The junta claims another victim

MIGUEL Enriquez, one of Chile's most heroic fighters for socialist revolution, was butchered last week by the uniformed assassins of the Chilean military junta.

Miguel was general secretary of the Chilean Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR). While many other Left-wing leaders fled the country after the military coup last year, and many others gave themselves up to the junta, Miguel Enriquez stayed in the working class areas of Chile and kept the resistance alive.

The junta tortured captured MIR members in an effort to root out Enriquez.

It didn't work. But a neighbour squealed. And last Saturday a vast contingent of police and army units raided a house in a working-class district of Santiago where Miguel was in hiding.

Murdered

In a two-hour gun battle, the soldiers kept the peace at bay. But the odds were impossible. Miguel Enriquez was shot dead.

The following declaration was made last week by Eduardo Enriquez, brother of the murdered man, and also a member of the Political Committee of the MIR.

"Miguel Enriquez leaves behind him an example of a struggle and a party which will continue him, and which is a nightmare to Pinochet and his collaborators. The work of the general secretary of the MIR does not end with his death."

Another member of the political commission has picked up the gun of the general secretary, and has taken over the leadership of the Party.

The party of Miguel Enriquez has comrades who will know how to follow him, and remain loyal to his example and his memory.

We've kept the Tories out!

THE TORIES are out. We've shown what we think of their policies, their press and their coalitions.

Labour is back in office, but NOT in power.

The decisions which affect all our lives will still be taken by capitalist corporations and their class allies in the courts, the police stations and the officers' messes. These decisions will be made for profit. All that matters to the employers is the leisure, privilege and power of their class.

Their mad rush for profit forces them into crisis. Then they try to get the workers to pay for it.

Labour's social contract fits neatly into their plan. While Wilson and company, with the agreement of trade union leaders, try to hold down our wages, capitalist wealth and power will grow.

In the first three months of the minority Labour government, our living standards went down by four per cent. All the experts predict even bigger cuts under a majority Labour government.

The social contract means unemployment and cuts in our standard of living. We must fight it. We must use our industrial power to defend every job: to maintain and raise our living standards.

When the employers close down factories or sack workers, we must OCCUPY until they are nationalised without compensation.

We want 30 per cent wage increases and equal pay for women.

Every strike in support of either must be supported.

The election must not be the end of politics for another five years—as Labour Ministers hope. It must be the start of a great workers' fight against capitalism.

That's why workers must support every initiative to bind that fight together. That's why they must seek delegacies to the Conference of the Rank and File Movement in Birmingham on 30 November.

That's why we need a real socialist party which will fight against capitalism where there is power to fight it: not in parliament but among rank and file workers.

Giving them a big hand ... pickets at Salford Electrical Instruments clapping in salute. Full report on this important strike on Page 14. Picture by John Sturrock (Report).
GUILDFORD: I KNOW THE REAL CULPRITS

By Mike Brightman, AUW

I WAS in Guildford on Saturday night and saw how five people died. I was standing outside the Horse and Groom just after the first bomb went off--and what I saw shook me rigid.

It always seems to happen somewhere else, doesn’t it? When you see it face to face, and not through the pictures they show on press or television, the real thing is like a bloody horror show. The media has done its job very well, convincing everybody the IRA is responsible, even though no proof of that exists.

It’s just as possible that an extreme fascist organisation was behind it. They have more to gain by terrorism.

This was a group of people with something to say, expressing their feelings. The media is responsible for turning them into a bunch of terrorists.

The Press and ‘civilised’ politicians are predictably outraged. And they have every right to be. We are caught between a rock and a hard place.

The war in Ireland is a war of media war. We are being fed a stream of lies and propaganda.

Hang the culprits.

Innocent

They either forget or don’t realise that IRA bombs are not the work of madmen but the result of people frustrated and embittered by years of injustices by British troops.

And yet terrorism does nothing to get the troops out of Ireland. It kills innocent people. It leads to a witch-hunt against all Irish people.

It is a form of support for those who want to smash the IRA - by calling for more power for the army and the police.

I want a free Ireland. I want the British troops out. But I know you can get that only by united working-class action.

That is the only way to genuine workers’ power.

When bombs go off the issues for a free Ireland can become confused. But we must not get distracted from the task to get the troops out. This is the only way the problems of Ireland will be solved.

That is why I will be supporting the Troops Out demonstration in London on 27 October, in the knowledge that although I have experienced bomb terrorism, it will not deter me from the belief that peace will only come when British soldiers leave Irish soil.

Now act to get the troops out!

SUPPORT is growing in the trade union and labour movement for the demonstration in London on 27 October being organised by the Troops Out Movement and the British Peace Committee. It is being supported by Barnet, Kensington and Hampstead and Hackney Trades Councils, and eight branches of the T&GWU and AUW, Socialist Worker will print more details of support as they are confirmed.

Five Labour MPs in the last Parliament have agreed to speak at the demonstration. Four of them have signed a joint calling for the labour movement to take up the question of the British presence in Ireland. The appeal read:

We, the undersigned, consider it essential that the Labour Movement takes up the question of the British presence in Ireland. And, in view of the fact that the British presence denies the right of the Irish people to a whole to self-determination, we support the call by the British Peace Committee and the Troops Out Movement for a demonstration calling for the immediate implementation of a policy of political and military withdrawal from Ireland and the leading slogan, ‘Troops Out of Ireland’.

WILLIAM WILSON, MP for Coventry South East, JEFF STORRER, MP for Greater Manchester, COLIN MUIR, MP for Northampton North, STAN THORNE, MP for Preston South.

THE TROOPS OUT demonstration leaves Cuckershank, just outside London EC1, at 1pm on Sunday 27 October. The Executive Committee of IS is calling on all London branches to give total support.

Student members are being urged to campaign nationally for national support for the demonstration. Where feasible, delegations should be sent from provincial branches.

The EC point out that already 12 trade councils, many trade union branches and five MPs have given support. Industrial members of IS should ‘raise the possibility of delegations from your workplace’.

Next week posters for the march will be sent, with Socialist Worker orders to the appropriate branches. The EC urges an extensive sale of the special Sunday edition which will shortly be reviewed in Socialist Worker.

‘Where possible the pamphlets should be available for people to take away to meetings which should be advertised in the newspapers.’

Branches planning such meetings should contact Wenda Clegahan, 28 Manor Road, London, N15 (phone 01-804 2901).

MEANWHILE

180 workers escaping this terror blast.

There were no arrests

This was a Loughborough factory this week after being swept by fire. Night shift workers escaped possible death as they were on tea break at the time.

Three female workers from nearby who would have died had the fire not grown too fast say that they are chemical store at the plant, Lacey’s dying and finishing nearby.

Lacey’s, which is owned by Courtaulds, has always been considered dangerous by the 180 workers. Six months ago, the factory was noise a high fire risk by an industrial inspector.

A new manager from Courtaulds, responsible for a prison system but a Phase Three victory by the workers changed the firm’s mind.

There was no massive police investigation to find out who, what and what was responsible for this disaster. Not likely. The accident at Lacey’s was just another of those routine events on the industrial battlefield where the worker is quite acceptable because it is in the cause of profit.

Shop stewards from the Transport and General Workers Union and the Leicester Society of Dyers, Bleachers and Scourers are insisting that all employees are given similar jobs in Loughborough. And not surprisingly, local residents are concerned for their safety in an area of dense churches.

There was an explosion at John Jones Foundry a few months back—100 yards from Lacey’s.

Picture: John Stimpson

‘We won’t work with death’

BRADFORD.—Scaffolders at Faggs & Hillis site in Kirkstall refused to work last week while Asbestos sheets were being used. These insulation boards—thought to be safe by most building workers—contain in fact deadly asbestos fibres which are released when the boards are cut.

A union official said that boards would not be used. Shop stewards are now trying to enforce the asbestos regulations.

The work must be done in a completely safe manner, either by dust extraction, and carpenters must be provided with clean overalls each day.

