Aston Martin sackings, Chrysler lay-offs ...

The Share of Things to Come

FOUR HUNDRED Aston Martin workers in Newport Pagnell arrived for work on Monday, but their jobs had just walked out the back door. Their case has been well publicised, but they stand on the tip of a hidden iceberg of sackings.

Over the past few weeks redundancies and sackings of 1975 are going to affect a huge number of workers' lives. Are there a fight back?

The Daily Mirror last Tuesday. The news days are over. There will be no more red carpeting any more. The future is murky and grey. Inflation and redundancy go hand in hand.

The last thing the workers, the factories, the raw materials have been blown away since last year.

They are all still there. 400 jobs at Aston Martin aren’t. What’s the future? “Our lives have been uprooted,” says Aston Martin’s chairman. He blamed the government for not giving him 6,000,000 to keep the company going. But only a couple of years ago he was a leading director of the company, selling a few areas of land at the back of the factory.

Other industries are being hit hard. They are not on the borderline. Dennis Lowson, ex-Matador of London, has had trouble with his business affairs. His companies are being investigated by the government and the police. So what’s he doing? Buying himself a second-hand car. No, he’s not going to any work. He’s in a world crisis at a cost of £30,000.

And it isn’t out of the money ahead of them. There’s a flood of funds into South Africa from Britain (where, you’ll remember, “we’re short of funds”) to buy gold as “a hedge against inflation”. It’s not a hedge you’ll be invited to shelter under. The head of Aston Martin gave a wide smile. He pointed out that in this time of crisis there’s been a 20 per cent increase in demand for luxury cars. Who’s buying them? Chrysler, Ford, workers on short-time.

The money’s there all right, but there’s a crisis because its owners will not put it into industrial investment. They say it will not bring them high enough profits, so they’ll let millions suffer while they hoard it as gold or use it for speculation.

By their control over the wealth, they create a vicious circle, which hits one group of workers after another. Building workers are made unemployed because car workers cannot afford to buy the houses they build. And car workers are laid off because unemployed building workers cannot buy cars.

ABSORB

So absurd is the present system that even some sections of big business are growing under the impact of the crisis they themselves have created. But for workers, growing will do no good. We must fight now to ward off the worst effects of the crisis and challenge the system that has produced them. Fight for:

- Five days work or five days pay.
- The 35-hour week without loss of pay. This is the best way to force the bosses to take on more workers, instead of laying workers off as the crisis grows.
- Prevent the movement of work and machinery from factories threatened by closure. Build combine committees so that the fight is carried on throughout the whole firm, not in one plant at a time.
- Nationalisation without compensation and under workers’ control of any firm that cannot pay by its way without redundancy.

1974: YEAR OF THE CRISIS

Survey starts page 4
There's Brass for the Big Knobs

To prove it, the Labour movement gave all that much too early a Christmas hand-out to ensure that their living standards set in no way reduced by the ravages of inflation.

The Head of the Civil Service got a £115-a-week wage rise in two stages which will take his wages before tax to a mere £260 a week by 1 January 1975. Air Cdre Marshall got an extra £125 a week to keep the flag flying. Among career generals, Majors of the RUC and Lords of Appeal raked in similar increases for bashing the country safe, from anarchical trade unionists and lawless Riot Squad constables.

The granting of these massive rises at a time when the government ministers are increasing the volume on their hypocritical appeals to workers to accept reduced living standards was a case of the carefully stage-managed.

As The Guardian put it: 'Suspicion will be increased by the timing of this report, which was published on the last day before the parliament is in recess... This is a particularly dangerous time for dishing out embarrassing decisions.'

The report also reveals massive increases for state industry bosses. Coal miners cannot possibly have a £30 a week increase, for the money is needed to give NCB boss Derek Ezra and his Echo up to £360 a week, giving them salaries of £700 a week.

The indulgence of the already rich is not an accident in the management of the Labour government. It follows inevitably from the absolutism of the big business system. Michael Foot, Labour Minister of Employment, increased his own salary from £3,500 to £5,500 a year, and also got into the Scottish Rolls-Royce workers' £8-a-week rise. He also got a change of work when the Labour government endorsed the decision to pay back former Rolls shareholders £1 a share.

The £5 million privatisation of Rolls Royce, was criticised by the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons. But the wealthy parasites who bought up RR shares after the collapse at 9p a time were still paid off. The £38 million involved would have given the Scottish Rolls-Royce workers an extra £119 a week for a further 12 months.

These equal episodes are further illustrations of the basis on which the capitalist system works. Workers are constantly under attack while share-worthies are given a golden hand-out in the army, the air force and the law laugh all the way to the bank.

Army and jetpacks: document secret

State officials are now deferring their work to ensure that no one knows anything about the advanced preparations for the spring official documents on active intervention in British politics.

For the first time since the Christmas Time Out, the official version of events has been exposed to the public. The Sunday World, according to its own account, was invited to see the Sunday World. But on Tuesday 17 December, one of the paper's editors had a telephone call from one of the Black Power gang two days before the Sunday World took the story. This mm came to the meet the paper's editors on Friday 17.
The history of the Gulf War was finally solved by technical expertise of one official from the Secretaries of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, a demand for paid advertisements to charm the zadis of the US, provided by an American oil corporation.

The Gulf War was specifically designed to be the biggest cut-off all since the Conspiracy Acts were coined in the 18th and 19th centuries. It was passed just before the 1973 Gulf War - one of the Gulf War, and in fact 'a war in which the US were used by virtually every government department to hide their dirty deals.

It could be that the police will take no further action against Time Out on this matter. But they are already arresting two journalists such as Howard Canfield and Charles Miller because they are in the process of publishing a book on the Gulf War. It is going to be published later this year.

One of Time Out's editors, David May, still faces trial on another charge of handling stolen property. The 'stolen property' is an item May was given by its owner to authenticate a photograph-a routine journalistic task.

Doubled by slower coincidence May's case was closely involved in unraveling the Litohohn saga, a story which proved most embarrassing for the British authorities. The stolen property charges could enable them to wreak their revenge.

Connoisseurs of Claret weep for Stonehouse

The NEWS that John Stonehouse MP, former Deputy-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, under a name stolen from a deceased civil servant and hotelier hotel and detention centre in Australia has been thrown back into the US has been generally agreed that even for a 'highflying' Labour MP this is going for Stonehouse was born into the Labour movement. He is an ex-mayor of Southampton and a former Labour member of the London School of Economics, an ill-fated business venture in Africa and a few parliamentary candidates eventually into parliament in 1957. In 1956 he led into government as a junior aviation minister and in 1959 he retired to become the parliamentary professor at the Post Office College in London.

