PAPERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL-socialists

FOR THE PARASITES
LAYS OFF
FOR THE WORKERS

'SMILE AND BE HAPPY' shouted the Daily Mail last Friday. We earn £7,731 million better off than on 6 January. £7,731 million. That's £1,500 for every man and woman in the community.

Have YOU noticed it? Did YOU find in your factories that production suddenly shot up by more than 70 per cent in those three weeks?

When the Daily Mail says 'we', it means the parasites who gamble on the Stock Exchange in the wealth which WE produce. Those people who pay plaintiffs. The share values rose by that staggering amount.

RECESSION

The Daily Telegraph last Tuesday explores: 'The City and the investing community have arrived at certain fundamental truths... Mr Healey and others formerly of the same mind have reached and passed the critical point on the way to realistic government.'

From all over the country comes the news of more of our brothers and sisters laid off in the recession caused by Mr Healey's 'realistic government'. 2000 workers at Ferodo, 1200 at Goodyear Tyre, hundreds of others at the Bulmers Shipping Company, Economic Stamping, Decca Reid and Sargent, and Tubex of Oldbury.

It's not like last year when a shorter working week was introduced with some success. This time, it's likely to last for several months if not longer. After any lay-off agreements have run out.

The trade union leaders are still refusing to organise any fight back. Just as Mr Murray, the TUC general secretary, argued that trade unionists should not seek wage rises which would 'make up for the extra income tax'.

In other words, trade unionists should accept wage cuts of up to 10 per cent. That sort of talk will bring still more comfort to the gamblers in the City, but it won't solve unemployment.

USEFUL

Less spending money means less goods bought, which means more redundancies.

So what can we do about it?

On page seven this week we print an article by Gerry Jones, a shop steward at Chrysler, which is ravaged by short time. He shows how the weakness on the shop floor has led to acceptance of the lay-offs and he argues a strategy over lay-off pay and lay-off agreement which is founded on strong shop floor organisation.

It's a useful article which should be discussed everywhere workers are on short time or threatened with it.

It should start a real fight-back on the shop floor against lay-offs.

They frightened the pants off Geoffrey Rippon

Remember Jimmy Moyne

By Eamonn McCann

burned down in a riot. He, like everyone else, spent the next weeks huddled under make-shift shelter in the mud.

Two weeks ago, at one o'clock in the morning, he was taken suddenly, seriously ill. The other men in the hut rang an alarm bell, but no one came.

In the end, as he warned, they smashed down the door of the hut, put him on his mattress on a trolley and wheeled him through the mud to the gate, shouting to attract attention. But it was too late.

Outside his family and those who knew him, it is unlikely that many people will remember Jimmy. But it is worth noting that he would hardly have died had he not been in Long Kesh. And it's worth asking why, then, was he there at all?

Why, indeed, are any of them there, neither charged nor tried? Phil McCullough, for example, or Kevin Haslam or Sean McKenna, who have been in since 9 August 1971?

Thus the vicious circle of repression, resistance, intensified repression. The only way ultimately to break that circle is to break the link between Britain and Ireland. That means getting the troops out, and in marching for that demand on Saturday, we should be mindful that all the Jimmy Moynes have already paid for it in advance and in over the odds.

STOP THE BOMBINGS - TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND - RELEASE THE INTERNEES

MARCH from Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, Torchlight Procession, 8pm, SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY. All London Home Counties and IS Student Branches to support.

(Rallies London Branches must send two Socialist/Worca ritters to Speakers Corner by 4.30 to sell before and during the month. Extra papers will be available there and at Conway Hall.)

RALLY at 1.30pm at Conway Hall, 4 Red Lion Square, WC1. Speakers from the International Socialists, IMG, Labour Party and Mike Cooley and Bernadette McAliskey.

GEOFFREY Rippon, former Tony Foreign Secretary, who supported fascism in Portugal for the last 25 years and who won and signed the Portuguese Fascist dictator Caratno when he came to London in 1973, is suddenly terribly worried about the survival of democracy in Portugal. On his way back from a luxury tour of Mexico as 'legal advisor' to Cadbury Schweppes, Geoff the Ripper popped in to a conference held by the Portuguese 'Democratic Centre' Party in Lisbon.

He and the whole of the British Press—exploited in righteous indignation because the conference was disrupted by 'mob of Communists'. This was a threat to democracy'.