Site foremen were annoyed at the loss of production and the slowing down of work under conditions imposed upon the men. Asbestos—see page 6.

The face of apartheid

MORE than 120 people were killed today in the prisons of South Africa. Recent figures published by the South African Department of Justice show that 521 people were killed in 1972 and 531 in 1973. The death rate is increasing.

People can now be killed for nothing. Standards of human rights are being lowered for black drivers who bring a little alcohol to the back bar. White offensives are fined £10.

READ THIS ... IT'S 'HARMFUL'

by Bob Edwards

STRESS is good for you, says Professor Gordon Stewart of Glasgow University. He’s not talking about the stress of living in a tower block. Or the stress of being on a production line. Or the stress of trying to bring up a family on the dole. The professor (probably on £140 a week) was talking about sailing a yacht. So next time you’re tearing your hair out trying to buy a bag of sugar, remember the stress of sailing a boat in stormy weather is ‘affirmative and informative’. Which sums up why kids in Glasgow rip up trees and smash schools.

What does he expect if all people can expect from life is a good job, clean clothes and pull up newly-planted trees.

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Turbans: ‘We’ll fight to the end’

KEWAL Singh Rehal, one of the two Sikhicians suspended in Leeds for wearing turbans, told a local solidarity meeting on Sunday: “We are going on till we win our rights. We will not give in now.”

He told the audience of more than 400 that there were students and that by no means all of the white busmen were opposed to him. Mr. Rehal, like the other suspended Sikh.

The meeting, organised by the Leeds branch of the International Socialists, was held at a bustling, packed, and rowdy rally. Black workers in Britain will no longer lie down to accept discrimination, and白沙 men and women are showing an equal spirit.

The way forward for black is to fight in the factories and the unskilled jobs. But it has to be done in a way which breeds, racism, we need a political fight.

John Charlot, of Leeds IS, paid tribute to Gbin and Kewal Singh.

Ashamed

He told of a local factory where four out of five workers were black and no black man had ever been promoted. There were hardly any black shop stewards.

Daiji Singh, of the Sikh Temple, explained the importance of the return to Sikhs. He said Sikhs had died for the right to wear it and would do so again if necessary.

No one should join in the union to receive this disgraceful ban.

The meeting was closed by Rhana Minhas, who spoke of the necessity for people of all races and religions to put aside their differences and work for the people of this country at this time of stability and progress.

30 workers joined IS and E20 was collected for the combined Optical workers in Slough.

STEWARDS TURNS PICKET-BUSTER

PETERSBURGH-The TASS members at 7/123 Newlands Gate, Glasgow branch of the TGWU this week passed a resolution condemning the activity of the stewards to stop their workers from going out on the bus depot. The branch also called for an urgent meeting of branch officials in the Leeds depot, but this was not arranged.

For National Front members to be expresident from the union and the industry.

THOUSANDS of workers are striking against British Trains in Spain—though strikes are illegal. And they are not only striking but occupying the factories too.

British bosses, who for so long have profited from Franco’s brutal repression, now want to make the cheap labour they offers them. So they are going to be paid by unregistered workers. The workers are going to be paid by unregistered workers. The workers are going to be paid by unregistered workers.

The strikes’ immediate demands are for far higher pay, fewer hours of work, freedom of assembly and no victimisation.

ARREST

For 38 years Spanish workers have been denied the right to form their own trade unions or even have a meeting. Imprisonment without trial is often the result if it’s worker’s so much as a hand a leaflet to his mate.

The strikes are therefore political acts of great courage and call for the support and solidarity of British workers.

They are getting solidarity from fellow workers. The Renfe railway workers demand for a 44-hour week for £3.50 has been supported by solidarity strikes of 30,000 other workers and public demonstrations through the town of Valladolid. Twenty people were arrested on the demonstrations and, at the other Renfrew subsidiary, 16 of the many workers arrested for striking in solidarity with Valladolid are still in jail without trial.

While 10,000 workers in Spain’s largest car plant, FIAT’s subsidiary TAL, are also working, 47 were arrested in Friday for holding a meeting in a church. During a similar meeting 200 electrical workers were taken into custody in Madrid.

In many workplaces, such as the shipyard in Barceloneta, the workers are being sought to join the general strike movement. In many areas the Spanish Communist Party (PCE), which has been responsible for building the illegal ‘workers commissions’ in factories all over Spain, now finds it is tending to take control of the working class movement.

The PCE is organising a one-day general strike around the country for higher pay and a lower cost of living. Other left-wing groups such as FAEP (the Patriotic Anti-Fascist Revolutionary Front), ODS (the Workers Syndicalist Opposition) and MCE, the Spanish Communist Movement which split from the PCE in 1967, are calling for a revolutionary general strike.

France is dying and so is the ruling class faith in a fascist Spain that is deprived of participation in the European Capitalist Club.

In this situation the beginnings of a general strike movement has fantastic potential.

In the multi-national interest...

PORTUGUESE workers answering a call from Prime Minister Vasco Goncalves to work one day a week for nothing in the national interest. The Catholic Church, after long consultations with the Almghty, granted dispensation to ‘break Sunday rest.’

General Coelho, in the Portuguese legislature, representing the Portuguese Communist Party, who mobilised 35000 for a demonstration of support and gratitude. The CPF, underground fighters against fascism for 48 years, are the only party with a mass base in the working class. But since the April coup, they’ve taken cabinet posts and collaborated with the ruling class, denouncing every major workers’ struggle.

A delegate at a recent meeting of Llmave (Lisbon) dockers said: “Our job is to justify the Party which proclaims to be communist. Since 1956 it has ceased to defend the working class like all the Communist Parties throughout Europe. They are opportunists, they need to be shown up.”

The meeting, reported by the paper Voz do Trabalhador, heard another worker state that the April coup had been to guard capitalist interests.

The Communist Party is a traitor to the working class,” he said. “Many workers who gave their lives in the struggle must be crying with rage.”
LABOUR OR COMMUNIST?

I WAS disturbed at the International Socialists' policy of voting Labour regardless of what other candidates of the Left are standing in the general election. To vote for Communist candidates as reformists is a serious mistake. How can any revolutionary urge
workers to vote for a right-wing Labour candidate instead of a man who's helped organise and fight hard for strong working class organisation such as Jimmy Reid?

As socialists we must follow the course that will best serve the interests of the working classes and of uniting it. Capitalism is attacking the workers if and when the attack each other what chance have we got?

I'm not advocating specific principles, but saying we shouldn't damn Communists or claim revolutionary candidates out of hand. R. WARDEN, Woking.

LIFT FTI! The following resolution was passed unanimously at the meeting of the Bunker Bay No 1 branch of the International Socialists on 14 October. The resolution calls on the Communist Social Worker credentials for National conferences and on the building of a workable union lifted in keeping with trade union democratic principles. Corresponding group is not recognised and its members; public figures, JOURNALISTS, DAVE HARTWELL, Burnley.

YOU gave me hope John

I'VE ONLY seen a delegate conference on television and I must say I've improved my voting procedures. As a 'lefty' delegate, by the International Socialists, I find it impressive with the organisation of the conference itself, with my fellow comrades, with the very impressive speakers and with the total impartiality of the various charities.

After all, that impressed me most of all was the courage of John Ramous, a black worker.

BOMBES AND LIVES — Although supporting the IRA in their struggle, I object to Jeff Lang's fake (Aff) September 9 for worker's lives in Northern Ireland. The continued use of bombs will result in the brutal and indiscriminate murder of hun-

They backed out — we're back to work

FOLLOWING FROM the report (3 October) of the strike of women last year, we are now back at work again. The same as before with nothing gained because of a load of gullible scabs who backed down. Why? Because of a belief vote that shouldn't have been taken.

The vote had already been taken and unofficial action agreed on. No co-operation, an overtime ban and a work to rule. This was backed up across the board pay claim of £2.35 and pay negotiations through meal breaks for shift workers. The claim was refused by Heathcote's, even though they part of the group more than £50 million last year.