A career of which many MPs could be proud, except for one thing: there was one thing missing: Money.

While the Labour Party may not be able to transform the lives of its supporters, it has been notably successful in transforming the lives of those they voted for. The careers of such figures as lovely Lily Robins, Ray Guster and many others bear ample testimony.

The strategy of being an MP may not always be a financially satisfactive, but it does provide a welcome addition to those who are already rich. The Labour government is about to transform them for the better.

Though all these ventures the last political party at Westminster has stuck doggedly, like a dog, almost everyone to it. The Labour Party should spend its time setting up such an anti-corruption commission Connoisseurs of Claret Ltd or Gordon's Blenheim.

Or he why should be delighted in recruiting Sir Charles Forte to the Board of the Post Office Bank or why should he spend the last few years of a Labour government attempting to sell Birminghams & Worcesbers? Stonehouse was attempting to build a London development in his constituency in order to make a determined bid for the leadership of the Labour Party. But the Labour Party was far from ready to be the seventh Thames. It is still going to prepare.

A seven-year working holiday apparently permitted-after all is not a British local councilors, if only to steal their domiciled or to justify their classical tastes for fake passports.

If John Stonehouse hadn't gone on a straw with Sinn Fein then he would still be there with the Labour Party in the way he means best-by helping himself. The money made from BFs is simply-in all cases only $500, but try not to break it, 'its bad for the image...'

Thug tactics cause Front split

There are signs that the National Front is in a bad way. For a long time now there have been splits between the more violent and the less violent racists, with the latter trying to cash in on the ex-Tory image. But now there are signs that the splits are getting out of hand.

Martin Webster, the ex-Nazi who is an NF national activities organiser, gave the go-ahead for increasing violence when he called on members to 'get tough with our enemies' at a Remembrance Sunday Rally. Since then Front members at the Extremist Factory in Lichfield have stabbed and intimidated strikers, in Crawley they beat a demonstrator about the head with a hammer in Ramagga: three people ended up in hospital after a beating at a meeting, and in Willesden, London, violence was used in a council meeting called to discuss a ban on NF meetings in council halls.

But other members of the National Front are obviously frightened of this thuggery, and are working hard to pretend that the National Front is not what it is, a neo-Nazi organisation. Responsible for the key, and the ex-Tory Roy Painter has had one succes in getting rid of the well-known Nazi John Garchair, chairman, and replacing him with the seemingly more respectable Kingsley Reid. Now he has been told to see the leaders of the established Jewish community in England to try to come to some deal with them. This will have the effect of establishing Jewish leaders of the National Front.

It is important that socialists continue to expose the National Front for what they really are. Respectability will only help them to gain respectability. All are Nazis, no matter how hard they try to change their image.

The National Front's outrage at the bombing of innocent civilians is not very convincing. Lindsay Mason, National Front organiser in Belfast, said of recent car bombings in Dublin: 'This time it was 31 dead. Next time it will be 331.'

When to Switch On

FRIDAY

London area only: 11:21am. The end of the Black Power movement in 1969 was accompanied by a new kind of black writing. GUTOMAN takes us to the origins of the Raster in the sixteenth anniversary of Raster's escape to power. TUESDAY

ITV: 10.30am. A FAMILY DOCTOR is a monthly profile of the work and life of a Welsh general practitioner.

BBC: 2.25pm. LOOKING IN... JANESFORD, a profile of that country which has 'the world's great- est variety of TV programing.

THURSDAY

BBC: 10.15pm. The occupation of the Triumph motor factory in Meriden and the success of the 'occupy' situation in a number of workers' cooperatives is examined in MAN ALIVE: WHOSE SPANNER IS IN WORK? On BBC: 1.30am for PLAY FOR TODAY at 9.30pm, the first of a series from Birmingham, is SANGTER, about that apparently thriving local industry.

BBC: 11.22pm. The film of Enza D'Este: 'THE GIRL WITH THE GREEN EYES' is the film on of the month.

LORD WIGDERY. Another £7,500 a year

Army chief General Michael Carter. Another £7,250.

The NCB's Derek Ezra: Told to make do with £23,000 for the moment

Justice Sachs: With his High Court cronies he gets another £100 a week

Ireland-Behind the Wire

Showing in Britain for the first time since its release, IRELAND shows what is happening in the Republic of Ireland as recorded by Irish TV and raided by the Ministry of Defence. Keep a date with ITV if you are going to Ireland yourself. Full details next week.

FEBRUARY

Glasgow: Saturday 18 January

Bristol: Thursday 23 January

Liverpool: Sunday 26 January

Brussels: Sunday 26 January

Oxford: Sunday 20 February

York: Sunday 2 February

TO END OF DOCUMENT
THE REAL THREA...
GOODBYE 1974--AND DON'T CALL AGAIN headlined this week's Sunday Times Business News. As the employers sigh with relief that 1974 is over, they fearfully face the prospects for 1975.

The renewed militancy of traditionally strong sections of engineering and car workers and the new militancy of others, such as the lorry drivers and bakery workers, alike demonstrated the strength of the trade union movement. The flying picket was adopted by teachers, bakers, lorry drivers and textile workers in sharp contrast with the passivity of the trade union movement in the 1970s. The strikes since the return of the Labour government were almost all in defiance of the trade union leaders and in defiance of trade union officials.

JANUARY

TORIES introduced three-day working in most of British industry and power cuts. Socialist Worker 5 January: "We must reject the Tory lies and insist on FULL WORK OR FULL PAY.

No one should accept less than five days' pay. Opinion in the unions must be mobilised to fight for this basic demand.

The Tories can be beaten. They can be driven out of office. A victory for the miners and a refusal to accept pay cuts will do it.

The AEU's "postponed" industrial action on its national pay claim "until after the crisis", and then limited it to an overtime ban, Social Worker 12 January: "An overtime ban for several weeks on half pay. What a pathetic joke."

FEBRUARY

THREE-DAY week used by management leaders like Armstrong-Petters in Beverley, Yorkshire to victimise miners such as Jean Newton, TGWU Convenor.

The miners' strike. Heath calls General Election. Gormley tries to call strike off and fail. NUM Executive decides on maximum of six pickets and a passive strike December 1974.

February: "Mass pickets are protection against the police. The strike is threatening contractors, the police, who are either prone to or encouraged to harass small numbers of pickets.


MARCH

MICHAEL Foot gives good launching of Employment Minister by NUM. Executive who leave surface and sign new agreement with NUM.

APRIL

Nurses, supported by their families and by other hospital workers, demonstrating in Lancaster for higher pay.

