The icing on the cake

The sugar shortage doesn't hurt everyone. The shareholders of Booker McConnell, for instance, which owns four-fifths of the sugar estates in Guyana, as well as a chain of shops, shops and engineering factories in Britain, are very happy. Profits are up from £1.7 million last year to £5.5 million this year.

Dividends paid out to shareholders are up from £592,000 last year to £2.5 million this year—an increase of more than four times.

One man who is missing these figures is Joseph Godber, defending Tory candidate in Grantham. Godber is a director of Booker's. He joined the board only three months after leaving office as Tory Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Sugar. Read his story on PAGE SEVEN.

FUND: £577—AND NICK OUT OF JAIL

LAST WEEK Nick Fitt, a young International Socialist printworker, was sent to prison for four months at Bow Street magistrates' court for assaulting a policeman at the anti-National Front demonstration at Red Lion Square. Nick denied the charge, and said that he had been badly beaten up by the police.

On Friday, Nick applied for bail pending appeal, which was granted. He sends this message to all Socialist Worker readers:

'After three days in Pentonville I am out on bail until the appeal is heard. Despite the benefit of a free subscription to SW I am hoping that I won't have to return! With luck, all our comrades involved in legal proceedings will be fined at worst.'

The magnificent response to last week's appeal raised £577.75. But we urgently need more. We must be able to pay all fines and this has to be a collective effort from all IS members and SW readers.

When a pick-fac is attacked by the state, all anti-fascists are attacked. Our only defence is our collective strength. We must all dig as deep as pockets we can, as permissively possible. Every penny sent is a blow to the state in its attempt to control us and to silence us.'

An International Socialist in Newbury rated £5, I'd like to thank the following for their contributions:

Bradford YEB £4.50, Early City Co-op £1, Socialist Worker Readers London Co-op same £2.00, Socialists Club Reading £2.00, Tooting £1.00, Canmore Meeting at Goddess £1.75, ATF £1.44, Graysend Anti-April F $8.00, Guildford Left Option £9.00, Mayfair Labour Club Socialist Worker Supporters £1.00, Service Centre Site Enginee £4.50, Tottenham Anti-NF £8.50, Egham, West Hove Group £1.00.

Our thanks to the following IS branches: Wandsworth £2.50, Maidstone £3.50, Bath £5, Burnley £2.70, Southwell £2.00, Harrow £2.50, Gillingham £1.00, Graysend £3.70, Hackney £5.00, Walthamstow £2.00, Leeds £2.00, Oxford £20, Birmingham District £20, BIRM £2.50, Edinburgh £10, Totnes £4.50, West Surrey District £1.00, Esher £2.00, Ely £3.34, Fulham £5.00, Blackburn £5.

FIFTY Asian workers in Leeds are in the sixth week of strike against appalling low wages, unhealthy conditions and their bosses' ruthless treatment. Again Britain's biggest union is pussy-footing. These men and women need your help, in donations, messages of support, demands in Transport Workers Union branches that the strike be made official. They need help on the picket line. Otherwise the pickets will score another victory. Contact Social真是, 63 Freeman Road, Leeds.

Full report PAGE 14.

Private armies

Here's the danger

'The strike-breakers are too well-organised and too disciplined to be just in it for the money. This is the beginning of the private armies. If they have a victory here they'll go straight to the employers for funds to finance bigger and more extensive operations.'

Those are the words of an AEUF shop steward. They spell danger for all real revolutionaries. See PAGE SIX.

The food they threw away

THE Bell Mountain is official policy. Your cans are being used to get beer in cold storage to stop prices falling. So you have to pay for it. Last year tomatoes were being dumped in France. In 1971's conference farmers were being paid to destroy grain. In the madness of capitalism—see conto.
Goodbye Good Lord and Good Riddance

IT was a shock to many Labour Party members to hear that Lord Chalfont had resigned from the Labour Party. No one was aware that he had ever joined it. Chalfont was a non-union journalist on The Times who admired the Liberal Party on defence matters when he was working here in London and Minister of Disarmament in the Liberal Government.

The Ministry of Disarmament was soon abolished and Chalfont interested in drawing his salary until Labour lost the 1970 election. He then joined the board of Sylvania Investments, a company formed to gamble in shares with the money of pension funds and life insurance companies.

its property subsidiary bought properties worth £26 million in its first year. Chalfont became the chairman of the banking subsidiary, Sylvania National Bank.

The gamble didn’t work and before the Sylvania Bank was being sold off. No one bothered to tell Chalfont, who was always considered front man. One early morning he arrived in his office to be told that the firm had been sold and he was out of a job. Soon, then, he was scrapping a living writing reactionary, red-baiting articles for The Times.

Chalfont has not had a socialist thought in his life. He is a born reactionist, dedicated to the cause of reaction.

His resignation is carefully timed to prevent any possible electoral damage to the Labour Party. But the Labour Party has only three months to wait.

P.S. A lot of fuss has been made about the fact that Lord Chalfont has not resigned his seat in the House of Lords to the Labour Party this year, and was therefore not a member when he resigned. However, the position of Mr. Roy Jenkins, who has not paid his subscriptions to the Labour Party, part of the Ahagon Constitution Labour Party in Berkshire.

PARDOE: Well-behaved

SPRINT THE EIGHTH WONDER

Heath’s man ‘in the know’

AFTER a long flirtation with the Scottish Nationalists, Sir William Lithgow, chairman of Lithgow Shipbuilding and engineering group, and a member of the Board of Trade, wrote to one of the national parliamentarians for advice on Edward Heath as a Scottish industrial matters.

The appointment which followed a two-hour meeting with Heath, was announced by George Younger, chairman of the Scottish Tories, who said, “Bill Lithgow is a dodgy fighter for small to medium and detailed knowledge of Scottish industry.”

Sir William has displayed his long and detailed knowledge, on a number of occasions. In 1963, General Sir Gordon MacMillan (consul of Harold) needed extensive voluntary work done in the library of his Renfrewshire home, Finlayson House.

Sir William, always eager to help a neighbour and coinker, arranged for the job to be done by joiners from his firm, Caledonia Joinery Ltd.

Later, he sailed across to Sweden to inspect the factory for his own company, Lithgow, and wrote to his colleague to congratulate him on the job.

When we are sure—abound in the cost of car makers, which was being fitted Lithgow’s dry dock at the time.

But Sir William’s experience in handling shipping has been proved to be valuable to the Tory leader. In 1963, he was employed at Sir William’s farming company, Langbank Farms Ltd, to check the cost on for strike for a month.

Sir William dealt with this wicked tax by acting in a team of his shipyard price-sell transport crew of ‘jumping’ bricks 60 miles from Kielder to look on the strikers. In a year, Sir William Lithgow, chairman of Lithgow, made the Conservative party what it is.

Fascists flogger

It was a small example of united front activity, about 60 socialists in Tynwald, on the Isle of Man and the National Front meeting in Stevenage, Herts.

Front chairman Mr. 20-minute question is to the new shop stewards was drowned out by the hacking of the anti-fascists, members of the National Front Council, Communist Party, and IS branches. One CP member was sworn and charged with criminal damage. £14 was immediately handed to his defence.

In other words, he indulged in a nasty piece of blackmail in the interests of his shareholders and directors, including Mr. James Prior.

TAKING THE BISCUIT

ONE of the more unpleasant aspects of general elections is the appearance on television of James Prior, the red-faced, fast-talked worker who, when he is not making money for nothing in some boardroom, is the Tory spokesman on employment.

The mass attack this week is on the Ford workers for breaking the social contract with their new wage agreement.

