy the short term needs of it and of the government, the Selby Coalfield will be developed and North Sea Oil will be flowing on shore by the time we reach retirement.

Most important of all, the miners will have missed the short period of time-five or six years-in which conditions are far more favourable.

Once again we are being asked not to rock the capital ship on the strength. When the ship is more stable and we are weaker we will do what he has told us we have gone to do him. If we rock the ship, there is no way back.

We will be a backward step that will take years to repair.

We need support—fast!

by CPM Radiator Department

KIRKBY—Workers at the IPD plant, formerly Fisher Benidi, are continuing their occupation in their fight to preserve their jobs. Two years ago they successfully occupied the plant until Harold Wilson stepped in—but the new owner he found has now sold the plant to a bigger rival.

At the IPD Radiator Department on Monday, we were glad to hear that Liberal MP Cyril Smith wanted to talk to the IPD workers and of his successful efforts to stop the closure of the plant in South Shields.

This makes little sense to the workers, even if it is the right move to save a plant that will go down the road. The problems of the factory are far more than just the closure of the factory.

Equally important to the workers are the issues of security, wages, conditions and the internal organisation of the plant.

The official receiver is attempting blackmail of the worst kind. He has his holiday period and will not give us our money back. We accept the assessment of the reality of the factory.

This could mean the sacking of over 700 workers, leaving a mere 450. This is completely unacceptable to the majority of the work force.

The situation is even more delicate now and the occupation in 1971 is disturbing, particularly for those involved in the last round of negotiations with the NCB and the National Coal Board.

Workers are getting no wages and are hard-pressed to find a job in the plant, as many as far away as Wigan. When they get in, middle is the order of the day, once the work force has no more than 600.

Workers are cynical about this, but a bias decision to see the thing through to success exists. The workers are in support of the NCB and the NUM in trying to save the company.

The NCB in the meantime has not only no wish against such support but would need as much support from the labour movement to save the company.

For success of any kind financial and social worker autonomy is needed. A well-organised appeal to union branches, shop stewards committees and other organisation could help.

We need the support of all workers that can come to our rescue.

It would spread other workers the lesson that putting your trust in people like Harold Wilson is no way to ensure job security. During the last occupation we were in control. We had a strong industrial empire in our grip. But that's the past, we all have now to learn, which we must not forget if we are to succeed.

SOUTHALL—Workers at Cramco Engineering voted 100 per cent last Thursday to close the factory. Everybody is voting in its individual. This takes effect from September 21st for the purpose of the sale.

The strike was숲 by workers representing all Cramco workers formed to stop anything leaving the factory.

CRICKLEWOOD-workers at Smith Industries MAF factory ended the strike yesterday after the management to withdraw lay-off notices given to 177 members after workers and claiming payment for one of the 135 days.

The work force voted a victory that nothing is long run. The motor industry is in crisis and Smiths, as a manufacturer of car parts, cannot escape the repressions.

The strike was only the first round in what promises to be a long fight.

Leyland—Why we are sick

LEYLAND—Leyland has announced a 2-week strike. Leyland has an agreement to meet about 2:00for women and 1:00 for men.

This agreement is the result of many years of work. It will end on the 16th of September. The strike is expected to last for two weeks.

The company has agreed to pay £1.00 for women and 90p for men for the first day. The company has agreed to pay £1.00 for women and 80p for men for the second day. The company has agreed to pay £1.00 for women and 70p for men for the third day.

The company has agreed to pay £1.00 for women and 60p for men for the fourth day. The company has agreed to pay £1.00 for women and 50p for men for the fifth day.

Busmen on move again

by George Fuller, TGWU

BRIGHTON—Following the success of the recent 24-hour stoppage by busmen from the Southdown Conway Whitehawk depot have made a big gain on the following.

They are not prepared to tolerate a situation where the management can lay off drivers in shifts of nine and ten hours.

The biggest man in the management—Charters—the main points are £2.50 for 24 hours and an hour's paid meal break—but met with shouting from the drivers who then refused to go back to work.

They walked out, taken the whole line in the office and the works in the yard.

The attitude towards the meals is a shock and the drivers are not prepared to give an inch. We'll be a bloody well take it.

The management had to order all the drivers from the office. The busmen then met and on Friday the busmen were given back their jobs.

The busmen have been given an assurance of the aware of the need to involve other garages in the town in a united fight.

£7-A-WEEK PAY VICTORY

CHELMSFORD—500 members of TASS, the white-collar section of the engineering union, have won an important pay victory against Britain's most ruthless employers.

They gained increase of up to £4.50 a year after threatening to strike at the 45 hours week. The group is only 800 strong but small unions in the pipeline.

The TASS had formed a new union last year to accept CEC's strategy of extending the working week. Factory organisation at a low ebb in a town where management is always a word for the deal, the plan was pushed through fairly easily among all the management.

But after working the extra two and a half hours for six weeks, TASS members decided they had enough. They de- nied the deal would result in a 37-hour week without loss of pay.