JUNE

DES Warren and Ricky Tomlinson released on bail pending appeal. C. Parsons workers, Newcastle. and Manchester dockers strike in support of nurses.

July:


JULY

NATIONAL nurses' co-ordinating committee set up on joint initiative of Hospital Worker and Rank and File Organising Committee. 100,000 South Wales miners strike for day in response to appeal for solidarity by Swansea Nurses' Action Committee. Rank and file teachers force NUT to call official action in London. Pay Board report on London Wagegaining creates new anomaly between 'inner' and 'outer' London. London Airport workers win £4 straight away. Fisher-Bendix, Kirkby re-opened.

AUGUST

SHELL workers break Social Contract by striking second major issue in six months. Hospital workers in North-East and Birmingham begin Socialising Health Service by 'blacking' pay beds. Millions of workers go without their summer holidays abroad. Some book by Court Lines—and also go without their summer holidays abroad.

SEPTEMBER

FOOD shortages manipulated by Tate and Lyle who get injunction to stop Paul Foot. Socialist Worker 7 September: "Fijl Hall dawes gave their answer this week. Because of the sugar 'shortage' their canvass was without sugar—while 80 tons of the stuff lay piled on the quay outside ready for profitable export to foreign countries who had sought it.

So the dockers refused to load it, and ordered the Labour Government to distribute it to people who needed it.

Ferranti adopt taw-taw posture and crawl to Wedgwood-Bates. Ford once shop workers strike and refuse to work despite Wilson's announcement of another election.

Social Worker 28 September: "A Ford worker spells out the issue that faces every worker in Britain: "If the Social Contract means our lives have got to work for less money, what does the Social Contract have to offer?"

TUC, Scallon and Gill endorse the Social Contract.

OCTOBER

WILLSON's 'wings' General Election with Labour's lowest vote since the 1930s. Fight against Social Contract holds up. Lorry drivers roll away refuse, sewage, teachers and Wills all strike in West of Scotland.


NOVEMBER

40,000 strikers on strike. More come out in England and Wales. All unofficial and all against Social Contract. The TGWU, UCATT and TUC try to forget their past resolutions on Sharewaryy pickets.

Propaganda campaign in support of local productivity deals for miners fails. Asian and white workers strike together at Inter against ICT's victimisation—supported by the Deyes and Bleachers Union—of a militant. Second National Rank and File Conference.

DECEMBER

CLAUDE Lavender, executive member of Dyers and Blanchers, expelled for supporting later strikers—workers who are attacked by racists with fascists thugs. Unofficial strike action by bakers forces union into official strike, which is then sold out.


Report by Ken Appleby, John Deason and Steve Jeffreys
not survive as a unifying force. Hundreds of thousands of workers took strike action, many occupying their factories, against the crumbling edifice of the ‘Social Contract’.

Strikes were taking action, such as the Shell workers, the lorry drivers or the bakers, were bigger and showed more industry and combination. But these strikes were stopped when the laws were last bust apart, but there was less class-wide feeling than six months earlier.

Within theeldom, allowance, other special awards, the fact that many workers have received their biggest-ever nominal wage rise, all played their part in maintaining the sectionalism of most workers. With few exceptions, lasting hicks have not been forged. In the West of Scotland strike wave there was not even a joint shop stewards’ meeting organised, let alone one pooled strike fund. Weaker groups, such as the Glasgow sewing workers, were isolated and defeated.

The lack of a common response has also allowed the laws against picketing to be stiffened by the courts and the two Shrewsbury ruling.

Sectionalism took an upturn in 1974 because of the weaker national class response. Narrow craft consciousness and demands for increased differentials between workers, rather than for large across-the-board rises for all workers, have increasingly played into the hands of employers and union officials. Black and women workers, often moving into action for the first time, have been repeatedly denied the basic support from the rest of the movement which they needed for victory.

So the balance sheet has both plus and minus marks on it. But it is the sum that counts—and that the employers fear most. There is less class-wide action, less political consciousness of the need to take on the employers as a whole, but many workers are much readier to take action and have had experiences they won’t forget. They have been steeled for the battles that are coming.

Within months the ruling class will demand that Labour re-introduce wage controls. Re-dounding will become order of the day, especially in the crucial motor and domestic consumer goods industries. The ‘national interest’ will be invoked to claim the loyalty of workers for still further sacrifices in the interests of British capitalists.

The International Socialists have an important role to play in this situation. Firstly we must pull all our energies into strengthening the existing movement towards rank-and-file organisation. That is the key to building a leadership that can give the needed overall confidence to workers as they face the challenges ahead. We must support fully and work for a National Rank and File Movement within the unions which campaign for union democracy, defence of jobs and living standards, and elementary solidarity in defence of trade union rights.

Here comes Equal Pay Year... or does it?

1975 is the year of Equal Pay. Legally, that is. The law provides, by the end of the year, all women to be paid the same as a man for doing the same job.

Yet, though the employers have had a year or so to prepare, the men and women hands of employers and union officials. Black and women workers, often moving into action for the first time, have been repeatedly denied the basic support from the rest of the movement which they needed for victory.

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Unite workers

All our members and readers of Socialist Worker should work in 1975 to forge these links nationally and locally between different groups of workers.

The surrender of the left trade union leaders to the Labour government and its voluntary wage restraint policies gives the National Rank and File Movement fantastic possibilities when the Social Contract becomes a thing of the past. A new position to use these possibilities depends on you.

We must campaign openly and loudly for pay rises in all factories. We must make it clear that the sectionalism of the 1974 strike wave is not what the rank and file want. Workers would never have gone into the 1974 strike had they thought it would mean just that.

We must campaign for equal pay. This means an equal pay demand in every workplace, demanding the complete equal pay law. We must demand that the Equal Pay Act be enforced, that all women earn the same as men.

Greeded workers

The growing militancy of women workers in 1974: Top left, a picket outside Kentilworth Components in Leicester; Right, strikers at SEH, Heywood, peer at blacklegs go to work; Bottom, police see blacklegs through the picket at Wngrove and Rogers, Liverpool.

They lost—but there have been two important victories. SOGAT, the Printworkers’ union, used its strength in Fleet Street to back the claim with the British Federation of Master Printers. As a result of the strike, which lasted for three weeks, a deal was agreed abolishing class four, the women’s grade.

At Wngrove and Rogers in Liverpool the women, after a 17-week fight with the bosses, the cops, the press, the police, went back to work victorious. They had got the support of rank and file trade unionists in the area, who had been mobilised and voted to hold a one-day stoppage in support of them.

More strikes and more victories has to be the story of 1975. Women are one of the most badly organised and under-paid sections of workers, yet they are almost a third of the work force. It is in their own interest—and the interests of their fellow workers—that they organise to win these gains.