They're back to work. We're back to work.

ORGANISE AGAINST THE NATIONAL FRONT NAZIS IN YOUR AREA. ORGANISE MASS SALES OF THIS PAMPHLET NOW.

The National Front are trying to build a base here as in Hitler, they can take on and destroy the working class.

MAY WE once again invite readers to send Christmas and New Year greetings to the many victims of apartheid and racism in South Africa, Rhodesia and Namibia. The holiday season is a time when the interests of the British people (of course) are most important. We are calling for a daily Doves Line from South Africa, and to sign the new Anti-Apartheid Movement, 96 Charlotte Street, London W1P 2DD.

They MUST be stopped

I'm branches must send in their orders now.

Single copies 10p plus 5p postage.

Write to Is Books, 267 Sixtine Road, London N4.

BEHIND THE RIVIERA RUSH

You SHOULD see their BARGAINS

YOU should see our BARGAINS

They're back to work. We're back to work.
We're not here to save their faces

IT IS NOT a deep political secret what the Ford workers think about its move into the Compact. The Social Compact is a pretty ridiculous idea, rather like a powder compact—a way of saving face. The Ford workers are under no illusions, it is not their faces they are worried about, or the faces of the TU or the Labour Party.

The unions they have been fighting are vital to their survival. Not only are they the lowest paid in the motor industry, but they also have to put up with appalling conditions. It is little wonder that Mr Flicker makes the observation that if the Social Compact means a cut in the living standards of the Ford worker then the Social Compact must go. The Ford workers are not going to be taken lightly by Alfred and his boys.

But it is not only the Ford worker who will suffer if the Social Compact idea is adhered to. It is very weak and very thin in the land, and especially the really badly paid. How many more times are we to be asked to take a cut in a trick?

When did the ruling class ever take one in for us? No, it is always those that possess the wealth of the world who make the sacrifices for those who have plenty and desire more. Who are they kidding?

Did any one member of the working class cause inflation? How could they? The worker is not just another cog in the machine, he produces, has no control over what he is to be priced at. So when anyone shouts about greedy workers asking for bigger and better pay deals let us remember who these people are.

They are the pawns who live off the backs of the workers and would suck them dry if they could. All political parties, and the TUC talk about the abstract crisis we are in. Well, brothers and sisters, it is their crisis, they created it, and they expect us to bail them out again. Not this time brothers and sisters, let them bloody stew in it, we have suffered enough.

To this end a very important conference takes place in Birmingham on 11 November. It is the Second National Rank and File Conference, organised by a number of Rank and File papers. Get your Trade Union bodies or Shop Stewards committees to delegate you. Write for details to 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10.

But don’t come if you think that the government or the Trade Unions can get you out of this mess we are in, because they can’t. We can only help ourselves now, so let’s get to this conference and do it. The ruling class only understand strength, let’s show them who we are—TONY BARROW, Leamington.

THE International Socialists are a revolutionary socialist organisation open to all who accept our main principles and who are willing to work to achieve them. These principles are:

INDEPENDENT WORKING-CLASS ACTION
We believe that socialism can only be achieved by the independent action of the working class.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORMISM
We believe in overthrowing capitalism, not patching it up or gradually trying to change it. We therefore support all struggles of workers against capitalism and fight to break the hold of reformist ideas and leaders.

THE SMASHING OF THE CAPITALIST STATE
The state machine is a weapon of capitalist class rule and therefore must be smashed. The present parliament, army, police and judges cannot simply be taken over and used by the working class. There is, therefore, no parliamentary road to socialism. The working-class revolution needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers’ state, based on councils of workplace delegates.

WORK IN THE MASS ORGANISATIONS OF THE WORKING CLASS
We believe in working in the mass organisations of the working class, particularly the trade unions, and fighting for rank and file control of them.

INTERNATIONALISM
We are internationalists. We practise and campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries, oppose racialism and imperialism, and fully support the struggles of all oppressed peoples. We are opposed to all imperialist wars.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country. Revolution is defeated by isolation. Russia, China and Eastern Europe are not socialist but state capitalist. We support the workers’ struggle in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY
To achieve socialism the most militant sectors of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party, and all the activity of the International Socialists is directed to the building of such a party by fighting for a programme of political and industrial demands that can strengthen the self-confidence, organisation and socialist consciousness of the working class.

WE ARE

For rank and file control of the trade unions and the regular election of all representatives. No secret organisation.

For a nationalisation of all banking and finance. All assets to be voted on by mass meetings of workers.

For 100 per cent trade unionism. Against all victimisations and blacklisting. Against state trade union laws or curbs on the right to strike and on effective picketing. Against EEC interference with our national sovereignty.

Against any form of income tax or capital gains tax.

Against all forms of unemployment, redundancies and layoffs. Instead we demand five days’ work, five days’ pay, and the 35-hour week. For nationalisation without compensation under workers’ control.

For militant trade union unity, joint shop stewards committees at plant and combine level.

For the building of a national rank and file movement which will fight for these objectives.

Against racism and police victimisation of black people. Against all immigration controls. For the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise in their own language and culture.

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

Against all nuclear weapons and military build-up such as NATO and the Western Pact. Against all forms of imperialism, colonialism and apartheid.

For unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.

For the building of a mass working-class revolutionary party, organised in the workplaces, which can lead the working class to power, and for the building of a revolutionary socialist international.

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 2DN

Name

Address

Trade Union

Produced by rank and file members.

A union executive got hold of a copy of Nalgo Action News and was so disgusted that he rushed down to see me. He threatened to summon me on behalf of the Executive since the Nalgo Action News is an inter-union publication and tried to intimidate me into inactivity.

When Nalgo’s sales have started to improve and I hope to increase the group’s influence in the union—DAVE WILLIAMS, Birkenhead.

The old family business by the Thames. Ford’s Digbyham, where the Social Contract became a little frayed at the edges...
ASBESTOS

The man who has got the disease...

and the man who gave it to him

BY STEVE WALDIE

ASBESTOS IS AN INCURABLE DISEASE. VICTIMS FEEL AS IF THEY ARE THEY ARE BEING STRANDED FROM INSIDE. UNABLE TO WALK, SIT OR BREATHE, THEY MEET A PREMATURE AND GHASTLY DEATH.

FACT

ASBESTOS HAS BEEN INFECTED ON THOUSANDS OF WORKERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD BY EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE SACRIFICED SUFFICIENT PRECAUTIONS IN THE NAME OF PROFIT.

THE CENTRAL ASBESTOS COMPANY OF BERMONTY, SOUTH LONDON, KILLED 15 WORKERS BY NUMERICAL AND PERILOGICAL BREACHES OF THE FACTORIES ACT.

The Factory Inspectorate surveyed that factory for at least 15 years while this was going on. It prosecuted only once. The company was fined £170 with 50p costs.

JAMES MCKENNA is secretary of the 2/182 Glasgow insulation workers' branch of the Transport Workers' Union. One of his main duties is attending his members' funerals.

Since 1985, 82 members of the 900-strong branch have met a premature, tragic and unnecessary death from 'causes associated with asbestos'.

A great many of those who died worked for Turner and Newall. Their policy statement, 1973, says the firm 'is conscious of its responsibilities as an employer and lays great emphasis on the need to create a harmonious working environment. A company has a social duty to allow employees to realise their full potential and T and N accepts it'.

ASBESTOS IS A ROTTEN WITH ASBESTOS. IT'S EVERYWHERE.

It's in public toilets in Elwick Road, Newcastle, under a coat of paint. It's in Poole Street School, in the changing rooms where it has already been removed once after damage.

It's in Swan and Hunter shipyards in the form of magnesium, and the joiners who cut it have some form of protection, the other finishing trades working alongside there were nothing. It is on the ceiling of Whitley Bay swimming baths.

IT IS AT STELLA NORTH power station. Recently we visited the power station and after waiting in vain for the security guard headed for a nearby cabin. We asked to see the luggers. A painter said he knew where they were. He took me to the boiler house and up two floors in the lift.