GEC gives 3½ hours on the workers nearly everything they had demanded. One milit- ant said: 'It's magnificent. I feel GEC are going to put up a real fight. Now they're giving in to us, their whole plan has been undermined.'

The TASS victory draws a clear lesson for the other Marconi unions, specially the ACUW, which has been content to sell out to the Marconi.
GLASGOW—Young workers at Barr and Stroud’s have continued to strike for a full threshold award contained in a package deal.

Management have increased their offer to 20p per week for new workers, every per centage rise in the Retail Price Index for 16-year-olds, rising to 55p for 19-year-olds. The junior workers’ attempts to avoid paying the cost of living award in full, stated in the affirmative. Barr and Stroud’s deal with the work-force with a £1 per week levy.

People feel they have been pressurized into accepting what they believe is an extremely low award. The package offered by Barr and Stroud’s on 150 of their 900 workmen is hardly enough to make up for the price of living. The barr and Stroud’s offer has been rejected by the majority of the work-force.

The local and national union leadership have refused to campaign on behalf of the workers, who have formed their own TUC/CPA conciliation machinery. This is the final example of what Labour’s Social Contract is all about, trade union officials, partitioning off behalf of the workers and the employers’ and holding the line on wage deals.

Meanwhile Shell were holding the line on profits. They made £130 million last year, compared to £355 million the year before. They are now losing 500 jobs and have raised prices. Shell were allowed to pocket the profits. Their workers are with the miners’ strike. After all, they’re in a very special case.

 Teachers triumph

AT THE eleventh hour, the leaders of the National Union of Teachers have abandoned their bid to victimise the Wandsworth Three, David Whitfield, Fred Scott and Eric Porter.

Facility strikes against the three teachers had been planned by the Teachers’ Trade Union Congress. The strikes were timed to coincide with a NUT meeting to discuss the case. The strikes were abandoned on the Friday night, but the NFTE had already issued a statement.

The action was based on the fact that the teachers had been in direct contact with students and were set to be the subject of a meeting on Wednesday afternoon. The teachers had been asked to convey their support to the strikers, but the NFTE had decided that the meeting should not go ahead.

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HANDS OFF CYPRUS!

Central London Socialist Worker meeting
Speakers: Petros Savvides (Socialist Revolution, Greece) and Duncan Hallie (International Socialists executive)

Thursday 1 August, 7.30pm
Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, WC1

No waiting for weighting

All London workers now have the right to an immediate pay increase. The London Weighting battle is not just a white-collar affair. London Airport workers have already won a 14-week increase for the first time.

Even the Pay Board gradually recognised that all London public employees and private sector workers on callouts had the right to an immediate increase.

But the report is full of nonsense. If your work is within four miles of Charing Cross you get £6 a week, and for the majority who work outside this area only £4.

But now the Pay Board has abolished the national limit of £3.97. We demand that the Labour government that the government that the workers must go as well. Now we have returned to "free" bargaining we can turn this report on its head. If the Pay Board thought £8 a week was good enough for central London workers, it's good enough for us all, whether we had an allowance before or not.

Hospitals union silent

Steve Leatham (NUPE hospital shop steward writer)

The savage effects of inflation on hospital workers and the over-whelming staff shortages left after the Black Friday have been advertised on the floor board.

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Nalgo action

Gwen Williams: Nalgo branches, the government offices union, is in support of the £400 claim. Last week's Metropolitan District Council meeting called for further action.

With the employers likely to make no offer until the next meeting, it is essential to step up the action in support of the full £400. The union's negotiators will settle for the March "interim" offer of £180 for Outer London and £125 for Inner London if the government is pushed further.

It would also pave the way for a quick settlement of the local government white-collar workers' national claim. The June Nalgo Conference decision to press ahead with the full claim and to refer any settlement less than 20 per cent back to a delegate meeting was a great step forward. Since then branches in Glasgow, Essex, Birmingham and Manchester have called for an early delegate meeting to consider action in support of the claim.

The London Nalgo Action Group meets on Monday 27 July, 7.30pm, at the Church of the Holy Trinity, North End, Fleet Street to discuss the next steps.

Stop press
Greek junta falls

As we go to press, news is coming in of the collapse of the Greek military junta, and the invitation from the Greek President to the former conservative Prime Minister Karamanlis to take charge of the government.

This move, coupled with the resignation of Prime Minister Papandreou from the Greek Communist Party, is a major blow to the existing political situation in Greece. The current government is in a state of flux following the resignation of Prime Minister Papandreou from the Greek Communist Party, and the invitation from the Greek President to the former conservative Prime Minister Karamanlis to take charge of the government.

The Greek junta is gone. That is a matter for republics throughout the world working-class movement.

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If the Greek workers now use their strength, and get the support of their fellow-workers in other European countries; if they can relieve the tension and get a new government, they can continue to fight for the liberation of their country.