See Ministry of Labour for a detailed guide on how to organise a strike.
TWELVE months ago Portugal was still a reactionary dictatorship, with all the trappings of a fascist regime. Hundreds of people were held in political prisons. The political police, the PIDE, were torturing socialists and trade unionists as they had been for 46 years. In the Portuguese colonies in Africa, the army was waging a bloody campaign of terror aimed at crushing the black liberation movements.

But the vicious repression of the regime had not inhibited the struggle for national independence. It strengthened its real weakness. Already, at the beginning of the year, it was crumbling at the roots.

In Guinea, the liberation movement was already in control of the overwhelming part of the country, including the towns and defying the army. In Mozambique, FRELIMO was stepping up its attacks, despite a number of wholesale massacres by the Portuguese, until it was threatening the key communications links between Mozambique and Rhodesia.

The worst was to come. It was while settlers rioted in January and February, blaming the Portuguese for failing to quell the guerrillas.

Hoped

Meanwhile, in Portugal, workers were prepared to risk police repression to fight wage cuts during the five-day work week imposed by the regime.

In Guinea, the liberation movements were gaining ground, the army was losing the war and the regime was in retreat.

In Mozambique, the guerrillas were gaining new recruits and the regime was on the defensive.

But 1974 was not only a year in which the world of work moved into crisis, it was also a year of struggle and hope for the workers. The Heath government was forced out of office by the miners. In Italy there was a successful demonstration and a miners' strike made the government and the employers Association pay a price. In the United States, the miners struck to force wage increases from the coal companies. The new militancy was not confined to the advanced industrial countries. In India, Burma, Thailand and Brazil, workers here and there were beginning to take the offensive. In Southern Africa, the successes of the miners and farmers' strikes and the big gains of the trade unions were to be taken seriously by the regime. When the army had to go on the offensive it had to retreat.

What is clear, however, is that almost everywhere the discussion about how to change the system has been beginning. The struggle has been taking place. The workers are beginning to act. And the workers are beginning to hope.

Greece: Junta bites the dust

AT LEAST one event in 1974 was good news for socialists--the fall of the Junta in Greece. For Portugal, Greece fell to pieces after its adventures in Cyprus.

The Junta came to power in 1967 with the co-operation of the King, the local bourgeoisie and the CIA in Washington. They tried to patch up the fallen Greek economy by making the workers and peasants pay for it all.

In six years, they managed to hang on until the stagnation of the Greek economy and the inflation outstripped their promises. By last November the growing opposition came to a boil.

In Athens, the students and the middle class were held in the grip of the junta as the army advanced on the country. The workers lost their jobs, their homes and the power to govern the family.

In Crete, the army occupied the Polytechnic and demanded an end to the Junta. The student strike is joined by the army and the students are fighting for the liberation of their leader. In Thessaloniki, the army is fighting for the control of the city. In popular districts, the army is fighting for control of the house. In the countryside, the army is fighting for the control of the land.

Workers everywhere can begin to see, through this argument, to see what is taking place over the past year. They have begun to challenge the power of the Junta. They have begun to make the country a democracy of the workers.

In each case, the employers are arguing that the situation cannot continue. They are beginning to look for new methods of control and increased unemployment, so as to be able to compete with foreign competitors.

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France: The glamour fades

THE KENNEDY-STYLE 'glamour' of Guisard D'Estaing, elected to the French presidency, did not last long.

The left may have only got 49 per cent of the votes in the presidential election (with the revolutionary left getting 700,000 votes) but the autumn workers were showing they had a more effective means of influencing events than the ballot box.

Already, before the election there was a long strike of bank workers. The attempt by the government to continue with 'anti-inflation' policies led to a growing wave of strikes. In November there were stoppages by miners, power station workers, gas workers, radio and television journalists and technicians and printers. A 24 hour general strike shut much of industry.

But, most significant of all, the army had to be moved in to deal with a clash in Paris and with a two-month postal workers' strike.

But the end of the strikes has by no means been the end of the French workers crisis. In Paris last week, a Secret memorandum by General de Gaulle, chief of staff of the French army, who held the law of de Gaulle, complains that demonstrations staged by tanks and the police, and the army, as a last resort, is the army.

The French army has moved to comment that there is the possibility of another revolutionary May 1968 - but this time inside the army!

ITALY: Four general strikes in one year!

ALONGSIDE Britain, Italy is the country in Europe most hit by the economic downturn.

There has been an almost continuous governmental crisis, at the end parties argue among themselves on how best to restore profits without angering workers too much. And a section of the ruling class and key figures in the army and secret police have been supporting fascist groups that have been bombing workers and shooting at the left.

Italian workers have responded to the political and economic crisis with a wave of strikes and demonstrations and by refusing to pay higher fares and electricity charges.

February: General strike against the government and the cost of living.

February-March: Mass occupation of empty flats and houses.

March: Resignation of government.

- wave of repression and arrests of revolutionary left.

May: Referendum on Marxism, arranged by Right wing in the Christian Democratic Party to strengthen its position and result is a defeat for the Right.

28 May: Fahim,plenipotentiary, talks during left wing demonstration in Brescia. Six people killed, 94 injured. There is a four-hour general strike in protest and 1 million workers join in demonstrations against the fascists. The government resigns and not the secret police, General Milici, and puts him in charge of a new regime.

June: Strikes all over Italy against wage restraint and unemployment.

July: Government resigns again.

July: Six million on strike against anti-working class measures of new government.

July: Government announces a whole bucket of price rises - three day general strike.

July: General strike - trade union leaders (including Communist) are booted by large demonstrations of workers.

SOUTH AFRICA

1974 was the year in which the regions of white domination in Southern Africa began to crack. The guerrilla war in Mozambique and Angola forced the South African government to promise independence.

In Rhodesia the South African police decided that in the long run they could not defeat the guerrilla war there. And the South African government urged Ian Smith to try to negotiate a settlement with the black leaders.

The South Africans hope that while they put pressure on Smith, the black governments in Zambia and Tanzania will put pressure on the Rhodesian black leaders to compromise. For Vorster knows that these governments collaborate with the same big business interests that exist in South Africa and Rhodesia.

A compromise in Rhodesia would prevent revolutionary change there and prevent any upheaval that might spread into South Africa.

But a slow fuse has been burning in South Africa itself which could well undermine all Vorster's hopes. All year the revolt of black workers has been gathering. There have been repeated clashes in the mines between workers and armed police, with several workers being shot.