When I got out of the lift, the floor was metal grating, and about 20 yards away was a ladder striping the No 2 boiler wall. There was a cover on the floor immediately under his work, but nowhere else.

The boiler walls were dry. As he pulled down chunks of grey coating it crushed to the floor and produced billows of dust which enveloped the entire space around him. The painter, without a mask, walked through the dust to the other end of the boiler. The lagger who worked for Darlington Insulation wore only a gas mask as protection.

By

Material

I phoned Mr Cramford, the plant superintendent, to ask if the Electricity Board intended to replace asbestos by asbestos-free material. He confirmed. I asked if it would mainly be the boilers. "We're not sure," he said. "So that's what you're doing now, striping and replacing?" I asked. He said yes.

I then went to see Jack Carter, who used to be a representative for Darlington Insulation, to see if he knew what the stuff was. He said that it was called, pure asbestos, and that they would be stripping it off to replace it by asbestos-free material.

Asbestos, and the money-grabbing firms that sold it, have claimed that nothing could be done to save Tyneide. Denis Gray, secretary of the Tyne and Wear Thermal Insulation and Engineering branch of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, can remember 21 cases from asbestos in the past 15 years. Many more have died from lung diseases without being tested for asbestos.

In every case, the laggies that we talked to were first treated for bronchitis or the like before tested for asbestos.

One lagger we saw was painted as fit for the army, when he was 16. He left 14 years later and spent eight years working for local asbestos firms. He developed chest pains and was treated for 'chonic bronchitis'. But when his father, aged 69, and then his brother, died of asbestosis, the doctor checked the other two brothers who were asbestos workers. He found both had 20 per cent asbestosis. Often whole families have their men in the lagging trade.

Accounts of how asbestos was used by laggies in the past show the companies' attitude towards the men. Taffy Wales worked for Turner and Newall in Washington, County Durham. He mixed asbestos straight from the bag with water on the floor.

Jack Carter remembers emptying bags of asbestos into a trough and treating raw asbestos with water like treating grapes. Other workers were given raw asbestos to use in bags with 'big lumps' written on them.

Three of Taffy's mates, John Gaughan, Paddy Sweeney and Joe Falcon, suffer, like him, from varying degrees of asbestosis. All get pains in the body and perspire a lot. Their compensation ranging from £70 to £3,500 is a meagre annuity in the slow death they have contracted.

There are many firms, who by

dealing indiscriminately with asbestos, have caused workers' lives. Some now have the sight equipment required by law to deal with asbestos stripping. Others are not so strict. When masks were first given to the men in the 1950s they were of gauze. They made it difficult to breathe and afforded no protection at all.

The reason these firms are responsible for stealing workers' lives is that they exposed men to material they knew was deadly, in the pursuit of profits.

Insidious

Bobbie Castell is a General and Municipal Workers' Union shop steward in the forefront of the fight for unionised labour and safety on sites. He showed me a copy of the branch bulletin. Often the bulletin records the death of yet another member.

The asbestosis in the area make it obvious that they are unconsidered by the whole world business. They do this by flagrantly avoiding the regulations on the one hand, and making workers go through the legal jungle of fighting compensation claims on the other.

In any case workers with the death knell of asbestosis can never be repaid by these profit- seeking companies.

The real insidious nature of these firms has changed little since the years when Bobbie Castell's father used to line up at Newcastle Central station in the hope of getting a lagging job. If he was chosen he would be called to collect a ticket from the foreman. As he approached the foreman would drop the ticket on the floor in front of his feet and watch him pick it up.
The two faces of the social contract...

Viscountess Long of Wraxall, quoted in the Sunday Telegraph, 29 September:

"If the eyes of the unions I suppose I am non-existent as a human being and to the Government I don't fit into any white paper.

Housewives like me are not necessarily worthy, though we have a totally better to answer the door because the distances from one end of the house to the other are so great that walking about is a part-time job in itself, and one has to be steady in keeping with the architecture, I suppose..."

"Cannot the politicians understand that we, too, serve the country? We spend all our available money, not on bingo, but on maintaining something which we feel is important to England's heritage and worth preserving..."

People use our houses for meetings, fetes, charity functions, education outings and so on. We ask for no allowance and we make no charge."

I speak officially as a Viscountess when I am asked to, trying to make last year's miniskirt look like the current calf-length.

I am president of one or two fund-raising charities because it seems to help, but as an ordinary housewife in an election I don't seem to exist. And my husband, as a peer, doesn't even have a vote.

A very large hunk of this fair country of the highfree state is owned by the Earl of Bradford. His three estates in Shropshire (Weston Park, Knott and Knockin estates) make up about a quarter of the country. Into this bargain, he has 10,000 acres in his Dell estate in Inverness-shire and two massive estates in Devon and Cornwall.

THAT'S THE WAY THE MONEY GOES

ACCORDING to The Times of 21 September, another believer in the impact of the proposed wealth tax on holiday-making is Mrs Wendy Jolly, London representative for a number of eastern Caribbean islands.

She said: "People with money in the bank are deciding to have a good holiday before the Government takes it..."

But she explained that the shortage of aircraft seats was curtailing traffic in that direction, too. "We are experiencing a 35 per cent increase in traffic to St. Lucia, for example". However, British Airways say they have no empty seats to the Caribbean generally after October.

The Times goes on to ask: 'But where does the money come from for such long-distance tours?'

The answer seems to be that no matter how much unemployment rises or how low the stock market slides there are always some around with spare funds. They are not to use trade jargon again—wages or salary earners or totally dependent on such income'.

By Lloyd Hayes, TGWU

JOHN and Julie Woolard, and their six-month-old son Sean are no longer part of Norwich Council's housing problem. They have been found a house, having been boarded up and condemned as unfit for human habitation.

They had returned to Norwich after John, a building worker, had taken what he thought was a job in Birmingham. He is still out of work.

The Norwich housing committee granted John's appeal for accommodation with reconditioning—until he told them that 19-year-old Julia was expecting a second child.

The committee came up with a 'solution': Julia should stay in a hotel until she had the baby.

When John, not surprisingly, refused, they came up with another 'solution': the condemned house in Manscroft Street.

To justify charging rent, the committee claim they are now renovating the houses. Which means they are re-connecting and re-wiring the electricity and cold water, and explicit a bit of paint on the walls. The wiring is so bad that the light bulbs are forever blowing.

John said: 'The kitchen looks like a tea strainer, there's a three-inch gap at the bottom of the front-door and a 2-inch hole in the bedroom ceiling...'

There is no bathroom so we have to go to relatives for a bath. To top it, there are rats all over the place.

Julie pointed out that baby Sean has a weak chest which isn't helped by the draughts.

John, Julie and Sean are not the only family in Norwich to be made this result of an offer by the housing committee. More and more couples unable to find a roof over their heads are being forced into the same position.

Some might say that the £5.54 rent is not much. But then they don't get much for it either..."

What the Internationally Socialists have written on Revolution

LENIN—FROM MARXIST CIRCLE TO AGITATION, by Tony Cliff

LENIN AND THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY by Tony Cliff

SOVIETS IN ACTION by John Reed

Articles in three previous issues of International Socialism Journals—numbers 52, 53 and 54. 60p for the three, or 20p each, including postage.

There are still a few copies left of the bound edition of International Socialist Journal issues 35 to 56 (April 1969—February 1973). It includes articles on Ireland, fascism, the Communist Party, women, racism, the Ministry Movement and many other important issues.

Price £7, plus 35p postage (UK) or 60p postage overseas.

IS Journal September issue now out £2 or £2.50 for 12 issues (including postage)
In Urdu... why IS intervenes in Asian disputes

By John Rose

PAKISTANI workers at a Buckinghamshire factory this week won a magnificent victory against a sweatshop employer and an army of scabs.

The firm, Combined Opticals of Slough, called off their six-week lock-out on Saturday and admitted defeat.