Prior is a director of United Biscuits, the country’s biggest biscuit manufacturer. Last month, Mr. Hector Laing, chairman of UB, announced page 17 that he was making a ‘hysterical attack’ on the new Tory Party’s former incomes policy—on the grounds that it ‘interfered’ with the right of the employers to put up prices.

Prior admitted that he had postponed building a new factory in Hull, and made it clear that he was withholding other industrial investment until the unions were defeated.

In other words, he indulged in a nasty piece of blackmail in the interests of his shareholders and directors, including Mr. James Prior.

Fares protest: Pupils walk out

by two 15 school students

PUPILS walked out of Pype Hayes Park school, South Shields, last Wednesday in protest at the cost of bus fares. They have been having to pay to travel to other schools since their own lower school was burnt down.

The walkout prompted pupils from four other local schools to come out in sympathy. They demanded better school conditions and meals, as well as free bus fares. At one school the headmaster tried unsuccessfully to use Sixth-formers to block the strik.
The strength of the Portuguese Communist Party: now the Party is attacking strikers

**The only answer to the crisis**

THere HAS never been so much crisis talk. Indeed, a lot of people are probably not paying too much heed to it any more.

All the parties stress the seriousness of the economic outlook. Britain faces its most dangerous crisis since the war,' says theLabour manifesto.

The dangers now facing Britain are greater than any we have since the war,' said the Tory one. And the Liberal chip in with 'the greatest peacetime crisis we have known since the dark days of 1931.

Diagnosis is one thing. Cure is another. What do the parties offer? We need not waste words on the openly capitalist parties. They remain what they have always been, the direct political representatives of the big business and the middle classes.

What matters is that the Labour Party's 'solutio n-is, at bottom, the same as the Tory-Liberal one.

There are indeed differences about tactics, about how to enforce 'restraint' on the working class, how to push up profits, how to get what Harold Wilson calls 'a vigorous, alert and profitable private sector.' There is no difference at all about the end. Tory, Labour and Liberal alike put capitalist interests first.

If the crisis talk seriously, and we should take it seriously, H this follows whoever wins the election will try to solve the crisis at the expense of working people. Wage restraint' and unemployment are the prospect whoever occupies the strength of the Labour Party.

What can be done about it? Clearly, there is no electoral solution. That is not to say that there is no political solution. There is. It is the replacement of capitalism by planned production for use under workers' control. It is socialism. That is the only long-term alternative to an increasinglycrippling stagflation.

But we are not going to get that in the next few months. What then, is the next step?

A democratising defence of working-class interests is what is immediately practicable and necessary. That, in turn requires a tremendous struggle to develop solidarity with workers in struggle, to link up militants and to fight the treacherous Social Con-Trick policies of the union leaderships. It requires a massive expansion of the activities and influence of the Rank and File Movement.

The Nothing is more important than this. The real struggle will centre on wages and resistance to closures and unemployment in the next few months. That is not our choice. It is imposed on us by the employers and the politicians.

The Rank and File Movement is absolutely central here. Its growth is the key to successful resistance to the employers' offensive. And successful resistance is an essential springboard for socialist advance.

Whatever else is done in this election period, the preparation for the Second National Rank and File Conference on 30 November must come first.

Spread the literature and the ideas. Win delegacies. Draw in new forces. Make 30 November a turning point on the long road to the rebuilding of a revolutionary socialist movement rooted in the working class.

**Why we're not standing**

WHY ARE the International Socialists not running their own candidates in this election?

Revolutionary socialists take part in elections, in suitable circumstances, with two ends in view: to use the electoral situation to make propaganda, to win new contacts and members and to strengthen the non-electoral work of the organisation.

But we have always been clear that, in general, capitalist parliamentarism not with the illusion that there is any parliamentary road to socialism but to use parliament as a forum for revolutionary agitation and propaganda.

The first of these ends would be immediately practicable. The second would not. The IS decision not to contest the elections is based on the belief that, the resources required for a serious intervention are better utilised at this time in non-electoral work, in expanding the industrial base of the organisation.
FIRSTLY:

STATE CAPITALISM IN RUSSIA

Russia today is a centre of racism, anti-semitism, national self-aggrandisement to the U.S. and as capitalist.

How did it come about? How did the "soviets" create the state?

Are there economic contradictions?

Do the kulaks exist anymore?

Does class struggle still exist under state capitalism?

Is the state capitalist?

How many workers are there?

Are all workers in the city?

What is the proportion of workers under state capitalism?

How many workers are there in the countryside?

Does the state exploit the workers?

Is the state capitalist?

Are there any black workers?

Is there any unemployment?

What is the state doing to create jobs?

Is the state capitalist?

Are there any women workers?

Is there any female discrimination?

Is there any difference between men and women?

What is the state doing to promote women's rights?

How does the state control the economy?

Is the state capitalist?

Is there a free market?

Is there any competition?

Is the state capitalist?

Is there any freedom of speech?

Is the state capitalist?

Is there any freedom of the press?

Is the state capitalist?

Is there any freedom of religion?

Is the state capitalist?

Is there any freedom of association?

Is the state capitalist?

Is there any freedom of movement?

Is the state capitalist?

Is there any freedom of travel?

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Is there any freedom of education?

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Is there any freedom of thought?

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Is there any freedom of thought?
We will fight them in the sewer

I THINK we are wrong to attack the scabs in Unison and GB75. Why not organise a rolling general strike and give them a chance to show their worth? Let them start with a fourfifteen down the mines (best to break them in gently), followed by a month on the car assembly lines. Special suicide squads will have to take over from the liggers and other asbestos workers and ex-army tank officers can form tractor regiments to run the farms.

By this time we will have to call off the dooks strike as all the volunteers will be needed on the building sites, working flat out to finish new hospitals for their casualties: bronchitis, asbestos, chemical poisoning, mental breakdowns, etc.

So to make matters worse their strained resources are further stretched by an un-scheduled strike in the manufacturing industries after complaints that too many volunteers are dropping dead in the soup works canteens and kitchens.

The crunch comes during a strike by public employees. Riots break out in all the major cities between Unison and GB75 over who should go down the sewers. An attempt to settle the dispute with a duel between General Walker and Colonel Stirling is inconclusive after both men are mortally wounded.

But, like all fairy tales, this one has a happy ending. As they lay bleeding to death in the waiting room of a local casualty hospital, both men sign an agreement and die in each other's arms.

The threshold: It's just not enough

I HAVE NOTED with interest since taking your paper the number of disputes that have been fought over the question of the threshold payment.

In view of the fact that many thousands of workers and down the country have been brought into conflict with their employers possibly for the first time ever I would be most interested to know what is the policy of the International Socialists on the question of the threshold.

And also what if anything happens in October when thresholds cease to be paid over and above what is already agreed under the Tony legislation of Phase Three.

The impression I get when talking to people on the left is that they seem to be against the acceptance in principle of threshold because it takes away the motivation to fight for your annual wage award. And this in turn would reduce the need to belong to a trade union.

I see the question of thresholds somewhat differently. Firstly we must safeguard what we have already got. Secondly we should try within our own factories to get our own improved domestic threshold agreements and then make sure contact is known.

Thirdly, I do not think that any actery which fights to get the thresholds would not also fight over a national wage claim within its own industry or as an annual wage claim. It would also need to be spelled out that even an improved threshold would in some cases only be a question of standing still. And unless everything that increases the cost to workers is taken into account such as rates and mortgages charges it would not even allow us to stand still.

Although for my sins I am a member of the Labour Party I think a lot of party members agree with the point of view that the social contract is a new name for a wage cut and must be exposed. E. JACQUES (Engineering, Unilever district committee), Leeds.