Who are the defenders of democracy in the Democratic Centre Party?

The party chairman, Professor Freitas do Amaral, was a member of the Portuguese fascist party and a close collaborator of the dictator, Caratno.

The other main leader of the party is Xavier Pintado, who also held many official posts under Caratno and Salarz.

Portugal: Moves By The Right—page 4

No 1410 1 February 1975 Price 7p
WHY DON'T THEY CONDEMN THIS?

THE LABOUR government has bluntly refused to make even one public statement condemning the brutal military dictatorship in Indonesia.

But before Christmas, the Under Secretary for State at the Foreign Office, Lord Garooy Roberts, saw a delegation of religious leaders headed by fervent Labour supporter Lord Sober.

Sober outlined some of the facts about Indonesia's regime—70,000 political prisoners held without charge or trial, forced labour, no free trade unions, mass murder of villagers in Irian Jaya—and asked for some public statement or condemnation from the Labour government.

Roberts claimed a public condemnation would 'make things difficult' for sympathetic members of the Indonesian government. The Labour government, he said, had to take a 'studied view' of repression wherever it occurred. While it condemned the 1965 coup, he said, 'it is not important to do so in past history.'

The situation in Indonesia was improving, he claimed. The British government would not withdraw aid or technical assistance. It was important to allow Persada Subarto to stabilise the country, since without such stability the Indonesian situation could easily catch fire.

President Subarto and his associates have been 'stabilising' the country. 'They think they have power in 1965. To consolidate their power, they slaughtered everyone and everyone who was or might be a supporter of the Indonesian Communist Party. Between 500,000 and 1 million were butchered.'

Time magazine (17 December 1964) described the situation: 'The killings have been on such a scale that the disposal of corpses has created a serious sanitation problem in East Java and North Sumatra, where the burial rate is the lowest in the world.'

'Violence from these areas tell of small rivers and streams that have been literally clogged with bodies. River transportation has at places been seriously impaired.'

This was the last Labour government said little. But it did nothing to comfort those with wealth and power in other lands.

SQUEEZE

The previous regime under Sukarno had taken steps to bolster Indonesian capitalism at the expense of foreign varieties. Dutch-owned industry went over in the late Fifties. British-owned industry went in 1964. Shell and Unilever, in particular, felt the impact.

Once the rivers had run with blood, however, the factories were about to change. The country was opened up to foreign capital under the direction of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other such imperial bodies.

In 1967, the $130 million worth of manufactures was about to return to its previous owners. Great was the joy in the boardrooms of Shell and Unilever. Rio Tinto Zinc moved in to exploit the rich minerals and oil. The functionaries in the Export Credit Guarantee Department and the Bank of England, as ever anticipating the needs of big business started to have up to the regime of Brigadier General (now President) Suharto.

FRANKO's out—but Danny Ryan is deported

FRANKO is free. After 40 days in Penitentiary prison, he was let out two days before a mass demonstration was planned by London trade unionists to demand his release.

Franco had been locked up without charge or explanation under the infamous clause in the Tory Immigration Act, under which anyone whose presence is or is said to be conducive to the public good can be deported.

FRANKO was an active trade unionist, especially among immigrant workers, who was not at all conducive to the good of hoteliers, restaurateurs and shopkeepers.

Franko, told Socialist Worker: 'I am glad to be out—though I've lost my job as a salesman at Selfridges and my union, USDAW, won't lift a finger to help me get it back.'

The only reason I'm out is because trade unionists and Labour Party rank and file members organised a campaign for me.

Eventually, some MPs also asked questions about me, and the government was embarrassed. That's the answer to people who say 'picketing will do no good!' Sometimes it does.

But the campaign must go on.

'Unless we get this Immigration Act off the statute book, immigrant workers will face the same repression and intimidation which I felt.'

Another, even more savage law, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, took its toll again last week.

Danny Ryan, who has been living with his family in Britain for 22 years and is an organiser for the TGWU, was deported under it.

SECRET

On leaving Britain, he said: 'No charge to the Home Office, no evidence to refute, allegations made by secret agents, no secret tribunal at which the accused is never present.'

The new laws on terrorism are being used against the Irish community with the encouragement of the Home Office. The use of the Labour movement to further the government's policy is a stain on the nation's economic security.'
It may be bad for you-but it's alright for some

THE PRICE of petrol is forcing thousands of workers to take their cars off the road. The result is hardship for workers who can't get to work, for families who find travel almost impossible, and for old people in rural areas.