They agreed to pay the 32 workers £1 an hour more and to cut the working week from 57 hours to 40.

They were also forced to lay off the blacklegs they had specially hired in an attempt to smash union organisation.

But the triumphant members of the Engineering Union—weren’t prepared to let the firm off that lightly.

On Monday they rejected the pay offer and sent their full-time union officials back to get more. And more they got... another £1 an hour, bringing them up from £55 to £65 an hour, with a promise of another £1 by January.

Combined Opticals, the firm that paid £55 an hour for a 57-hour week, the firm that locked out workers, complained about such conditions, the firm that thought they could smash the union with blackleg labour, were thoroughly beaten.

The key to the victory lay in the hands of a section of the factory still at work until last week, AUEW shop stewards Shukat Kani explained: "In our section, the Optical Department, some of us were union members, some not. We produce expensive glass lenses for medical prescriptions, sunglasses and magnifying glasses. We also supply the Ministry of Defence with lenses for path-finders and goggles. This work is extremely profitable to the company and customers would lose if we stopped work."

The turnover in our department, who cut the lenses from glass sheets, cannot be replaced by blackleg labour. At least two to four months training is required.

The management would avoid a department in a straightforward lockout started, as in the factory we have an hour pay rise.

Second, three union members went, none had any sympathy with the picket upholders.

Most workers department stop. They inch are still not union strike forced to man cede in very two o.

Trap

The firm’s attitude to strikes—breaking Slough AUEW & in the first of the follows is some imp of Asian workers in the last few years and Asian workers themselves trap the type cheap labour in small firms on Sloughs.

Typically they hour shop system low pay. The separation between Asian workers (white) (white) workers in factory they have organ and struggle to own sit. This will inspire many more.

As a boss, he’s a dead loss

ONE MAN who knows just how hard the Asian workers have fought in Bob Root, works director at Combined Opticals and one-time works director at Roots Plastic in Slough.

Rahindu Datta, ex-AUEW convenor at Roots Plastic, takes up the story. "Nearly 100 Asian injection moulders at Roots organised themselves into the AUEW about two years ago."

"We then began to fight for better wages and conditions. We were earning £27 for a 40-hour week on a two shift 12-hour system."

"We won more money but they had to strike for sickness benefit scheme and cost of living increases. After two weeks, Root told us the firm would concede our demands. When the pay freeze was over..."

"Shortly afterwards he was fired for ‘misbehaving’ our dispute. It was a bitter experience for Root. He would not make the same mistake again. One year later, he was at Combined Opticals supervising the lockout—and the recruitment of blackleg labour."

With Industrial Personnel Service of Hampshire, he recruited 32 blacklegs, many of them white South Africans.

When the blacklegs first started work, Root drove them past the pickets in a hired mini-bus. Exactly how the blacklegs were recruited remains unclear. IPS told the Slough AUEW district committee that after the first week they no longer had anything to do with Combined Opticals, that the people they had helped supply were now directly employed by Root.

They told the Slough Observer newspaper: "The blacklegs have been registered in this country and were not available for employment in this way."

Other employees say the blacklegs always kept themselves to themselves and refused to talk to anyone.

This extremely expensive attempt by the Asian workers to smash the union (the blacklegs were paid three times the rate, according to office staff) has ended in abject failure and the second defeat in 18 months for the most unionised director in Slough.

Of course, Root, a director with a working class background in Generals which is very public airing the public mess must not get away with this."

His plans must be diagrammed with connections between the Editors of Combined Opticals and the economic chaos in the Year of investment by public profits, British.

Among others, board are Lord Stockwood, Peter Parker, a L

Glass combine.
RATTLED—a racist police state

WHILE the South African blacks at Slough were failing to keep Pakistani workers in line, their rather more efficient policemen back home were busy keeping black South Africans in their place.

ABOVE: 500 demonstrators in Durban brave the brutality of apartheid's hired thugs to show their support for the new FRELIMO-dominated government in Mozambique. The demonstration, organised by the militant black South African Students Organisation and the Black Peoples Convention, defied a police ban.

RIGHT: Police film the demonstrators to keep their records on "dangerous elements" up to date ... and then set about them.

Below: Demonstrators disperse as the police wade in. Later 300 police dogs were unleashed ... and many people—including police—were bitten.

It was all rather disappointing for the police—and the South African government, which fears more and more the growing ferment among militant black workers and students, fuelled by the events in Mozambique.

Pictures by Harvey Clegg (Slough Observer)
It costs no more to be sold down the river...

by Sooou Engineer

THE STRIKE at Kenilworth Components in Leicester has ended in defeat for the newly-organised Asian women. They and their Asian male co-workers had struck over the sacking of seven women.

The main responsibility for the defeat, which has serious consequences for all low-paid unorganised workers in the city, lies squarely on the shoulders of the district office of the TGWU.

The strike was official—strikes pay was never handed out.

Union bureaucrats Ken Hempstead and others behind the 26-week rule, which can and has been varied in disputes up and down the country.

A district levy was promised but never carried out.

No appeal for financial support was sent out by the district office.

In support, the workers were starved for six weeks. The TGWU failed to make the strike effective. White workers crossed the picket line every day.

Token

The union did not investigate claims that management were subcontracting work to other small factories. No attempt was made to discipline TGWU shop stewards who ignored the picket line.

The union accepted 50 Asian men and women stewards came to a head when Hempstead pressed the workers to accept the sacking of seven but 17 women with a 3p an hour token good will rise for the men. Having negotiated a 3p token, Hempstead led a mass meeting on 19 September unannounced to 'correct' the 17 sackings. When the 17 workers, he made a statement in the right wing Leicester Mercury the next day that the strikers would return to work.

This public attack on the strikers continued with consequent demoralisation of the strikers and confusion among their supporters.

Engaged by the continuing militancy and the rank and file support from other Asian workers in the town, Hempstead launched an attack through the columns of the Mercury, threatening to make the strike unprofitable (which was a sick joke).

He blamed 'outsiders' and pleased that management just couldn't afford to employ all the women and that 3p rise was all they could afford for the man.

The employer put out similar statements the following day...

Unfortunately for Hempstead, the very day that he was defending the capitalist, management went directly to the men and offered them a 3p rise.

Despite union indifference, the women and men stuck it out for six bitter weeks. Their lack of organisation before the strike and their inexperience resulted in a picket line.

More experienced militants in their local TGWU branch gave invaluable support and direction. But here lay the weakness: the women were not allowed to develop their own leadership as the strike progressed. All initiative was taken from them.

The situation worked against the women as in several ways. The shop stewards were picked on the basis of their ability to speak English. Their real leaders and militants among them were therefore ignored.

This practice must be rooted out. Shop stewards must be elected on how well they reflect the views of the membership, not on how well they are understood by management.

Another fact that lessened the involvement and hence the initiative of the women, was that meetings were held away from the picket line.

It is difficult enough for us to argue with our families about having to be on the picket line, said Champa Behna. 'It is quite improbable possible to come to a meeting at a pub, late in the evening.' The final decision to call off the strike was taken in such a way, with only one woman and seven men present. It had always been difficult to hold the men. The women had led them out and made them join the union.

Some of the men had wanted to accept the 3p rise and the sacking of 17 women. A genuine leadership and confidence developed among the women, and they heroically opposed any talk of selling them out.

The mass meeting defeated the management attempt to divide the men and women. The decision to go back was taken later, away from the picket line.

Union hostility, management ruthlessness and the demoralisation of the strikers. The tenacity and courage shown by them over the last six weeks has won the admiration of all militants in Leicester.

Expect a baby— and the sack

EVERYWHERE in the Common Market women face the same problem. Discrimination against on pay and grading, penalised when pregnant or having children, they face the attitude that a woman's place is in the home.

In Belgium, a married woman needs her husband's permission to go out to work. In the Netherlands, a woman can be sacked simply for being pregnant.