Hidden

A telling Geoffrey Rippon reads this statement to the nation in a broadcast heavy with emotion: "... and finally with deep regret we dissolve our organisations. They have served a vital role in demonstrating to the British people the hidden dangers within our society. We appeal to our supporters to take up this challenge and fight against the reactions and fantasies like ourselves, who preach law and order but only bring anarchy and destruction."

The following day the survivors of the private armies will march off to join the International Socialists and we will all live happily ever after. MIKE STANTON, Grimsby.

QUESTION OF POWER

YOUR LEADING article (9 September) about the Hull dockers and the rank and file movement seemed rather embittering.

You quite rightly put the blame for the approaching slump on the economic system and stress the need for workers to fight unemployment, wage freezes and constrained 'shortages' with the policies of the rank and file movement and the initiatives shown by the Hull dockers. We can expect no lead from the dead-heads who are in control of our unions now, as the support for the social con-trick seen at the TUC congress shows. But you should not appear to imply that the important struggle ahead to defend our living standards will itself destroy capitalism. Only political action and ultimately seizing state power will accomplish this.

This is what 'fighting capitalist society all the way' really means. The Rank and File Movement should be seen as a necessary means to defend our rights and living standards now, and not, as your editorial suggests as a means to achieve socialism on its own without the guidance of the revolutionary party. PAUL CUNNINGHAM, Norwich.

International Socialists

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 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN
How you could free a political prisoner

JUST over a year ago Alejandro Alcon was working at the Bellavista-Tomé textile factory in Concepcion. He played a leading role in the occupation which forced the Allende government to take over the factory. As an active trade unionist and a member of the Revolutionary Workers Front (the RWF-organised by the revolutionary organisation MIR), he led a series of struggles to unionise new sections of workers and fought to maintain the rank and file of his union in the struggle to demonstrate the strength of the Chilean equivalent of Britain's TUC. In 1972 he was elected president of the RWF and was arrested as a national delegate to the CUT. During the house strike that he worked to set up, the industrial 'cordones' in Santiago and fought the bureaucratic control of the Popular Unity Party. At the same time he criticised the leaders of the MIR, saying that they had failed to demoralise their own organisation and had refused to build a working-class revolutionary party capable of leading a struggle for workers' power. The MIR leadership expelled Alcon in May last year and convoked to him removed from his posts in the CUT and CUT.

With other groups of isolated workers Alcon tried to continue his organising work among Chilean workers right up to the day the General's moved in. As a known militant he was near the top of the list for the prison camps, and unlike many other Chileans, his Chilean citizenship which could hide him from the Junta's bloodhounds.

Desert

His comrades advised him to get out of the country. With few others he went to the Swiss Embassy. The ambassador told him to wait in the hall—and within five minutes a police patrolling the embassy caught him. They were all taken to the national stadium in Santiago, where they met other families who had been hauled over to the Junta by the Swiss ambassador.

One of Alcon's friends, Helios Pinto, was later released as he was an Argentine citizen, but Alcon was not. He was last heard of in the prison camp, set up at an abandoned mine at Chacabuco, in the north of Chile.

His only crime was to be a political. The junta, which was prepared to fight for the rights of its citizens who had been hauled over to the Junta by the Swiss ambassador, will 'try' him as they have tried and shot thousands of others.

The future of Alejandro Alcon and the thousands whose names and stories we don't know hang in the balance. It is vital that the call from the National Bank and the Con-

ference Organising Committee is taken up in every trade union branch and shop stewards committee in Britain.

If the printers can get jobs abroad they stand a chance of release. The Organising Committee is urging trade union branches and stewards committees to adopt Chilean prisoners and press their employers to get work permits for them.

A list of prisoners is available from the Organising Committee, 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10.

The blacking of Chilean textiles is vital, not only because it hits the junta where it hurts, but because it gives a real solidarity boost to the Chilean resistance. The page-four Socialist Worker leaflet, "Does your firm trade with the torturers?" lists firms which trade with Chile and outlines how to go about blacking their goods.

Copies 2p each (50p postage for any number of copies) from IS Books, 267 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.
HAIL HAILSELASIE

THE departure of the Ethiopian tyrant Haile Selassie and the revelation that he has stolen around £100 million from the starving Ethiopian people and stashed it away in European banks is one of the most significant developments of the visit of the Emperor to the People’s Republic of China in 1973, when Selassie was treated almost royalty as that other friend of the Chinese workers, Richard Nixon.

Later in 1973, one of Selassie’s daughters paid a further visit to Peking to celebrate the inaugural flight of Ethiopian Airlines. Again she received red carpet treatment.

At a magnificent banquet in her honour, the toast was drunk to the following words: “We admire the Emperor of Ethiopia, Haile Selassie. We raise our glasses in a toast to concentration camps arranged by him against colonialism, racism and imperialism.”

Dear Godber where will it end

READERS will remember the story a couple of weeks ago about the £5 million “sugar windfall” which found its way from government and industry into some section of the sugar industry.

In October 1972, according to a House of Commons Public Accounts Committee Report, when the Tories in power were in power, the government was decided to hold down the price of sugar at least until January 1973. So they allowed for a massive subsidy to the sugar companies of £31.4 million.

Later the government’s auditors found that the subsidy necessary to keep the price down was £26.3 million. After raking their brains, they were able to explain another £7 million in “shipping delays.”

That’s still left £5 million. Where will it end?

The committee members interviewed a lot of witnesses, but couldn’t find out. “We are concerned,” they said mildly, “that an unfortunate conjunction of circumstances, the Sugar Act should have last so much money. We can only regret that the minister did not approach the refiners to discover whether, and if so to what extent, they had benefited from the windfall.”

That, of course, will be the end of the matter as far as the Public Accounts Committee and the newspapers are concerned. What’s the loss of £5 million of public money, after all, so long as it ends up in the right place?

But where did the money go? The report had said: “The money must have entered the chain of distribution but we are unable to analyse how it was shared out between merchants, wholesalers, retailers and consumers.”

CID : Caught in Debenhams

ANYONE who doesn’t believe in the fine old principle of British justice that the accused is innocent until proved guilty should read this story.

It is about a 17-year-old trainee hairdresser who was caught, almost literally, with her hair in the till. She is Shirley Ann Raven, and her father is Detective Chief Superintendent Raven, head of the CID and the man in charge of law and order in Chelmsford, Essex.

In June, Shirley Ann was learning to be a hairdresser at the Robert Singley hairdressing salon in the Debenhams store in Chelmsford town centre.

When Gerald Dennisler took over the management of the salon that month, he noted that some money had vanished. He thought nothing of it, until a few days later, some more money vanished. So he called in the local police. The police marked the notes in the till by pricking them with a pin.

A few days later, when another pound note went missing, the police were called in. They searched all the staff, and, hey presto, there was the marked pound note folded up in the purse of the daughter of the town’s most senior detective.

The young constable in charge of the raid was frightfully embarrassed when he found who his suspect was. So he rang the police headquarters and told the deputy head of the CID, Detective Inspector Mike King, what had happened. King then immediately took control of the case (a bit odd in such a minor theft case) and charged Shirley Ann with three offences under the Theft Act.

Well, the case came to court last week, and was reported in the Essex Chronicle. Shirley pleaded not guilty. She had, she said, imagined that she could take money out of the junior’s box ‘for models’. This, she said, had been allowed by a former manageress of the salon who had left the week before the new manager had arrived.

The ex-managers was not called as witness in court. But another trainee hairdresser said that under her supervision hairdressers could take money out of the junior’s box ‘for models’.

The magistrate ‘took the view that this defence left a reasonable doubt’, and he dismissed the case.

Yet another example of how prompt action by the police, ruthless detective work and sympathetic, firm justice from the magistrates’ bench can keep down the crime rate.