At 17p a gallon, petrol is now out of the reach of workers who have got used to car travel. But how many workers realise that, despite the brute force of the Labour Government, almost half the people driving cars do not have to pay a penny of the recent budget increase on petrol? That is because they are still paying the old price of about 50p a gallon.

Who are these lucky people? First, anyone who drives a company car. Petrol used by companies is exempt from the latest price increase. About 40 per cent of all cars registered are bought by companies for extraneous use by their executives.

The Greater London Council recently announced that more than half the private cars driving about London are company refunded. They tell us that the chief cause of traffic congestion, and the biggest waster of petrol. Yet petrol for those is 20p a gallon cheaper than for others.

Second, anyone who drives a commercial vehicle. Third, 1,200,000 the employed who pay more than £3,000 a year.

Why is it that the people who can most afford the increase have to pay so little? Simple. Almost all the increase is on Value Added Tax. If you're registered for VAT, you pay in increased VAT on petrol back from the Customs and Excise department.

That means all companies and individuals with a turnover or income of over £100 a year have to pay 17p a gallon instead of the old 50p. This is the use of two or even three car families. Petrol is cheap for the lot of them.

Of course, if the government really wanted to save petrol they would first penalise the company cars and the large vehicles. After all, they sold the GLC, the chief cause of traffic congestion, and the biggest waster of petrol. Yet petrol for them is 20p a gallon cheaper than for others.

It's all very easy to say, the bosses putting up prices in the shops, Healey is putting up prices in the garages.

THE MOTTO of Mr. Cubie, the cartoon creation of the multi-millionaire, is: "If at first you don't succeed, lie, lie, lie again." He's secretary of the biggest sugar company, is derived from the by-line of Robert the Bruce: "If at first you don't persuade, lie, lie, lie again."

Last week we had another spate of lies to celebrate the announcement of Mr. Cubie. He said VAT was going to make sugar cheaper by 30c a lb, i.e. to an unbelievable £0.48 million in 1974.

The biggest lie of all is the suggestion that, despite Tate and Lyle did very well out of their subsidiary operations, like shipping, they did not make a profit out of the sugar price.

Give us the true figures of Brunei, the fact that profits on UK sugar refining are down by 36 per cent. Why are these profits down? OH, answers Mr. Cubie, as a result of the sugar shortage. It's true Tate and Lyle ran down its refining in Britain last year-to create the shortage which has resulted in one of the most amazing price rises in modern times.

The price of sugar has doubled from last summer—an up from 15p a two pound bag to 30p today. As soon as it was full price, per cent lower than was available on the open market.

Now Tate and Lyle is selling us that same sugar at 30p a lb. According to the Sunday Times Business News last Sunday.

These EEC deals means that its trading profits on sugar have dramatically, say the board, having £5 million earned in the whole of 1974.

These fantastic profits were made out of Tate and Lyle refining a single bag of sugar either here or in the West Indies.

They are money for nothing for the fat shareholders of Tate and Lyle—from speculation on our illiberalism in agreeing to pay prices for sugar which have nothing to do with the cost of it, nor of the wages paid to sugar workers.

This is one of the biggest swindles of modern times. It shows clearly why Tate and Lyle, which has always been an international concern, in the poor countries of the Commonwealth, was such an enthusiastic supporter of the Nye man's club—the Commonwealth Market.

It also explains why Sir John Lyle–Sir Mister Cubie himself—in the Big Boss of that other famous lie machine, Ainsley of Industry.

Clutterbuck

At present, what stops the employing class from using the real military power at its disposal against workers is not principle, but a tactical judgement that there are other, more effective means of keeping workers in check. A friend of Kitchener's, Major Garbett, Army Councillor, once said that while the working class retains its present industrial power, to use military force against it would be counter-productive.

But the army, police and the state machine in general remain a powerful weapon in the hands of the employers for use at some future occasion, as the crisis weaker workers resist the demands of the bosses. This is an even bigger weight than the police chiefs. Then the experience of Bloody Sunday could well be the experience of workers in Britain as well as in Ireland.