The proportion of women over 14 who are workers varies from more than a third in Germany, France, and Britain, to about 12% in Belgium, the Netherlands and Italy. Clearly a woman's place is not natural but depends on the country you live in.

In France and Italy where there are large farming populations, 'family helpers' and self-employed women make up a large part of the female work force. But many of these 'self-employed' women are, in fact, wives who run the farms while their husbands work in the factories.

Women's wages everywhere are lower than men's. Equal pay for equal work was to have been implemented under the Treaty of Rome by 1961—but discrimination still continues.

The biggest obstacle to equal pay is that men and women do the same work. Work done by women is graded lower. The category of women's work is outlined in the Common Market—but this only led to a spate of re-naming. In Germany, it was 'light' in Italy 'simple' and in Belgium 'useless'.

Forbidden

Local custom and practice dictates what is man's and what is a woman's work. This varies from country to country, and from region to region. Men and women are paid differently in different places for doing exactly the same job.

Most restaurant workers in Germany are women, in Italy men. In Germany teaching is mainly a man's job, but a woman's in France and Belgium.

All countries have some legislation limiting women's hours and conditions. Night work, generally forbidden to women in industry, is between 6pm and 7am in the Netherlands, 10pm and 6am in France, Italy and Luxembourg, while in Belagm no one is supposed to work between 10pm and 6am, except in certain limited occupations, (the last grows longer all the time.)

In Italy, a mother can take six months leave after the birth of a child without losing her job, four months in Germany or a year in Italy. Nursery facilities, though better in France than in Britain, still only accommodate a fraction of those under school age.

One lesson of all these facts and figures is that legislation by itself is virtually useless. Women can obviously achieve equal pay and equal rights only where they fight for them.

One useful move would be to set up an exchange of information on all these things, so that when women do go out and fight they can demand the best conditions available and relate themselves to the best organised and most highly-paid sectors.

Support

But admiration is not enough. White workers were noticeable by their absence from the picket line.

There is a need for either a strong rank and file leadership or a democratic leadership in the union, as in Slough, where the AUEW district committee organised picketing by white militants, giving tremendous solidarity and backing to the Pakistanis on strike there.

There was support from local militants in the locality, but it was not organised.

In future, local stewards must get together to form a body capable of pressuring union officials. They must organise support for the picket line, collect funds, and appeal for support to other representative rank and file bodies in the country.
Pumping up the politicians

By NIGEL FOUNTAIN

FOR the last couple of weeks, until Wednesday, 200 journalists made their way to Whitehall to begin their day's work: marketing the General Election. As the most distinguished media event of the year, the G.E.C. needed to create a buzz.

With most people indifferent to the activities of the third party, it was their duty to provide the image, if not the reality, of something happening. Clock-in time was 9.45 a.m. at the Sunrise Bar in the old Ministry of Defence, where the press were served with coffee. The accommodation department was uneventful. A large room with a tile floor was set up in straggle rows in front of the representatives of the great and the good.

Lord Snowdon, Lord Acheson, editor of some five newspapers, St John's College, School, Lord Byers, educated at Westminster Public School and prominent in the Conservative Party, and the Right Honourable Jeremy Thorpe, educated at Eton College and a businessman.

Thorpe does the talking. Unfortunately he has nothing to talk about. The Tories lack substance. They should have 19 of those golden white elephants built, or less.

'This is clearly a serious matter. They have their own expression. A long cold look is called for,' he says.

Shuffle

He doesn’t know anything else on the estate situation. He later jogs off to Lord Acheson, who wants to see some pictures. The rooms are being cleared for the Coronation the previous week.

'Thanks. You do say,' he adds.

The journalists shuffle and gape at the blue book bound behind the Liberal leader. Outstanding bright light. Inside the glass of TV lights. The Conservative press centre, which will hold a two-minute slot on the news bulletins, and is uninteresting.

The BBC news is that. The ITV cameras are shrivelled in green haze, a sign that their operators have joined a part of the real world and speech.

Outside are two works buses to take the journalists to the next session. Politics, the method by which our affairs are governed by the richest in society, is nested round the bar-room of the Liberal Club, past the Houses of Parliament, to Smith Square, home of the Tory and Labour Central Offices.

Only when one sees Edward Heath in the flesh does one realise the fury of a world that can push such a figure into prominence. Plump, pink and blue-suited, he looks as if he has been slightly overstimulated by a bicycle pump. He appears to be familiar with this.

He kicked off with travel arrangements. He was going to Manchester. Journalists who wished to accompany him could contact the relevant people at a Tory Central Office, and get any necessary arrangements made for the plane that evening. He was going to give another press conference in Manchester.

'Yesterday's government of national unity were we going to establish after the election... The voice drones on, even as my mind wanders... We've got Robert here to talk about...'

The three on the platform look like Bill Baliff, Solicitor Harris and Squire Heath lecturing the peasants about their imminent eviction from their land.

Our talks... general aggregates... facts... covers...

ON THE BOX

SUNDAY TV: Noon. WEEKEND looks at the election situation. At 11.30 on BBC2 is an important episode of the '99 series, presented by the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science. It deals with the funding of science research, rival control technology in Ireland and industrial hazards—featuring an interview with Peter Kinosney author of Hazards at Work. Worth staying for.

TUESDAY TV: 8.30 p.m. The Malta and Coca-Cola probe probably have made it without prohibition but the legislation banning alcoholic drinks passed by the US Congress in 1937 and not repealed till 1982 certainly helped those two great American institutions on their way. The period is examined in THE NOBLE EXPERIMENT.

THURSDAY TV: 11.10 p.m. THE UNSETTLED PEACE, a 10-week serial on the Cold War era. There will doubtless be plenty on the blood-thirsty Russians, but the blood-thirsty Americans will probably come out rather better...

The Social Credit is discussed. Best the Liberals can say of the efficiency of the Social Credit is the deserted, strike-bound TV camera podium, and the most important words in the hall is the bearded, blue-suited cameraman dozing over the BBC camera.

For what Wilson and Callaghan says matters only for how three or four phrases will find their way onto the TV news that evening.

A question is asked about the situation in Bangladesh, where mass starvation is sweeping the country. Something should be done.

'Food grains from the USA and East Germany is sweeping the country,' says Callaghan, making it sound like a day trip to Sweden.

The Labour leaders wanted to go into the market, when in power, in opposition they opposed it. Now back in government they are seeking in vain to resist its way of being in favour of it, without making it too obvious.

So Callaghan talks of the BBC as if it were a drunken thought to be past redemption but, who with the work of James Callaghan, may be saved after all.

There were no private motorists. They had all been commandeered, and all the trams and taxis and the other transport were painted red and black.

Down the Rambles, the wide central artery of the town where crowds of people streamed constantly and fete, the landmarks were shadowing revolutionary songs all day and far into the night. And it was the aspect of the crowds that was the queerest thing of all. In outward appearance it was a town in which the wealthy classes had practically ceased to exist.

Of a small number of women and foreigners there were no 'well-dressed' people at all. Practically everyone was dressed in dirty class clothes, or black overalls, or some variation of the suits of a mill worker.

—George Orwell, Homage to Catalonia.

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Next Monday, 14 October, the International Arts Festival for Children Residences opens at 8pm at the Royal Collection of Art, Kensington Gore, London. It continues until 31 October, and is open from 10am to 9pm daily, except Sundays. The festival includes a continuous exhibition, poetry, films, children's events and plays. There are discussions each night on culture, politics, films posters, and, of course, on Chile.

Further details from Guy Brett, 01-242 4351.
Scanlon tries a sidestep over ban

THE LEEDS NO 6 branch of the AUEW has again come to the defence of Jimmy Scanlon.

In a resolution passed at its last meeting, the branch noted that the response to their earlier resolution calling for the union executive to lift the ban on Socialist Worker has been "totally inadequate."

The motion continued: "It is disgraceful that we should submit on this very important issue to the wishes of self-appointed journalistic hierarchy. The NUJ does not support the ban on Socialist Worker.