Killing

4 August: Fanatics explode bomb in Rome-Munich express at Bologna. 12 people killed.

20 September: Police attack people occupying flats in Rome, killing one person. Beginning of electricity and food strikes.

15 September: 100,000 demonstrate in Rome and Milan over Chile.

October: Government resigns again. Fiat factory in Turin occupied after threat of redundancies.

10 October: General strike in Turin.

17 October: General strike throughout Italy. 10 million workers involved. All universities shut. Mosque (a meeting of the secret police) is arrested for "subversion". Two more generals arrested shortly after. Left wing parties and unions on alert list of attempted right wing coup.

November: General strike of 10 million in industry.

21 November: 25,000 workers and students demonstrate in Savona against fascism.

December: 70,000 students on one of largest demonstration in 1968, against government decrees.

5 December: Demonstrations after fascist squad shoots and wounds a student.

SPAIN: Strikes rock Franco

FRANCO'S dictatorship has not yet followed Castaño's into ob-

lication. But it seemed more un-
stable in 1974 than ever in its 35-year history.

One among the Spanish of Spanish big business have been arguing about what they should do to prevent social upheaval when Franco dies. But the right wing parties are keeping the working class in order and are using old and new methods.

The group is still dominant, recently using its power to force the government to name a committee of political prisoners, to define and accelerate the government's approach to and arrest, if not a trial, of the former anti-Franco oppositionists.

Opposed to it stand another section of the ruling class who favour forming links with Communist, Socialist and Catholic political leaders to establish a parliamentary regime which will protect capitalist control.

Most sections of big business have taken a position between these two groups, which are continually manoeuvring against one another for positions of influence in the armed forces and the state bureaucracy.

But while this argument has taken place on the high quite different struggles have been taking place at the grass roots. A wave of strikes in recent months, for example, that has reached the top of Europe's strike rate, even though their number and size are small. This autumn has seen big disputes running simultaneously.

The most important in Barcelona, 19,000 of the 26,000 labour force were locked out last month for taking part in strikes.

And, in two stoppages in the northern Basque region of Spain, first 30,000 workers and then up to 200,000 workers struck for a day in support of political prisoners.

This growth of an independent workers' movement ties behind much of the confusion within the economy of the so-called "Three Year Plan". As the Financial Times recently ad-
mitted: "Spain's industrial growth during the last year has been a half as a result of a relatively low cost of labour and reduced supply of workers."

But now all this is changing and the employers do not know what they are going to do. The government has been jailing some leaders of the trade unions and workers' commissions for up to 15 years and the trade union leaders are not ready to negotiate with these workers' leaders.

1974 has seen the Franco re-

of all hands unit
1974: YEAR OF THE CRISIS

Racism cancer we must erase

BAD PAY, bad conditions, bad union organisation—no union organisation at all—that was the recipe for racism behind the strikes of workers in Britain in 1974.

There were plenty. Art Castings in Nuneaton, Perivale Guttermen in West London, Delta Mouldings, Pinfold and Barstow, Kenilworth Combination and General Typewriters in Leicester, among others.

Unions organise in many places provides a defence against the attacks of management. Where it is poor and wages low, the employers take full advantage. In these badly-organised, badly-paid factories many black workers have had to take jobs.

But time after time last year as they showed in defeat and in victory, the ability to fight and to organise. With all too little official union backing, organisation has never thrown up in the course of struggle, with workers finding for themselves the ways of fighting the bosses.

The efforts of the union officials have ranged from too-little-too-late to nothing—or to deliberate sabotage.

Militancy

It was too little, too late in West London at the start of 1974. Perivale Guttermen had been built up on the backs of the largely Asian labour force—with rotten wages. The first attempt to build a Transport Union branch, in 1968, was broken. By 1970 the union was established—but weak. The worker was black and had no influence in the centred on the bonus system. One-day token strikes were met with racism and the result eventually a lock-out.

Such began for the TGWU.

Their ‘advice’ was to go to the infamous Industrial Relations Tribunal—set up by the Tory Industrial Relations Act. The result was nothing.

The role of the TGWU at Guttermen was to be repeated by that union and others throughout 1974.

At Imperial Tyreworkers it was sabotage on the Asian rank and file. In the local union branch had been such that during the Imperial dispute the union’s Birmingham district was forced to call a regional inquiry into the dispute.

It did not report until months after the strike had ended—and then concealed much of the strikers’ case. On the infamous ‘two year rule’—under which members can become stewards only after two years membership of the union, the report recommended:

‘The 5221 branch re-examines the standing order which governs shop stewards to comply with the two year membership rule governing their election.’

And what has been the Leicester TGWU’s response? They have re-affirmed the two year rule! And what has the TGWU done about this? Nothing.

But pay and bad unions go together—and provide a fertile seedbed for that ally of management, racism. In the struggles of bus workers up and down the country, many advances have been made

Asian and white strikers stand united at Ineos, Ashton-under-Lyne, so often in 1874 they were divided—and fell easy prey to vicious management.

where the real issues of pay and conditions have been taken up and fought militantly.

While in Glasgow bussen were fighting for higher wages, the busmen of London—£23 a week—split on whether to allow Sikh bussen to wear turbans.

As 18-week battle culminated in white bussen striking against their Sikh brothers! The result? Bitterness, division, continued low wages—and a management with plenty to laugh about.

But alongside these struggles are ones like Combined Organics of Slough. There, management locked out the predominantly Pakistani workforce for six weeks, brought in 32 scabs—many of them white South Africans—and paid them three times the rate.

Nevertheless management were smashed, the scabs ousted and all the workers’ demands met.

At Ineos in Ashton-under-Lyne, the victimisation of white shop stewards Dave Haltworth has been a long and bitter battle, but unity between the white and black strikers has been maintained.

As the Social Contract has been peddled across the factories of Britain, it has been the poorly paid, whatever wage it was in Glasgow or injection moulders in Leicester who’ve been in the forefront of the fight black-white and white.

In these poorly-paid factories, the struggle has come from the shop-floor. Magnificent battles have developed spontaneously out of years of frustration.

The dedication at this level hasn’t been matched by the union officials, and has all too often been left isolated.

The crucial element is solidarity and organisation.

To build and win in 1975 means more than the will to fight. Black workers have inherited some of the worst conditions of British capitalism.

To change these conditions the union leaderships should have provided more than just token support. But often they haven’t even given this.

So the task is one for the Rank and File Movement. If the organisation being built by the Rank and File Organising Committee is to mean anything it means the ability to help these workers, black and white, in the run-down sectors to win decent conditions and wages and to link up with the struggles of other workers against the system.

The Black Worker in Britain

Essential reading for all immigrant workers, the 15/18 Chipingani pamphlet in English. Available from 15 Books, 265 Seven Sisters Rd, N4. 15p plus 4p postage.