Is Journal September issue now out

20th or £2.30 for 12 issues (including postage)

What the International Socialists have written on Revolution

LENNIN FROM MARXIST CIRCLE TO AGITATION, by Tony Cliff

LENNIN AND THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY by Tony Cliff

SOVIETS IN ACTION by John Reed

Articles in three previous issues of International Socialism journals—numbers 52, 58 and 69.

60p for the three, or £2 each, including postage.

There are still a few copies left of the bound edition of international socialist journal issues 31 to 55 (April 1960—February 1973). It includes articles on Ireland, fascism, the Communist Party, women, racism, the Minority Movement and many other important issues.

Price £7, plus 25p postage (UK) or £1 postage (overseas).

IS Journal, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.
Enough to turn your stomach...

Laurie Flynn on Food Shortages

WHILE we don’t face famine like the poor of Africa, India and South America, the food situation for working-class families in Britain and other industrialised countries is getting serious.

People who never had an adequate diet are now unable to afford those foods which prevented their health being damaged. Beef and other meats, including bacon, are going by the board as prices rocket. Eggs and cheese, once renowned as cheap sources of protein, are becoming costly.

There are sudden inexcusable shortages in the shops, first of lard, then sugar, now tea. These go hand-in-hand with rumours of shortages to come, which, to the profit of the retailers and all the others along the line, prompt people to store and hoard.

Not only are we having to pay more, a lot more, but we’re getting less. The government’s national food survey published in July showed that on average we’re getting 5 per cent less energy value from food that’s costing us 14 per cent more in the pound more.

More serious, the food bought by families with more than four children is now 10 per cent below the marginal energy value level recommended by the Department of Health.

‘Average’, for the government, includes rich and poor. You can bet your next bag of sugar the rich aren’t going short of food, so those at the bottom must be doing even worse than the figures seem to show.

Responsibility for this grim situation is easily placed. It is due to ‘inflation’, ‘world prices’ or some other anonymous, even mystical, source. The solutions are patently obvious, say our

Not so funny when you remember your taxes are paying to keep the beef mountain in cold storage—so that prices stay high

But why do we always have to do the poxy rowing?

Pamphlets produced by the International Socialists:

The Struggle for Workers’ Power, by Roger Russell, 10p

Can Socialism come through parliament, by Roger Cline, 10p

Workers against racism, by Paul Foot, 10p

Women fight back, by Keith Ennis, 10p

Turks, by Duncan Hallas, 8p

Lenin, by Jim Higgins, 8p

The Meaning of Marxism, by Duncan Hallas, 28p. Study Guide to The Meaning of Marxism by Richardくれ, 10p

The Politics of Lenin, by Paul Gormann, 20p

Russia: How the revolution was lost, by Chris Harman, 15p

Abolishing the debt that kills in the name of profit, 10p

National Front: The new Nazis, 15p

The Struggle in Ireland, by Chris Harman, 15p

A new complete edition of William Morris’ NEWS FROM NOWHERE is available. This is Morris’ well-known trip to the future socialist utopia and makes enjoyable reading especially for those familiar with the river Thames. (£1)

MARXISM IN OUR TIME, by Isaac Deutscher, in which he considers the relevance of Marxism today (£1.25) and, now reprinted, MARXIST ECONOMIC THEORY, by Ernest Mandel, (now in one volume £2)

Now in paperback—WOMEN, RESISTANCE AND REVOLUTION, by Sheila Royebitham, a study of the relationship of the women’s movement to the revolutionary left in history (10p) and the complete GOOD SOLDIER SVEJCK AND HIS FORTUNES IN THE WORLD WAR, Jaroslav Hasek’s immortal tale with the original illustrations (£1.25).

Also back in print at last, THE JUNGLE, Upton Sinclair’s classic exposure of the meat packing trade of Chicago before unification (15p).

I S CONFERENCE

The Bookshop will have a big display of books at Conference on Sunday and Monday. Come prepared with money and orders.

MAIL ORDERS FROM 15 Books, 200 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. Please add 40p for postage on pamphlets, 75p on books.

DIRECT FROM 15 Books, 200 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow, C1 224, High Street, Birmingham, 14 Grange Road, Middlewich, 15 Union Centre, 95 Queen Victoria Road, Coventry; and Anglo Books, 4 Hemingway, Dundee.
To hell with National Unity

WORKING PEOPLE OF ALL LANDS UNITE!

This other Eden, devil paradise
This happy breed of men, this little world.
That precious stone set in a silver sea,
Which sets it in its office of a wall.
Or a most desirable to a house.
Against the east of less happy weather.
This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England.

When William Shakespeare wrote this extravagant nonsense, and much more in the same vein, he knew very well what he was doing. Bearing the patriotic drum was the royal road to financial and social success. Patriotism has always had cash in the 'bomber brenders' then at any rate to their masters and to the drum-beaters and flag-wavers who serve those masters. Armament kings, empire builders, admirals, adventurers, peers, peers-baronets, profiteers and, above all, politicians have made a very good thing out of it. It has turned very valuable to politicians without a policy and still more valuable to politicians whose policies stand in urgent need of concealment.

So today the Tory cry is "Pax Britannica", the Labour Party tells us "Britain will win with Labour", the Liberals want to "Unite Britain" and the National Front wants to "Unite the bomber brenders" who have got a foothold in this blessed plot.

Rhetoric

Britain, a name derived from Bretani, a people utterly destroyed by the English invaders. The word is now in vogue in the rhetoric of the major nationalities—the Teuton, Labour and Liberals. The Scots, the Welsh and even some of the Irish have votes and so have been incorporated as honorary members of the happy brend.

This trick is very annoying to the minor nationalities, parties, the SNP and Plaid Cymru. Gwynfor Evans protests that the national unity he seeks is that of the Welsh against the English and the SNP heads one of its petitions "Which has Scotland's money?"

The shorter answer, of course, is nowhere. Scotland has no money, any more than England does. There are more geographical expressions. But some Scots, like Hugh Fraser, the SNP M.P. for the Scottish border, others have precious little. They have a Scottish and, for that matter, the French, the Germans and the rest. Even the Welsh have Jim Callaghan's rich pal, Sir Julian Hodge. In short, each nation consists of at least two 'nations'. To borrow the expression of a candid Tory, 'they are the rich and the poor'.

This is as true today as it was when Disraeli first wrote it. In the UK as a whole, about one-twentieth of the population owns more than four-fifths of the wealth. The other nineteen-twentieths have to share out what is left over.

Opium

The great thing about 'national unity' from the point of view of the rich, is that it is a British national unity, Welsh national unity or any other, is that it diverts attention from the fundamental conflict of interests between poor and rich, workers and bosses, the exploited and those who exploit them. The cult of 'national interest' and 'national unity' has replaced religion as the opium of the people.

The Tories, the oldest established enterprise in the business of peddling patriotic prejudices today, are the argument further. Like those before them, the Tories, the Liberals they speak of a 'national government'. It is a well-worn theme.

There should be a coalition government. This is the time for all good men to stay together, the best brains of all parties. Put the nation first, patriotism before party.

As a matter of fact this is not a quotation from a current Tory or Liberal election speech. It was written in 1944 by Michael Foot, who was thought to be some kind of left-winger in those days, as a summary of the arguments being put forward by some far- sighted Tories who thought they might lose the next election, as indeed they did.

For the particular horse only runs when the Tories anticipate defeat and is that the answer? If you swallow the 'national unity' faction it is easy to answer. TheLabour Party is reduced to saying in its mouthpiece, "The Labour Party is pledged to the service of the nation. Only the nation, working with the right leadership (in other words the present Labour Party), can solve its problems. We believe it will."