There is only one way to prevent that, and that is to build a movement within the working class that has at its conscious aim the destruction of the state machine, and once and for all the power of the police. If the police chiefs launch such a movement, that does not restrict itself to economic questions, but confronts directly this most important political question, can we fully learn the lessons of the massacre three years ago in Derry.
PORTUGAL is facing its third major political crisis since the dictatorship of Caetano was overthrown last April.

An attempt by former Caetano supporters to re-establish the regime of a "democratic centre" party was prevented at Oporto last weekend by a mobilisation of workers and students led by the revolutionary left. And rank and file army soldiers decided not to allow cavalry to break up the left-wing demonstration.

This followed close on an attempt by two of the parties in the government, the Socialist Party and the "Popular Democratic Party", to divide and weaken the trade-union movement.

Behind all these manoeuvres lies an attempt by Portuguese businessmen to reassert its political hold on the country.

After the overthrow of Caetano, the ruling class in Portugal was forced to make concessions to the spontaneous development of the mass struggle. It had to agree to basic living standards, to cut the working week, and to ask many manifesto promises to be reasserted by patronage and fear.

It accepted Socialist and Communist Party support into the government so as to prevent the Socialists from putting the right out of hand. In return the "left-wing" parties were offered a place in the government - to return to work, denounced unofficial strikers as "fake" and accepted a labour law (not to be confused with a more recent "social law") much worse than the Tories' Industrial Relations Act here in Britain.

Meanwhile big business continued to dominate industry, the courts, the police and the right section of the army. This was shown recently when the government arrested a number of prominent businessmen for economic sabotage. They were released by a judge who condemned their arrest as "illegal".

Protest

But an attempt by big business to regain complete control over the government in the summer and autumn was defeated. To a large extent this was because of the scale of popular protest, but also important was the fear of many sections of the army - including the promingly placed officers - that a right-wing government would continue to manage the immensely unpopular colonial war in Africa. Now the wars in Africa are more or less over and big business feels that it can finally make its move.

Botherly before Christmas right-wingers paid a heavy price for their assault on the Socialist Party, with a third of the membership being expelled from the left. Since then the Socialists have been given a donation of nearly £250,000 by the Dutch Social Democratic Party. In the past the original source of much of this money has been the CTA.

The Socialists and the Popular Democrats have been hoping to weaken the government by pressing an all-right-wing split-off, as in France and Italy during the cold war.

The Communist Party is now strengthen it is going to kick out of the government and lose control over the unions. So it has been attempted to weaken the manoeuvres.

But at the same time it is still refusing to mobilise the rank and file of the workers' movement for an all-out struggle. The Party refused to take part in the demonstrations in Oporto last weeks.

Instead it has placed most of its hopes in a continuing alliance with a section of officers in the armed forces. That is why the trade union law it supported provides for unity at the top of the unions, but opposes attempts to form united rank and file organisation between workers in different factories in any town. That is why the row over the union law has been used to campaign against the labour law.

Even if the Communist Party were successful in the direction it would result not be a socialist regime run by the workers. It is more likely to be a military government like that in Peru, which has taken control not just of the benefit of the local middle class while breaking strikes and shooting trade unionists. Communist Party men might get ministerial posts, but workers would continue to suffer.

Compromises

However, there is little chance of the Communist Party being successful. Its army officers allied themselves with officers who support the Socialist Party, the Popular Democrats or any other left-wing opposition. That is why the same reactionaries hold power in the police and many sections of the armed forces as under Caetano.

Clear from last weekend's events, that whole sections of the middle and upper classes have sympathised with the fight against the trade unionists. The outcome of Portugal depends on whether these sections of the middle class are going to support the new government or not.

There are signs that many Portuguese want to see the need for genuinely revolutionary trade union and the organisation of workers and candidates have been successful in a number of trade union elections.

For a long time, the basques of the compromising politics of the Communist Party in the trade unions was the bank workers' union. Yet a couple of weeks ago presidential candidates defeated Communist Party nominees for election for that union in Oporto, which is Portugal's second largest city.

Military discontent grows

THE French army is upholding military chiefs in Western Europe. Its rank and file has been embittered against the conditions under which they have to live.

After a 100-strong demonstration, a French provincial town last summer, a military court tried to placate protests by giving only lenient sentences. But that did not prevent further demonstrations in the German city of Karlsruhe a fortnight ago.

A secret report to Defence Minister Jacques Soulalet talks of dangerous discontent among conscripts, while the morale of regulars is at all-time low. Behind the discontent lies the way army conscripts are treated. They get less than £7 a month and are subject to harsh military discipline.