Anwodudu To Wa Ni Iru Oyibo
O Trabalhador Português em Inglaterra
O Kύπριος Εργάτης στην Αγγλία
चीपिंगानी नागरिक इंग्लिश में
Ndi Oje No Na Obodo Oyibo

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The Revolutionary Party

Midwife of Socialism

FOR generations, millions of workers believed that the economic or trade union struggle was sufficient to the political struggle. When they wanted improvements in wages or conditions or work joined a trade union. When they wanted to bring about more general, political changes that looked towards the Labour Party. But then the reality of the last few years has hammered this concept of the separation of politics from economics into the ground.

Politics invades every corner of the life of workers. When they demand a wage rise they meet not only the resistance of the employer but also that of the government. So the Housing Finance Act was politics. The Industrial Relations Act was politics. The employing class was not prepared to yield to or accommodate the workers—medicine and the politics of the employing class!

To fight back, workers need to use their industrial power, not only against individual employers but against the employing classes as a whole.

Where does the power of workers lie? It cannot lie in the ballot box. Big business does not and cannot by the decisions of the parliamentary vote.

The Crisis
Social Contract or Socialism
Part 3 of the series

Tony Cliff

Was it parliament that allowed Lonrho to transfer thousands of pounds to the Cayman Islands? Is it parliament that dictates the production, pricing and plans of the big companies?

But spontaneous action, like the dockers' strike in 1972 which freed the Pentaville, is not enough to bring about socialism. Without a revolutionary party there can be no victorious working class revolution.

Karl Marx wrote that a party starts with the spontaneous acts. The French Revolution started with the storming of the Bastille. Nobody organised it.

The same is true of the Russian revolution of 1905 and of February 1917. The 1905 revolution started with a bloody clash between the Tsar's army and police and a mass of workers—men, women, and children—led by Gapon, a priest and agent provocateur. The workers were far from being organised by a class decisive leadership with a socialist policy of revolution.

However, after being triggered spontaneously, revolutions move forward in a different way. In the French Revolution, the people of Paris, spontaneously and leaderless, rose up against the King, after decades of oppression. But they were too conservative, too lacking in historical experience and knowledge, to distinguish, after only two or three years, between those who wanted to drive the revolution forward to its limit, and those who aimed at its compromise.

A bitter struggle was required against the compromise, the coup d'etat. The conscious leadership of this great undertaking was supplied by the Jacobin Party. Nor was it the October revolution in Russia, a spontaneous act. It was organised in practically all its important particulars, including the date, by the Bolshevik Party.

The events of May 1968 in Paris showed clearly that while a few hundred students or workers can build a barricade, to overthrow the capitalist regime and seize state power a much larger centralised organisation is necessary.

Apparatus

If only the workers in Paris in 1968 had experienced the revolution of Paris in 1936 or of the Italian workers in 1920; if only they had a revolutionary party, for such a party is also the memory of the class, the store of experience of class struggle internationally.

The ruling class is easily able to organise its affairs according to a coherent strategy. It is highly centralised with a massive state apparatus at its disposal, many newspapers, massive research organisations. If militant workers are going to win the arguments with their workmates and counter the plans of big business, then they have to be organised as well.

None of this is possible without a revolutionary party, linking together the most militant workers in every factory, mine and office. Through such an organisation, militancy can develop the experience of fighting together and of relating every-struggle to the overall aim of overthrowing capitalism.

Because of the instability built into capitalism there are going to be many sharp changes in objective economic conditions. Because these changes do not find immediate expression in the consciousness and activity of the class, impeded as they are by tradition and by reformist organisation, we must expect many turnings in the struggle, from economic strikes to political battles and vice versa, from semi-revolutionary situations to reaction, from nulls to mass strikes whose scope and temperature is unpredictable.

Elastic

The movement in experience and activity between sections of the class, between different factories and industries, is going to continue, with sometimes a levelling up, and always an unsettling of whatever equilibrium is achieved.

What is necessary under such conditions is a revolutionary organisation that is able not only to distinguish between a revolutionary situation and a counter-revolutionary one—that is quite easy—but between all the nuances in the intermediate stages between them, an organisation that would be stringent in its principles, yet highly adaptable and elastic in its tactics, and always aware of the sharp turns in the situation.

Such a party has its main task in the workplace branches. That is where workers' power lies. And that is why last year 1S built 38 factory branches and the last IS Conference decided to aim at 60 factory branches plus a number of white collar branches by autumn 1975.

In every place of work the real socialists are few in number. They are isolated and naturally often feel depressed and moody. Frequently one socialist militant does not even know other who will share the same views and attitudes. The IS branch will aim to bring them together.

The IS factory branch will also relate the advanced socialists to the majority of the workers. In every large workplace there is a tiny minority of scabs at one extreme and a tiny group of militant socialists at the other. In between stands the majority—not right wing but simply unorganised and conservative.

The IS branch with the help of leaflets, bulletins and the rank and file papers relevant to the industry. will fight to influence the majority of workers.

The IS branch in the factory will plan the local adaptation and execution of policies laid down by the national organisation.

This could mean, for example, framing a pledge for solidarity strikes with any worker fighting the Socialist Contract.

It will hold regular political meetings to discuss current events and socialist theory, as featured in the organisation's press and publications.

There are thousands of workers who buy Socialist Worker regularly in many large places of work. It is their duty to join us in the effort to build factory branches.

In this period of rapid change, there is a danger that revolutionaries will be caught on the movement of the class. There is only one way of dealing with that: by building a strong revolutionary organisation, with branches in the factories, pits, docks and office, so that pivotal demands are not arrived at arbitrarily by isolated militants, but reached through discussion by workers with a sharp perspective.

We have to face the fact that there is a yawning abyss between the greatness of the task facing us and the actual poverty of our movement. We need to bridge this abyss.
Asbestos being removed: unprotected worker, unprotected beer

How they make TETLEY’S asBESTos BITTER

TETLEY’S BREWERY of Leeds, part of the giant Allied Breweries Group, are having a large legging and bottling plant built. The extension no doubt comes from last year’s record profits.

Asbestos was employed at Tetley by an outside contracting firm, Heating Design Partnership. This small firm employs obvious tactics to keep the men split: different hourly rates, bonus schemes and no safety precautions. Improvers, semi-skilled men, who for a few coppers above the labourers’ rate are expected to do skilled work but cannot refuse to do dirty labouring jobs, are exploited to their fullest.

Myself, another skilled fitter and two Improvers were stripping out old pipework. We had to remove an asbestos covered 12 inch diameter steam pipe that ran through the final processing room where just before the beer is dispatched finings are added.