"We demand that our union allow a paper which fights in the interests of the working class to attend and report in its meetings."

The dispute between Socialist Worker and the AUEW executive has taken a new turn since the resolution was moved.

The Labour and Industrial Correspondents Group, which we now discover, is opposed to the ban on Socialist Worker and has several times informed Hugh Scannell that its organisation should not be used to block the access of other journalists.

Nevertheless, Scanlon and Co are still putting the lid on it just that. AUEW headquarters has, however, informed Socialist Worker that credentials would be issued if Socialist Worker became a member of the LICG.

This amounts to a manoeuvre. For the Group operates a ban against weekly newspaper journalists recognised by the AUEW.

So Socialist Worker could not join the Group because of the activities of the AUEW executive amounting to an act of victimisation. One can only wonder just what they fear from Socialist Worker.

THE PLANS of the Coal Board and the treacherous men of moderation on the miners’ executive to carve up the industry and disrupt the union’s strength have received a setback.

Last Thursday’s executive meeting kicked off with a familiar manoeuvre from the right. A document from the union’s Industrial Relations Department was submitted, taking some note of the mounting opposition to the deal, but saying that a national deal was not on, whereas some version of the current operation would be.

The document did not get the reception Joe Gormley and others were seeking.

An assault was mounted on it and on the idea of a ‘splitting’ deal.

First, a notion was put that negotiations with the Board should no longer be handled by the small joint national negotiating committee, which is the built-in right majority.

Its standing orders include a cabinet responsibility clause which means that those oustved on the committee have to vote with the majority when the executive considers the committee’s decisions.

Output

The move to put future negotiations in the hands of the whole executive was carried.

Arthur Scargill, Yorkshire miners president, then moved that the executive reject the proposed NCB scheme and go on record that the NUM would only accept a National Productivity scheme based on output per man shift with the same bonus going to all miners in the industry.

At this, the hard-line right wing shouted to be heard by proxy, trying to initiate a ballot on the present offer.

Gormley tacked another tack. He pushed a resolution which talked of trying ‘to get a national deal. His phrasing clearly opened the way to a manoeuvre—more negotiations, a new deal. This was defeated by a vote of 10 against 6.

Gormley insisted that his motion be put first. It was defeated by 11 votes. The union then added another bite at a pie-by-pie scheme.

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The fab four (who would accept any deal that would help cripple the miners) were: Meurig Grylls, Smith, Storey and Toone. The BC member for Cumberland was absent; as was another big fart of the pit-by-pit deal, Les Clarke. Clarke was holidaying in Spain.

There were to be more negotiations with the Board on Tuesday, at which the right were doubtful out to prevent the deal falling if no national scheme resulted.

But there were clear indications that they would fail.

This will not be the end of the story. However, Gormley is likely to bow another scheme to split the miners’ ranks.

For this, effectively, is what has been going on in the union since the 1972 strike.

The most interesting feature of the deal is its utter unacceptability to NUM members as paper produced in November 1972.

This document—JNC/US/7/11/72 talked about a productivity scheme in three phases.

It compared mining to the Post Office (where thousands of jobs were sold) and said with approval: ‘additional work undertaken by the same number of men produces a “surplus” in terms of less new labour being employed’.

Payments

The basis of the deal is virtually identical. Let’s in the document was to hear about the possibility of the introduction of a threshold agreement at Phase One gets under way.

Philly enough, the Board has given no guarantees that industrial relations office concerned—‘Towers’—will agree to the continuation of threshold payments. It’s all part of Phase One.

The company he keeps

ONE explanation for NUM general secretary’s enthusiastic promotion for deal producing and the social comment that ‘he is a loyal member of the executive of a totally pro-capitalist organisation.’

This is the sweetness, light and high productivity—pushing Industrial relations office concerned—‘Towers’—will agree to the continuation of threshold payments. It’s all part of Phase One.

The executive also includes several other ‘responsible’ trade unionists and powerful big businessmen. Among them is Lord Robbins, the man who has always had the miners at heart, particularly when he was giving NBC contracts to firms in which his son was involved.
Making the links international

Enjoy the election, Mr Tyndall

National Front candidates throughout Britain had a rough time putting their pseudo-logical "ideas" across to voters during the election campaign. Anti-fascist committees in which branches of the International Socialists played a prominent part harassed Front meetings and candidates in HacKey, East London, the NF tried to hold a meeting at Haggenfold Close Comprehensive School. Teachers at the school and from nine of the ten other comprehensives in the borough—aided by local primary school teachers—dumped 200 posters outside the school gates. The NF had secretly printed its posters believing the school would be open to them. Meanwhile, unknown to the NF, the council promised to open the school gates. The NF was defeated.

In Birmingham, one socialist was arrested at a Front election meeting in Handsworth to have been addressed by Front chairman John Tyndall and his local candidate. A group of 20 IS members and others, turned out at the school whileMiss was kept waiting outside by police.

Frogmarched

20 Front "stewards" lined one side of the room, and as soon as an IS member got up to speak, he was frogmarched and clamped on"the arm. The police prose in to defend the platform, and they frogmarched the demonstrators out of the building. They then insisted on one demonstration and later charged him with conduct likely to lead to a breach of the peace, and with malicious damage—a photographer claimed his camera had been broken.

When the case came up in court the next day a policeman stated his evidence with the words "This man is a socialist, your honour." He also demanded that the accused should not be allowed to contact witnesses, lest he be prejudiced against preparing a defence.

Panicked

This was rejected by the magistrates and the case will be heard next week. No Front number was arrested, despite their violent tactics.

In Birongton on Humberside, 16 and International Marxist Group members and supporters disrupted a Front meeting.

In Bristol, 16 and International Marxist Group supporters disrupted National Front leafleters and police when Tyndall tried to speak at a Victoria Park school. After a Front meeting had finished, 16 IS supporters stood on the steps. If the police officer panicked and gave orders to block the door. Simon Turner, IS student organiser, stated to IS students, as the focus for the left in the city of Bath to recruit the best students into the IS, we will have to play leading roles in developing student struggle and carry on consistent agitation and propaganda.

Students must not be isolated from the main work of IS student cells and branches will need to play their part in building our industrial work, ideas of our factory and area branch need help in strengthening our roots in the working class.

Students will have to work under the direction of district committees and earn their right to be branches of the organisation.

The test for IS students will be a double one. They have to lead in their colleges and help to build up an IS working-class organisation.

The coming year will see many bitter struggles, and Front strikes have already started in some colleges, and many other students, I am sure, are looking forward to the perspective for building IS among students, and the need to allow our members to make sure it is carried out.

The task for students

by Simon Turner, IS student organiser

IS STUDENTS should also set up IS Societies, as the focus for the left in the city of Bath to recruit the best students into the IS, we will have to play leading roles in developing student struggle and carry on consistent agitation and propaganda.

Students must not be isolated from the main work of IS student cells and branches will need to play their part in building our industrial work, ideas of our factory and area branch need help in strengthening our roots in the working class.

Students will have to work under the direction of district committees and earn their right to be branches of the organisation.

The test for IS students will be a double one. They have to lead in their colleges and help to build up an IS working-class organisation.

The coming year will see many bitter struggles, and Front strikes have already started in some colleges, and many other students, I am sure, are looking forward to the perspective for building IS among students, and the need to allow our members to make sure it is carried out.

ADAY OF RECKONING

Captured in pictures—the humiliation of the National Front in HacKey test meeting.

In June last year, the National Front candidates and the local NF candidates were planning an election meeting at HacKey.

The hall was occupied—forcing the NF candidates to hold an election meeting, with many of their supporters

Listening, aptly enough, from laboratories. Above, Tyndall (centre) and fellow Fascist, Kingley Road are comforted by the light.

We fascists up and down the country, said afterwards: "It is only a matter of time—when the Labour Party gets there will no longer be any International Socialists..."
Heywood, Lancashire—After seven weeks on strike for equal bonus rates 400 women workers at Heywood have been offered a mere 62p increase.