Opposed

The International Socialists' call to people to vote Labour is made in spite of this nonsense. It is a tactical vote, a vote to expose in practice the capitalist policies for which the Labour Party is the executive. The Labour Party is committed to policies which mean putting capitalist interests first. We are irreconcilably opposed to all 'national unity', whether British, English, Scotch, Welsh, Irish or any other. We are internationalists. We believe, as Karl Marx put it, "That the emancipation of the working class is a national, but a social problem, hence all the emancipation in which modern societies exist."

To hell with national unity! Working People of all Lands Unite!

Duncan Hallas

The struggle in Ireland

Chris Harman

The aim of this pamphlet is to give a brief history of British domination, to show its effects on Ireland today, to show that British policies will not be enough to solve the problems of the Irish people, and to indicate the way this can be done.

An International Socialists pamphlet 15p.

Available from 16 books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, N1.
**FACT**
In 1973, 47 per cent of boy school-leavers got apprenticeships. For girls, the figure was 5 per cent.

**PROPOSAL**
Single sex schools to continue.

**FACT**
In 1973, less than 100,000 of the 2,700,000 children eligible for nursery places were full. More than half of married women go out to work fulltime.

**PROPOSAL**
No mention of nursery provisions for working mothers.

**FACT**
In 1973, more than half of all small firms made no progress towards equal pay for women.

**PROPOSAL**
Provisions of the Equal Pay Act would exclude firms employing less than ten people.

**FACT**
In 1971, the gap between the earnings of men and women in teaching was £8.

**PROPOSAL**
NAS, male supremacy, not included. Massive individual claims of discrimination would not be proved in court.

**FACT**
Women's inferiority is influenced by social attitudes.

**PROPOSAL**
The Act would not apply in the area of private relationships.

---

YOUR X
is the letter of this law
---

THE PROPOSALS are a huge con. They exclude pensions and social security, and do nothing about providing the means for housewives to be independent and go out to work.

Inflation makes it unlikely that we will be able to use the proposed new rights to buy things on H.P. Even worse, there are so many exceptions written into the Bill that the whole thing becomes impossible. Complainants can only be taken to the court the Commis-

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THE PUBLICATION of the government's white paper on equality for women came just in time. Just in time to impress women voters before the general election. The proposals are there to impress women, and not to change their lives, and so duck the real problems.

If the government wanted real equality, then it would have to launch a campaign against the discrimination which is built into the way women are educated at school, exploited at work and cooped up in the home. That fight has started, but it comes from the grass roots—not from Labour Party window dressing. Women look four aspects of the white paper, four aspects of the fight...

---

WHITE PAPER RUNS UP THE WHITE FLAG

by Jeanie Holbrow, NUT

The white paper implies that single sex trade unions such as the National Association of Schoolmasters and the Union of Women Teachers would be illegal. The Act fights for the sectional interests of male teachers at the expense of the vast majority of low paid teachers.

Founded after the war to fight against equal pay for women, the NAS say that men, because they do not have babies, can offer continuous service to schools and so should be entitled to posts of responsibility and more money.

But the white paper does not clearly oppose the NAS. Roy Jenkins will not say definitely if they are illegal—and the complicated process involved in bringing a complaint ensures they face little danger.

Meanwhile single sex schools are allowed to continue. The NAS says 'boys should be taught by men and girls by women'.

The NAS is perniciously anti-feminist. The white paper does nothing to change that. Only rank and file pressure can.

---

A woman's work is never fun

by Maggie Newall, TGWU

Heinz IS

In our factory men and women do different work. Women are tied to the conveyor belts, which control you. They stop only at lunchtime, so you have to go to the toilet or take your tea. You have to get a relief. You feel hypnotised and exhausted. Your movements become like those of the machine. It is irritating to see the performance of the men workers who serve the lines. They seem to have it easy.

We resent them for their privileged position. But what we should be doing is attacking the fact that these jobs are men's and some women's.

The white paper proposes to make such discrimination illegal. But it does not outlaw the anti-feminist bias of job evaluation schemes which will tend to reinforce job categories.

Banished

Conditions for men are different. In departments where no women are hired with protective gloves for stacking boxes. Women on the same lines are expected to buy their own. This is a clear denial of their rights and have the coexistence to demand them.

Legislation won't change that. Women must realize the importance of the conditions depends on our initiative and organization.

Supervisors treat men and women differently. Women are treated like children. If a man annoys a charge he is put on a miserable job or banished to another department for a time. We refuse to be trampled on. This is the first step in extracting respect and winning the respect of our fellow workers.

Improvements in workers' conditions can only be won by the combined confidence of men and women trade unionists.

---

WOMEN'S VOICE

LATEST ISSUE NOW OUT

Articles on: Equal pay, battered wives, women in Davy, racism, the slimming industry.

2nd issue 7p postcard 50p for next 6 issues (to be posted)

WOMEN'S VOICE, 61 Twyford Croft, Harlow, Essex.

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BOSSES GET READY, SO MUST WE

Nancy Hall, ATTI, delegate to TUC Women's Conference

EVERY YEAR, thousands of working class kids leave school for low paid jobs. For girls, the outlook is particularly grim. Less than one in ten get day release training compared with two in five boys.

The training the minority do get is just as much as traditional fields. One Yorkshire Tech even has a Department of Women's Subjects. Most day-release courses for girls are in shorthand and typing, and apprenticeships are in hairdressing, catering and nursing. Jobs notorious for poor pay and conditions.

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Bosswives and mistresses are already preparing for the Anti-discrimination Act. Only rank and file unity among men and women can ensure equality.

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AN ELECTION ALMANAC

By Nigel Fountain

Drawings: Phil Evans

INVESTMENT INCENTIVES: Boss getting more money.

BACKS TO THE WALL: Stop asking for more money.

NOSES TO THE GRINDSTONE: Stop looking at profit figures.

ANGELS: Nurses from Florence Nightingale to 1974.


WAGES POLICY: Wage cut.

PRICES POLICY: Prices rise.

MEN GLAD YOU ASKED ME THAT: How dare you!

STATE GRAB: Nationalisation of the South Sea Bubble company.

MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH: Unemployment.

LAMB DUCK: Company a week before bankruptcy.

VITAL NATIONAL ASSET: Company week after bankruptcy.

NATIONAL INTEREST: Lord and Lady Stokes.

ALL REASONABLE PEOPLE: Lord and Lady Stokes.

THIS WAY LIES ANARCHY: Democracy.

SPONGERS: The poor.

DUNKIRK: Holiday resort in Northern France.

OLD AGE PENSIONERS: Rare species discovered during miners' wage demands.

MINERS: People who steal old age pensions.

WILD MEN OF THE LEFT: Anyone carrying a banner or placard.

THE COUNTRY EXPECTS: Edward Heath says.

DETERMINED LEAD: Edward Heath in power cut.

NEED FOR NEW CHURCHILL: Wind for old swindler.

MAN OF PRINCIPLE: Middle-aged swindler.

And what is the result of grave crises? Socialist dream! Industrial disruption! Massive Pay Outs!

Simple.

THE END OF SOCIETY AS WE KNOW IT!

ON THE BOX

SUNDAY

BBC-2: 5.30pm. OPEN DOOR, the 'access' TV programme features the PMS Blues Steel Band from Stoke Pugin. At 6.15pm on ITV, Dennis Mitchell talks to artist Theodor Major in the PRIVATE LIVES series. Major paints his home town Pugin and says that he's been 'striving all my life to show the beauty of Pugin, and industry, and the skies, the dark sky, and the rain coming down and the light.'

ITV: 8pm. A belated plug for SOUTH RIDING the series taken from the 1930s novel about dirty dealings in Yorkshire, and a schoolteacher's struggle for change. They don't write 'em like that anymore.