Before work started I drew the attention of my three colleagues to the fact that we had no breathing masks for protection against the highly dangerous asbestos dust or scaffolding to assist in the removal of the extremely heavy 12 inch pipe.

The other fitter agreed and went to see the supervisor. Meanwhile, although the dangers of asbestos dust had been explained to them the Improvers continued working. Having not been supplied with wire cutters or scaffolding these two sources of cheap labour were perched on top of an oil drum, tearing frantically at the wire netting which holds asbestos in place.

Within a couple of minutes the two unfortunate city workers were engulfed in asbestos dust and resembled snowmen and seemed quietly amused at my concern for their health.

When the other fitter returned with breathing masks and a ‘manage the best you can’ message, work had already started in the department where beer gets its final additives. By this time we were all wearing masks, that except the Tetley process workers, probably don’t offer any protection. Prophecying it was to be the beer contaminated by the asbestos dust even though it was brought to the attention of Tetley engineers.

So the pipe came down and the asbestos dust came up, giving a ghoulish covering to men and machines alike. Heaven knows how many thousands of pints of beer were processed under these conditions, but we were at it for three days. Had Heating Design Partnership been prepared to pay double then the work could have been done when processing ceased at three in the afternoon. On the other hand Tetleys had been prepared to halt production for a while Tetley Bitter Men’s could have enjoyed asbestos-free beer.

But, as readers know, business is run for profit. From tuppence halfpenny our Marlborough Street Heating Design Partnership were prepared to fill your gut with 1½ wires like Allied Breweries who are prepared to fill your stomachs with it in the shape of Tetley’s asbestos biter!

I don’t suppose the fact that I advocated trade union membership and tried to sell Socialist Worker had anything to do with it. The redundancies list a week before Christmas? G W GOOD, Wakefield.

Asians and they were picketing the plant.

Support is needed from other trade unions to help them picket and a blow to the bosses, which would really hurt would be a picket line in the Wolverhampton town centre. SAME SUPPLIED, Wolverhampton.

Labour:

Then as now

I AGREED with your ‘Vote Labour’ article. I hope people will vote the Liberal candidate at the time of the election. Some said there was no ‘contract’ message at the time of the election. Some said there was a ‘pledge’ message and the many price increases they can do nothing.

I thought you might be interested to hear what John McLeen, the great Scottish revolutionary, said to say about the Labour Party in 1910. It still applies to them today.

‘What did not become the reason to perform on the behalf of the class that put them into parliament and keep them there, seems plainly to suit them to their own interests. The political hypocrisies of the whole thing certainly will not blind the working class to the fact that they have been betrayed this last four years of crowd of swelling mediocrities to work as stooges to be grovel at the feet of one of the most tyrannical governments of modern times.’ RICKY WEBSTER, Glasgow.

Rank inefficiency

I THOUGHT you might like to know about the management inefficiency in the Rankes bakery where I work. A divider/prover was installed about six years ago and after causing the breakage of another machine was never used. After about 18 months it was replaced. Last summer it re-appeared and was set up again. Three more ovens were put in to deal with the extra work. One of them, a prototype, was never used and now it has been taken out along with the other two ovens, and the divider/prover is being dismantled.

There’s a long history of defective machinery being installed and removed, frequent re-working to accommodate new and constantly moving machinery, not to mention machinery which no engineer can envisage.

Large quantities of bread are moulded because of defective machinery and management doesn’t blink an eye. Loaves that are overcooked or under-weight are sent to feed pigs—a man was sacked for stealing a pig feed. I wonder he wasn’t hung—BAKER, Devon.

Postal Points

A PLACE TO AVOID . . . In their desire to increase their percentage in the national interest, the ruling class are placing more and more money in that pathetic subject—tax avoidance. It was attended by 660 tax avoidance seminars last year, which paid £40 each to discover 143 away from the training provided by organised tax evasion and Accountancy and Investment and Property Union, who say ‘It’s no use to our rulers making us pay taxes. They’ve all got their belt full pulled in and all they do is hold the cope for them in the form of pay rises and help the country through a bad patch.’

CHRIS DABILL, Sheffield.

Red Flag or Whitewash? I’m pleased to see the new edition of the Front by the Transport union. Their recent Press release showed that the transport union is an excellent account of who, what and why. In the edition, Jack Jones, TGWU General Secretary, says in the ‘Are we not Labour?’ section: ‘The NPF is a modern version in Britain of the Fascism of Hitler, Mussolini and Mosley.’ I hope these views will become TGWU policy and not just a white wash for Imperial Trapeze and other strikes mentioned in it.

I would like to know your address supplied: Wolverhampton.

FEARLESS EXPOSÉ . . . read your story ‘Police issue report on the struggle against the International Socialists’. I would like to know your address supplied: Wolverhampton.

You might be interested to hear the Daily Express say: ‘Police to investigate the role of 16 within the International Socialists’ Marxist cell’ at a recent meeting. On the opposite side of the coin, the Independent, Dick Dawson expressed his support of the Marxists, who he said, ‘are an important and necessary part of the political and social mix’, and said that the cell is not a danger to anyone and that the police should be cautious and unfair in the way the Marxist cell is investigated.

I was interested in your article, ‘LIVERPOOL (NUG, East Norwegian)’ and hope that you will write again in the near future. The establishment of the International Socialists, and that anything goes, is an important step forward in bringing the working class together and taking the fight to the establishment. We have to be tenacious and unfair for the Journalist and the Independent to find it easy to understand. With that in mind, I am glad that the branch decided, not surprisingly, to continue in the fight to see justice and I am looking forward to their pursuit in its investigations. 

DICK BENTON (NUG, East Norwegian)
**SOCIALIST WORKER 4 January 1975**

**Farmer workers: No more begging!**

It seems to have worked, as the workers’ sides walked out again this afternoon. This is the first time this has happened.

Despite moments calling for industrial action from local sources, the farmers’ strike really just means what it says. They are still not prepared to make the first move.

With this background, it must be farmers will learn a valuable lesson in economic survival. Strike one can’t be a permanent change; it will only get a response from the living wage.

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**Thought, author game away**

by Ivan Craine, AUEW shop steward, motor parts retailer, Halesowen

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**Dangers**

As the game of worker safety committee continues, in effect it says we are starting this game of risks. The unions’ major objection is the phrase “what is reasonableness to practice”. To make this meeting even more frustrating for the workers, we can’t put up with this. We must take steps to find and stop people from being caught in the game of worker safety.