A mass meeting on Monday overwhelmingly rejected the offer as insufficient. But a vast majority, in favour of acceptance marched out of the factory, saying they intended to return to work.

Some of these women have said they are going to fight on for an increase. They are still on strike. They are being sacked unnecessarily. They are offering a bonus of £2.65 62p. They have based their strike on an increase in the calculation of the new management offer.

The offer assumes a bonus rate of 17.26p per cent. This represents a reduction of 32p. This is utterly inadequate. The basic pay is 75.2p.

This is deliberately misleading. Such a bonus is rarely achieved by women in the plant. A strike will not ease the situation. The women must make a decision. If they agree to the management's terms, a payment of 17.26p will be made to all employees. If they return to work, the company will return to the terms of the negotiations.

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS of South Africa—A new report on the strike in South Africa has been published by the African National Congress. The report states that the strike is spontaneous and is not the result of any organized boycott or strike. It is a spontaneous movement of workers against discrimination and exploitation.

LONDON—The London Hospital Workers' Union has issued a statement attacking the management of the hospital. The union claims that the hospital is not paying its workers fairly and that the management is trying to undermine their union.

The statement says that the hospital is not willing to negotiate with the union and that the management is trying to break the union by offering lower wages.

The London Hospital workers are currently on strike for better wages and working conditions. The strike has been going on for several weeks and has gained support from other unions.

Bank of England—The Bank of England has announced a new round of interest rates cuts, bringing the total reduction since last year to 0.5 per cent. The Bank of England has been reducing interest rates in an effort to stimulate the economy and bring down inflation.

However, the Bank of England's decision has been met with mixed reactions. Some economists argue that the cuts will not be enough to stimulate the economy and that more action is needed.

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WEST HOUGHTON. Lanark Workers occupied the Metal Box plant on Wednesday night following police moves to break their picket line. The 500 engineering workers had been on strike for a week and were working to rule normally. They had been working to rule to back a claim for a 40p an hour increase, a 10p an hour increase (of the threhold and pay for essential) and safety maintenance time.

They were continuing the plant on Wednesday, police moved to open the picket line. They had a different picket line. An Mos 500 workers, all members of the Transport Union, through the picket lines and out of the plant. The locked out workers faced, with the fact that the law were making their pickets illegal, effective, and the pickets ineffective.

SOUTHLAND - 300 workers at British Leyland's AEC bus and truck plant have been working nine days after last week after management called a stop.

A WAVE of unofficial strikes swept the West of Scotland in the run-up to the election. The 3000 workers, now in their fourth week of strike action, have agreed to vote on the proposal to ballot for a strike leave of sick pay and to a six per cent wage increase.

A demonstration involving the strike wave are operating in the same way, attacking the workers and trying to get a result. The workers have been asked to be patient. They were asked to join the 2000 workers in the picketing outside of the plant and Boyd, this time using the local press.

The strike has been called by the workers of the shop unit union executive. They are asking for £35 for 35 hours. Their are a number of these for which they already hold consent.

A disturbing aspect of the dispute has been the use the National Coal Board of mini-buses driven by NUM members to transport workers from the area in work from the area to and from the factory.

Strikers smeared

COVENTRY - Chrysler toolroom workers returned to work on Monday on the joint agreement in response to the company's decision to return to work with the dispute.

The workers, who have been on a series of plant stoppages and six-day strikes, have rejected a series of proposals from the company. The strike is expected to continue into the new year.

The workers are due to vote on the company's offer to return to work with the dispute.

Social contract hits Burslem

Burslem struck throughout Central Scotland and West Fifeshire last week after management decided to break an overtime ban at the Kelby depot in Stirling. The company was demanding the destruction of a plan for £35 for 35 hours and improved conditions. The drivers' basic rate was only £26.80.

A call by the Burslem rank and file committee for a return to work pending official statements was accepted by some drivers, but others in the Midlands area stayed out.

The FOA's lack of support may be a result of the social contract. One driver said: 'The social contract is just a piece of paper and it's been stuffed down our throats'.

No more jobs for the see here

Thirty minutes to the scrapheap

LEICESTER - 300 workers at the G Siddey plant were asked last week to stand by their machines. Thirty minutes later, redundancy notices were handed out, the site will be closed and 65 mostly drivers were advised to leave.

The engineering union organised no opposition. Workers were left demoralised and more than a bit disheartened, companies are advised not to use the same techniques in the future.

Redundancies threat

g by a GMWU shop steward

PETERBOROUGH - British Domestic Appliance and Schuster Federation has merged and made 60 staff redundant in their Canston gas cooker plant. Some estimates put the overall redundancy at 80.

With cuts in consumer spending, the domestic market does not have a price cut competition from the many others in the market, has recently

Lincolnshire-based prominent Bury St Edmunds furniture factory has recently Bury St Edmunds furniture factory has recently Bury St Edmunds furniture factory has recently been visited. We understand the factory has already been found a new home, while the personnel manager on our site, has announced he will soon be taking up a new position. The factory is expected to close in the near future.

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Blow for Blow

Socialist Worker benefit performances

BRAHMS: Monday 14 October, 7.30pm, by Memory Morris, Newkeyn Road, Bredfield

SWANSEA: Tuesday 14 October, 7.30pm, by Memory Morris, Oxford Street School, Swansea, £1, with June Morris (DUPE Nurses Organiser). Tickets 45p on the door.

BIRMINGHAM: Wednesday 16 October, 7.30pm, Room F107, Co-op hall, Edgbaston, Tickets 45p on the door.

DERBY: Thursday 17 October, 7.30pm, Helen House, King St, Darby, Tickets 45p on the door.

COVENTRY: Friday 18 October, 7.30pm, Room F107, Lutterworth Poly, Tickets 45p on the door.
FORD'S: THE DOOR IS OPEN

THE FORD strike is over. The press shop workers have forced the company to pay an increased shift differential of about £4 a week.

Ford's have agreed to pay the 13,000 workers an additional £4 a week for the duration of the strike. This is a major victory for the workers who have been on strike for six weeks.

PRESS SHOP MEN SHOW THE WAY

The press shop workers have gone back to work with no money in their pockets. Ford's have agreed to pay them an extra £4 a week for the duration of the strike.

Determination and militancy changed the outcome of the 1974 wage agreement. Now Ford's have agreed to pay workers an extra £4 a week for the duration of the strike.

Negotiations on the new offer continued this week. But already it is clear Ford's is pushing for improved efficiency—speed-up, lower wages. Workers have made a stand against this.

Ford also wants a long-term agreement. But with inflation eating away at wages, workers need to be able to negotiate their terms.

The money in the offer is also a sore point. Less than half the £10 is new money. It includes £2.80 for Christmas and £5.75 for the three-week stoppage time, which is already paid. With tax and deducts, the effective increased pay is less than £4 a week.

The Ford Leaington committee has put in an immediate £14 a week increase and a 3-hour week. This is what all Ford workers should be fighting for.

The press shop leader has won an important battle. Only by following their example can the war over the agreements be won.

PICTURE OF VICTIMISATION

SOGAT members and supporters from other unions picketing the Woking Addressograph Multigraph factory on Wednesday in support of strikers in the firm's Adelphi subsidiary in Harlaxton. The SOGAT FOC has been victimised in a bid to break the union.

The two-week occupation follows an attempt to start a management showdown with the best organised workers in the Courtaulds chain. The dispute began when management told stewards they needed to cut production by 14 per cent because of lack of orders. A few weeks earlier, they had wanted to increase production by 10 per cent.

When management refused to end a temporary work-sharing scheme, stewards voted to run it for them. Seven men who declined to be moved on to other machines were suspended and a sit-down strike began.

The occupation was a fantastic display of united working class activity. The plant was held for four days, with a shift-and-shift basis with overtime doing in and out.

Spenymoor, Co Durham: The 1600 textile workers occupying the Courtaulds plant won a tremendous victory on Wednesday when management climbed down and agreed to restore full-time working.

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