TUESDAY

BBC-1: 9.25pm. THE TUESDAY DOCUMENTARY is IN THE MOST OF LIFE, dealing with the various ways we die and bury ourselves, from three day funeral parties in Ireland to the less cheery affairs of Britain.

WEDNESDAY

Europea was a series of film from various European TV companies—and was sometimes good. WORLDWIDE does the same globally. It starts with four films celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Peoples Republic of China, made by Peking Television. The first is a dance and mime featuring sidekips at Mao's favourite politician of five years ago the late, Lin Piao.

BANNED IN FRANCE.

BLOWS FOR BLOW

Socialist Worker benefit performances

Saturday 26 September, 7.30pm, Camden Town Hall, London, 30p.
And in Edinburgh, Gl operators.

Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield, Birmingham, Coventry, Swansea, Bristol, Derby. Dates to be arranged.
Social Contract? Where do I sign?

by John Owen
NUM, Houghton Main Colliery, Yorkshire and member of the editorial board of The Collier and file paper

SO THE productivity deal is to be put to the rank and file miners. The union’s executive wants the miners to decide for or against a deal so overwhelmingly against the interests of miners that it would never have even been considered.

The fact that the government and the Coal Board have been trying so hard to force this deal on us should make us suspicious. Since when has the NCB, or any government for that matter, had the best interests of miners at heart?

There is also independent evidence that says that under no circumstances can a productivity deal benefit the miners. Yet our leaders have deliberately negotiated a deal that will be the NCB’s worst nightmare. It is not enough that they signed the National Report, produced jointly with the government, on our behalf, which will bring the charging of many miners involved in minor disputes and strikes to an end.

The miners have been conned before. It seems we are about to be conned again.

We are told the coal industry is in a period of expansion and the future for miners has never been brighter. But the Interim Report does not say anything about this.

WHERE THE ACTION... Local struggles grow as big guns stay silent

The miners too are in a very different situation. At their conference in July they voted to put in for a substantial increase. But they voted down an attempt to put a money figure on their claim. This was the secret of their success in the past few years.

The Coal Board and the Labour government, and their devotees in the NUM leadership, are united in trying to push through a productivity deal designed to split the miners’ unity.

They see this as the way to stop the miners’ spearheading opposition to the social contract, or indeed any other form of income policies. Their success, unfortunately, is by no means assured.

One big national claim that has been causing concern to the high priests of the social contract is the battle for miners’ pay.

The miners settled on a claim for a one-year deal of £1.40 for labourers, five hours off the working week, and so grading.

TUC general secretary Len Murray has repeatedly expressed his concern about the size of this claim and the fact that it could upset the social contract. If at all seriously pursued, but the builders’ agreement expires in November. The winter is not the best time for building workers to stage a fight.

SUFFER

Metamorphosis is taking place in the claim locally, and the UCATT leadership seem to have resolved getting a small interim sum payable between November and the time of the first payments on the new claim.

None of this should be taken to mean that the working class is inactive and willing to suffer silently in the face of the policies of the government and industrialists.

And fight they will, because without a fight there will be no return to office in the coming election, there is going to be a wage freeze.

When that happens the rank and file must not fall in or whoever else is in the firing line.

AUEW hides behind correspondents

THE Engineers’ Union executive is to continue its ban on Socialist Worker from attending engineering section national committee meetings.

A letter from union president and acting general secretary Hugh Scallon (left) makes it clear that Socialists Worker cannot gain the help of all AUEW officials to get credentials for these meetings, meetings to which journalists from national and local newspapers sympathetic to Socialism are unionism as the Daily Express and Telegraph have immediate access.

The last paragraph of the letter is the most amazing.

It states that the Labour and Industrial Correspondents Group is the body that the AUEW deals with on the trade union split. Yet this outfit is not recognised by the National Union of Journalists.

Mr. Hugh Scallon of the AUEW has admitted that Socialists Worker has not been admitted to the union’s list of trade unionists.


Price 5p please subscribe.
IS on the up and up in the States, too

NEARLY 200 delegates, members and friends recently attended the fifth national conference of the International Socialist Organisers, United States, in Detroit.

Although still small, the group has made tremendous strides in the last year. It has successfully completed the transition from the Left Democratic Federation—the student-based clubs to a disciplined national organisation, with an American membership.

The growth of capitalism has shaken up many of the conservative organisations in the US, and has produced a layer of newly-minted leftists. IS cadres in the US have been active in this layer for the last several years, and have been able to convince many of these young people to begin to build rank and file opposition groupings in the US (united fracas—Student Struggles, CWA (telephone), USW (steel) and AFT (teachers)).

Once the last year, Workers Power, the group's newspaper, has also made tremendous gains, reaching the new organisation. It has become a workers' newspaper, read by growing numbers of worker members and is the best paper on the American left.

The changes in the US, US, were reflected in the convention. The final discussion focused on the US labour movement and perspective for the industrial work. The final discussion dealt with the American left and a strategy for building IS. Following the collapse of the new left, many radicals went into industry and formed small, independent collectives, hoping they would 'link up' with some later and form a national organisation.

Their attempt to build groups around local newspapers failed and many of these groups were now breaking up or joining existing national organisations. Along with the Menshevik groups, IS is becoming a major pole of attraction for these groups.

Present at the convention were many individual workers, who were also involved in the US discussion dealt with analysis of the American labour movement and perspective for the industrial work.

For the first time, the Socialist Worker has published an interview with an American left organisation.

The Socialist Worker has published an interview with the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union.

WAKEFIELD, IS public meeting. "The crisis, the social contract and the struggle for power". Wednesday, 7 October, 8pm, 121 City Road, London EC1.

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MEETINGS of local IS members

EMERGENCY MEETINGS

MOTOR INDUSTRIAL FRACTION Sunday 29 September, 7pm-9pm

EMERGENCY FRACTION Sunday 29 September, 7pm-9pm (sandwiches provided)

TGWU MEMBERS AT IS CONFERENCE Wednesday 6 October, 3.30pm-6pm. 121 City Road, London EC1

MEETING of ex-service personnel in IS Saturday 29 September, 3pm-6pm. 121 City Road, London EC1 (opposite Chalcots Estate)

SOUTHERN REGION IS public meeting. "The crisis and the election". Monday 6 October, 7pm, Enfield School, 160 Stockwell Road, London SE1 (opposite Chalcots Estate).

CRAWLEY IS want to hear from Southern Region branch members interested in participating in a new SE regional branch.

IS Notices

POSTERS and leaflets for IS Societies please send to IS Socialist News, 34-35 Queen Street, London WC2. IS members. You have a responsibility to build IS. Any request for anything IS has members in regions

THE AGITATOR, new journal for the Socialist Committee of the University of London, is in print. Next issue in 15 October. 1 Copeland Road, London NW5 (opposite Chalcots Estate).

IS COMRADE wanted to pander house in IS for London?"

IS: "The Comrade" has been a regular feature of this newspaper for some time. However, it has been decided to stop the publication of the Comrade, and Issan News will be published instead.

We hope that you will enjoy the new weekly publication, which will appear on a regular basis. The Comrade will appear occasionally, and we look forward to hearing from you with your suggestions and ideas for future issues.

Student Schools

5-6 October in WARWICK: For university and Poly students 12-13 October in GLASGOW: For all Scottish students

Send registrations to Simon Turner, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2

SCHOOL ENTRIES for this column must be posted to reach Socialist Worker by Monday 25 September. Entries must now be submitted on time to avoid postal delays.

STUDENT ENTRIES for this column must be posted to reach Socialist Worker by Monday 25 September. Entries must now be submitted on time to avoid postal delays.

Defend your paper

IANS Gibson, who was banned from the national executive of the National Union of Students by ASTMS for writing a critical article in Socialist Worker. The meeting will be held on Saturday, 8 October, on the road to defend the paper against the repressive attacks from the state.