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**Hoover’s put boot in again**

**PERIVALE—**Hoover’s management has added a cruel twist to their ‘wage freeze’ with an ultimatum that if the ‘bootmakers’ strike was not settled by 6pm today, they would bring in temporary workers.

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**FARMERS: NO MORE BEGGING!**

**CHRISTMAS ON THE DILEMMA FOR 1100**

**GRIMSBY—**1100 men faced Christmas on the dilemma for 1100 farm workers in the area after the National Farmers’ Union (NFU) called a 14-day strike. The move came after talks broke down over a proposed 22p per hour increase for the 1100 farm workers.

The strike, which began at 7am today, affects workers across the area and is expected to continue for at least 14 days. The NFU said the increase was necessary to keep pace with inflation and that the farm workers were being asked to bear a smaller share of the cost of living.

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**MINERS: NOW IT’S UP TO YOU AND ME**

**PRESTON—**Coal face workers in Preston have ended a 14-day strike after agreement was reached on a new pay deal. The strike, which began on December 26, was called by the Union of Mineworkers and Allied Trades of Great Britain following a breakdown in negotiations over pay.

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THIS STRUGGLE IS AS IMPORTANT AS FINE TUBES' IN SPITE of the struggle at Snugborough the strikers by the National Front, on the strike of the National Front, the workers at Intex Vaks, Ashton-under-Lyne, is still on. It is a bitter battle, with Asian and white shift workers struggling to defend themselves against the attacks of management and union. Such a battle is tough-going. So support from the Labour Movement in Manchester is vital if the strike is to carry on.

Before Christmas, more than 100 trade unionists attended a meeting of the Labour Intex of the T&G, the Rank and File Organising Committee. Pochin's Building Site had put on a winterisation of £500,000 to keep all the workers. Hospital workers are calling on a blanket of all ICI products in the hospitals. The meeting also gave an objective by the National Front, a committee of nine trade unionists was elected to co-ordinate support activities, almost all of whom are shop stewards and branch officers.

Roger Cox, Secretary of the Rank and File Organising Committee, pointed out that the committee had to try and become a delegate committee with powers to co-opt sympathetic shop stewards and rank-and-file officers.

Jim Ford, NUT senior shop steward from Watney Mann, said: 'This struggle ranks in importance with the Sewell, Avondale and Fine Tubes. The Labour movement must hold the line. I think we've got a 1000 trade unionists march up to the factory is not a bad one.'

Following the mass meeting of more than 100 confronted near the factory, the other picket has been called for the morning and evening of Thursday 2 January and the evening of Friday 3 January.

Your support is vital if militant union members are to be re-established and if the dirty work of thugs and police is to be defeated.

For further information about the solidarity pickets contact: Intex Shift Workers Strike Committee 061-330-7231.

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Socialist Worker PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Chrysler: How to fight back

by Peter Bain, TGWU steward, Chrysler Linwood LINWOOD: More than 5000 production workers at Chrysler are being put on short time when they return to work on Monday.

Only sections of the main shop will work five days. For the rest, it is four days in the first week, then three days until the end of January when 'the position will be reviewed'...

By the end of last month, Chrysler told Linwood convos and national officials that to maintain production at 95 cars an hour in 1975 would mean a 15-week lay-off for vehicle assembly workers.

Reduction to 45 an hour still means a 15-week lay-off, and that includes the Christmas Eve company statement which claimed the position had won.

Throughout the world there are massive lay-offs of car workers. The production speed-ups and new plant of the boom years have been followed by economic recession and chaos and hardship for millions of workers.

Chrysler are the weakest of the three giant American motor manufacturers who dominate the world market. In the US, 70,000 of their 84,700 workers have been laid off since November.

The shambles of the car industry is one of the current shambles of the economic system.

There is a world-wide 'rationalisation' of the car industry. The need is for clear, alternative policies to defend jobs and the conditions of this sign that union leaders are prepared to confront.

Engineering union national official Bob Wright, Gravitate Hawley of the Transport Union and Roy Sanderson of the Electricians' union strongly advised Linwood convos against any action before the Christmas shut-down.

The Linwood leadership's reluctance to fight was underlined by their withdrawal of a week's notice of strike action and their lifting of an overtime ban.

If Chrysler's attitude to the workers with the same problems at British Leyland, Vauxhall, and on Clydeside with multi-national giants in Britain and other countries, then the picture of the economic system is clear.

Bakers plan campaign LIVERPOOL: The 17 bakers 'sacked' by Scotska bakery are continuing their fight for reinstatement and are planning a campaign around the issue. They have been fired for not working with non-unionists and management labour. They subsequently occupied the dough house and were evicted by Abanions and security guards.

The master is going through union procedures. Social Security is refusing to give them money since they are 'in dispute'—although the management have publicly sacked them.

TRIUMPH STRIKE SOLD OUT COVENTRY: The strike of 1000 truck workers at Triumph Motors, which baled production at the plant, ended before Christmas. At a stormy two-hour meeting, the convos declared their motion to mean work won in the last six weeks except for those laid off by a dispute of the Coventry shop floor.

A long-term agreement to be negotiated in the new year. In addition, the shop-floor's traditional differentials have been removed by 55 per cent.

The company increased its 1975 offer from £1.50 to £2.50 when the 40-hour staff, who will be able to stop the trucks as soon as the truck workers returned.

The disappointing outcome of the strike is the mood of the rank and file allowing the management to take advantage of the situation and the convenors McGarry and Griffin. Despite setting out with great determination the strike was organised passively, no attempt was made to draw the workers into the struggle. The situation was made worse by the devaluation and nationalisation, inevitably, enthusiasm waned. Militants must organise now to ensure the same doesn't happen in the next dispute.

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Locked-out 600 fight on

In W LONDON: 400 AWU members at Associated Automation are now in the seventh week of their lock-out. The dispute now looks like becoming one of the area's biggest and one of the bitterest.

The workers are more than determined not to go back under management's terms. Just before Christmas, after a meeting with AWU officials management offered a further 45p as a way out of the dispute. The group meeting resolutely rejected the offer and instructed stewards to continue their demands for a better settlement.

Despite having to go through Christmas with very little money, the workers are prepared to carry on. As the length of time that they are locked out grows, so does their determination not to settle for any small amount.

A lot of workers are discussing the view that now they have been out for such a long time they won't a big increase before they will return. The Ministry of Social Security is still refusing to pay them benefits, despite accepting an appeal against their refusal from the strikers which is to be heard by a tribunal. They strategy appears to be to prolong the date of the appeal so that benefits will not be paid to them.

These workers are in an appalling financial plight. It is up to all other trade unionists to do all in their power to get the AWU to negotiate a fair deal to cover all the workers involved in this dispute.