A previous discussion, the 35 workers present contributed £12.24 to the Socialist Worker's Fighting Fund. Our worker joined IS.

IS public meetings

BIRMINGHAM IS public meeting. "The crisis, the social contract and the struggle for power". Tuesday 7 October, 7.30pm, Assembly Rooms, Back of Hagley Road, Birmingham.

PRESTON IS new meeting every Thursday. 7.30pm, 85-87 preston, Preston. All SW readers welcome.

FULLHAM & HAMMERSMITH IS public meeting. "The crisis, the social contract and the struggle for power". Wednesday 8 October, 7.30pm, The Savoy, 22-24 South Bank, London SE1.

NORTH LONDON IS district public meeting. "The Crisis, The Critical and The Struggle for Power". Monday 6 October, 7.30pm, Willesden Junction Hotel, 47 Stanmore Road, NW10.

Our final discussion assessed the American left and a strategy for building IS. Following the collapse of the new left, many radicals went into industry and formed small, independent collectives, hoping they would 'link up' with some later and form a national organisation.

Their attempt to build groups around local newspapers failed and many of these groups were now breaking up or joining existing national organisations. Along with the Menshevik groups, IS is becoming a major pole of attraction for these groups.

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**BUSMEN SAY KEEP TURBANS**

BUSMEN in Bradford, Huddersfield, York, Blackburn and Burnley are supporting Leeds busmen Gan Singh Rajit and Kewal Singh in their fight against the Turban ban at work by branch officials of the Transport Workers Union.

This week’s meetings will take place to discuss supporting action and bunyan plant to turn up at meetings to argue the case. The outcome of the picket staged last week at the TGWU headquarters in Leeds by members of the Sikh community was described as a blow to the ban, which was introduced without proper consultation.

The attitude of the Leeds branch officials was to turn up without any knowledge of the ban’s impacts. A, their negative stand has permitted the worst kind of racial response from some Londoners, a Sikh delegation has fought back, but the general belief is that the ban will be a breach on behalf of the TGWU headquarters in Leeds by members of the Sikh community. It was a breach in the traditional link between the two groups.

Leeds was the first city in England where Sikh line man-up teams were being used.

**Leicester**

Sikh busmen and their wives demonstrating in Leeds last week

Workers picketing Kinlough Components

**The best the union can do: 17 sacked and 3 ripe**

by Sooni Engineer

LEICESTER—After the Imperial Tyreworkers strike, no Asian militant in this town has any illusion about the Transport Workers Union. Now that it is nearly three years since the previous disastrous bus strike, the situation has changed. The Asian community—now representing a quarter of the workforce—has negotiated a settlement at Kinlough Components—a sell-out unanimously rejected by the strikers at a mass meeting last Thursday.

Meanwhile, district organiser Ken Liddington announced a return to work and that he was aware that these were the best possible terms they could get. The best he could do? The Asians had been offered a week’s free housing under the terms of a settlement

That is what the men were told. They were the men were told that the men were to get a 14-week “goodwill” rise. If the men walked out for three weeks, management might consider negotiating new terms and conditions—but not before they had put through a job evaluation scheme. That is a joke for men who already run only a miserable £23 gross for a compulsory 62-hour week.

Refused

"If the TGWU wanted to it could break the banks of this union."

Workers at Delta Midlands, also in Leicester, went on strike on Friday last week when a worker who refused to accept a verbal warning was sacked. Nearly 100 walked out demanding his reinstatement and the sacking of the foreman. They have been joined by two smaller Delta factories. A handful of white workers, mainly maintenance men, have then joined to try to inform the foreman is sacked.

Refused

"I saw the first time that I was not able to afford a mass meeting outside the city council, but we were not."

The strike did not work. Management had agreed to reinstate the worker, but negotiations over the offered terms fell through.

All workers in Leicester should support management—"I hope; if they are offered to us, I will stick to the offer. I am sure the union is going to be better for it."

Management’s dirty tricks to divide the men and women have not worked. "We do not accept their lack of trust, but we have to."

**Glass workers cut**

SOUTH LONDON—There is lunch for the London Glass Workers at United Glass and Timber (UK) Ltd, on Monday when one shift walked out. Others were said to have been following.

More than 200 members of the Transport Workers Union have been handed down time-off work for six weeks following a management dispute. The union’s claim was that the £13 million project on the lump but some domestic factories.

Our patience ran out last week and 60 labourers and carpenters are now out on strike in support of the demand for a £2.10 per hour minimum wage.

The site is being picketed on a day-by-day basis. The workers state that virtually no supplies are getting in.

There is no point in further talks with the management, who are holding back the pay. The workers are in a position to stop the plant going on the site if their attitude if "you don’t do things as we are, you’ll lose your job."

Meanwhile 60 labourers, TGWU members, on the McLennan site, Seven Sisters, Haringey, are on strike because they are out in the third week of an unofficial strike in support of the workers at the Salvage yards in Shefield, which have been cut in half.

The carpenters on the job were reported as giving support to the TGWU’s "independent" investigation. This was rejected by a union meeting of the men.

**MONTHS OF LUMP, NOW 60 STRIKE**

A dispute panel met last week and 200 men agreed to return to work but it was announced that there is an "independent" investigation. This was rejected by a union meeting of the men.
Come to sunny Cornwall—and suffer

by Judith Condon

DONALD YEO is a 72 year old retired London taxi driver, crippled by arthritis. He and his wife, Dorothy, a 26-year-old au pair woman, have been looking forward to the summer months in Cornwall. They were due to arrive at the beginning of June, but the journey has been postponed.

The problem is, they are to be left in the care of their son, who is in hospital with a broken leg. They have been given only a few days' notice to find alternative accommodation.

They are now facing a long wait for the local authorities to arrange suitable care. They have been told that they will be able to move in after the end of the summer season.

The Yeo's are not the only ones facing difficulties in finding suitable accommodation. Many other tourists have been left stranded by the sudden closure of their bookings. Some have been forced to cancel their holidays altogether.

The situation is expected to improve in the coming weeks as more accommodation becomes available. However, the Yeo's are still hoping to find a solution to their current problem.

SUBS BYE-KEEP THE DAY

by John Taylor

BRADFORD: A packed meeting of workers from Sunblust (North West) and Sunblust (South) unanimously last week to continue their strike action in defiance of management.

They also called a delegation to the Baker's Union executive council meeting today. The union announced that they were closing the plant on October 31st due to redundancies.

The workers have been on strike for three months, and have been offered a 50% pay rise by management. However, they have rejected the offer, stating that it is not enough.

The strike has caused significant disruption to the company, with production levels dropping significantly. The workers have been met with violence and intimidation by management, who have threatened to sack them if they continue to strike.

TOOLROOM BATTLE AT CHRYSLER

by Chrysler Coventry IS branch

Coventry—A longEMPLant strike by the workers at the Chrysler plant in Coventry is due to start on Monday. The workers are demanding an 8% increase in wages, and have already struck for 12 days.

The company has offered a 5% increase, but the workers are refusing to accept it. They are demanding a fair and reasonable settlement.

GLOAG:—The 300 strikers at Hoover Cambridge, are still out. Their determination is not being challenged by the company. Management has offered a 2% pay rise, but the workers are refusing to accept it.

The strike has caused significant disruption to the company, with production levels dropping significantly. The workers have been met with violence and intimidation by management, who have threatened to sack them if they continue to strike.

BOYD GETS BRUSH-OFF FROM HOOVER STRIKERS

by John Taylor

Hoover Cambridge, a factory owned by the American company, is currently on strike. The workers are demanding a 10% pay rise, but the company is only offering a 5% increase.

The strike has caused significant disruption to the company, with production levels dropping significantly. The workers have been met with violence and intimidation by management, who have threatened to sack them if they continue to strike.

CAMDEN BAKERS TEACH THE ABC

by John Taylor

Camden, London—A 30 day strike by the workers at the ABC bakery in Camden has ended with an agreement. The workers were demanding a 10% increase in wages, but the company was only offering a 5% increase.

The strike has caused significant disruption to the company, with production levels dropping significantly. The workers have been met with violence and intimidation by management, who have threatened to sack them if they continue to strike.

DONKERS—NO DEAL

by John Taylor

Donkers, a company owned by the American company, is currently on strike. The workers are demanding a 10% pay rise, but the company is only offering a 5% increase.

The strike has caused significant disruption to the company, with production levels dropping significantly. The workers have been met with violence and intimidation by management, who have threatened to sack them if they continue to strike.

VICTORY FOR CLEARERS

by John Taylor

Luton—30 women evening cleaners under sub-contract to Vassall Motors have won an important strike. A half day strike at their employers, South Midlands Maintenance Clearing Contractors, was called last week.

The cleaners started when the contract threatened to reduce their wages by 30%. The company,South Midlands Maintenance Clearing Contractors, was asked to negotiate a new contract.

The company refused to negotiate, and the cleaners went on strike. The company tried to replace the cleaners with agency workers, but they were unsuccessful.

The cleaners won a pay rise of £5 a week, and a new contract was signed.

This is an important victory as it will give the women added confidence in their ability to negotiate for better conditions.

It is a first step towards reversing the trend of women's rights being taken away by their own employers with subcontractors.
Fords: what to demand

THE EXAMPLE set by the press shop stewards at Fords must be followed immediately by all Ford workers. On Monday night, the Ford shop stewards' committee at Lanchester unanimously agreed that the next wage claim should be: A 33 per cent wage rise—£14. 15 hours with no loss of wages. Consolidation of the threshold on the basic rate. A three-tier wage structure—skilled, semi-skilled, labourers. These demands should be pursued by all £3,500,000 workers. The settlement which is finally agreed should be open to renegotiation at any time.

Full support should be given to the press shop stewards at Baglanham and Halewood. All Ford workers, three-shift and two-shift together, should fight for this claim now. Turn the lay-offs at Halewood and Baglanham into an all-out strike for £14.

Spread the strike to all plants. Organise pickets to persuade all plants to join in the strike. Immediate collections should be organised for the press shop workers.

Pay talks lobbied

LONDON—More than 100 members of NATSOA, the print union, lobbed Monday's wage talks with the Newspapers Proprietors' Association.

They were demanding that their branch policy be implemented in pursuit of an across-the-board wage claim rather than a percentage one.

A FEW tears have been shed in the British and American newspapers over the tragedy of Honduras. Relief agencies have been rushing around trying to get vital food transport and medicines to the survivors of Hurricane Fifi, which devastated the country last week.

Several thousand people were killed. About one-third of the country's three million people are now without their homes. The bulk of the banana crop, the basis of the country's economy, has been wiped out.

Lloyds of London, the biggest insurance operator in the world, are not worried. 'This is one hurricane which will hardly touch us', a Lloyd's spokesman told the Daily Express. The Express correspondent went on:

Lloyds will escape heavy claims because few expensive industrial complexes would have been destroyed—unlike the damage which is caused when hurricanes sweep the United States.

The Honduran hurricane will not bother the rich insurers because it only killed people and poor people at that.

The Standard Fruit Company and the United Brand Company, which between them own almost all the country's banana plantations, coffee produce and wood forests, will collect their insurance money for the obliterated crops. But for the starving peasants, robbed by these companies over the last 30 years there is no recompense, no release from the certainty of homelessness, starvation, disease and early death.

Hurricanes cannot be avoided, but their impact can be minimised. When hurricanes hit as powerful as Fifi sweep the United States comparatively few people die. Hurricanes can be forecast, well in advance. Preparations can be made to protect people from wind and flood.

But in Honduras no such precautions can be made. Because Honduras is the poorest of the Central American banana republics. The agricultural wealth is held by five families, all of them tenants of Standard Fruit and United Brand. It has no capital at all—no industrial investment. 85 per cent of its industry is beer, soft drinks and cigarettes. All its hundreds of millions of surplus wealth from bananas or coffee is taken out of the country.

There is nothing left over for education—half the people are illiterate.

The only railway in the country runs between the banana plantations and the coast. There are no farm roads or effective telephones.

Many people, though not so many, killed Fifi was coming. Only a tiny minority of parasites were able to make any preparations. As with the Nicaraguan earthquake last year or the Pakistan floods earlier this year, Press fascination with the isolated, natural disaster will rapidly subside.

The permanent, man-made atrocities of Standard Fruit imperialism in Central America will be left in obscurity.

SUSPENSION SPARKS STRIKE

by an EEPPTU member at Ranks BRENTHORD—More than 200 shop floor workers at Rank Pullin Controls stopped work last week.

Early this year, union pressure backed by a work-force forced management to go to the Industrial Arbitration Board and accept an award of over £3 for the two top skilled grades. This award, of course, increased differentials, and Rank Pullin's workers gave up to come to recognise differentials as a bonus. For management, apparently, the Arbitration award is a chance to play the differentials game again.

"Robbing Peter to pay Paul" is what Eddie Bennet, the engineering Union convenor calls it. Wren, via 13 September management refused to confirm an agreement, covering all grades, worked out between the union and management's own negotiator, a mass meeting agreed to start a work-to-rule from Monday. When management next tried to fight the work-to-rule by individual suspensions, another mass meeting voted solidly for indefinite strike action.

Ferranti: promises promises...

by Ferranti (Hollowood) IS Branch

The DUST has temporarily settled on the Ferranti issue. Many workers are beginning to feel their future is no longer in danger following the famous guarantees that came out of last week's meeting with Wedgwood Dear.

What isn't generally realised is that the re-employment, re-charge guarantee was only ever to cover the period of the government investigation of the company. AUW shop steward Gerry Walsh put it this way: "All we have got out of Beam is a job until 10 October. The general attitude in the factory is one of wait-and-see. A motion at the shop stewards committee calling for outright nationalisation as the only way of safeguarding jobs was defeated on the basis of waiting to see what the government report had to say.

As an IS branch we have decided we can't afford to wait and have already begun to put out a series of bulletins, not just in Hollowood but at other Manchester factories as well, explaining the issues involved and why nationalisation is the only answer.

Workers must prepare their case, because you can't rest assured that Arnold Weinstock is already pushing hard to get sections of Ferranti's into GEC, and will be piling on the knife as soon as the election is out of the way.

It is also clear that the Ferranti brothers hope for business as usual on the taxpayers' money. In his message to employees given out on Monday, Sebastian de Ferranti talked about long-term arrangements which will enable us to continue in the forefront of this country's technological capability. What he is really after is 'arrangements which will enable us to carry on like before'.

It is vital that we are strong enough to prevent any of these alternatives. Ted Joblinski, the EEPPTU Chairmain of the Joint Shop Stewards Committee, summed it up when he said: 'We have got to realise that the only long-term solution is getting the Ferranti brothers off our backs by insisting on the total nationalisation of the company in the interest of the workers.'

CHEERS! WE FIGHT ON

by Heine IS branch

NORTH LONDON—Members of the Engineering union at Heine agreed, with loud cheers, an offer of £5.50 and consolidation of the threshold to the basic rate at a mass meeting last Friday.

Management know the economic climate will hit profits unless wage levels can be kept down.

Let us hope the other unions at Heine learn from the AUW and begin the fight to defend their members' living standards.

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