The conscript system is defended by all the parliamentary parties, from the Gaullists to the Socialists, from the centre to the extreme right. But in fact the conscripts are given the worst of the menial jobs, most of the highly expensive weapons and all the hands of elite groups of regulars.

French soldiers have seen treason and put off the Dutch conscripts to nine times their own.

The discontent is part of a general movement among soldiers throughout Europe. Swedish and Danish soldiers have been striking over rules about hair length. American service men staged a strike before Christmas in Berlin over racialism. A recent presence of rank and file service men in Britain.

The speech of the election of officers, and the armed forces are out of foreign bases. The British army is not ready to accept that 800 soldiers are absent without leave. Such developments are going to be of increasing importance in the period ahead, not just for soldiers but for all workers. For as the crisis deepens, our rulers will be increasing thought to using their armies against strikers and demonstrators. The situation within the armed forces will then be of the utmost importance in every country.
ATTACKING aircraft workers' complaining about loss of jobs, George Brown, the Labour Cabinet Minister, was reported in The Times, 8 February 1965, as saying that 'without bitterness the mines labour force has been cut from 750,000 to 480,000 with increases in efficiency and prosperity. Workers in other industries can learn from this.

The same paper on the same day quoted Education Secretary Anthony Crosland, 'I shall not be content until all our young are getting full time education or its equivalent up to the age of 17.'

On 9 February the US Air Force launched its first raids on North Vietnam. The Daily Telegraph reported that 'Reaction at the Foreign Office was vigorous and foreboding and the pronouncements of Mr Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary.'

Stewart told the House of Commons that 'I do not think it can be held that recent action by US forces has increased the danger in this part of the world.' He was congratulated by 50 Tory Mps.

Sir John Empresarios

IT is some time since Sir John Donaldson moved on from impartial labour relations to industrial relations. But, you will be pleased to hear, this is not an obituary. It is the maintenance of his deep and rewarding association with the docks and shipping industry.

Two weeks ago in the High Court the good Sir John presided over the case of London docker Alfred Satchell, making a claim for 25% of the dockers' union, Scruton's Matlby, a company that Sir John Satchell once worked for. Mr Satchell was employed for 15 years while employed by the firm. As it is his right, he was given the option to obtain some compensation for his wounds. Mr Satchell and his workmates had been working down the hold of a ship, stowing away sets of cargo designed to be held by cranes. In a bid to stow the cargo in the middle of the hold, his foot was pushed off one load out of plumb and into the corner before setting it down. But before they could do this, the load got out of control and the men scattered. In his bid to get out of harm's way Mr Satchell fell and badly injured his foot.

His case for compensation was worth some £2,000. That is, until Sir John Donaldson pronounced.

Sir John, in a judgement which must have caused intense delight in the boardroom of Scruton's Matlby, found that no negligence had been established and that Mr Satchell should, therefore not get compensation. Mr Satchell is to appeal.

This is not the first time Sir John's decisions have brought joy to the shipping and docking employers. After all in 1972 Sir John obligingly clapped in full five of the dockers who had the nerve to do the dishonest intrigues of the Vesley Union into the company, who were conspiring to steal their jobs.

In spite of the shipping and docking unions' ground in the ruthless British Shipping Federation had good reason to expect such consistent behaviour from Sir John Donaldson. They knew him well, because as Fifth Column he can now reveal, he used his work for them.

As a barrister in the commercial courts in the 1950s John Donaldson's most regular and profitable cases came from the Shipping Federation. This was a singularly fortunate coincidence when Midland Cold Storage, owned by the Vesley family, were a major force in the Shipping Federation. Made their application to have Sir John deal with their case.

In the light of this information it is possible for Fifth Column to reveal another closely guarded union about the law. When you're in the jack pot deal with the law 'imperial.' Only you punctuate it differently and say: 'impartial.'

United Enoch stands

THE ANTI-COMMUNISM market campaign bandwagon has hit the road. The Doncaster General has been received with the Get Britain Out Referendum Campaign from the transport union, the technicians' union ATMS, the printers' union NATUSPA, the railwaymen's ASLEF and sections of the AUEW. Jack Jones is chairman, Clive Jenkins is vice chairman.

The money will be used to send various speakers round the country to publicise the anti-market campaign. Outstanding speakers for trade union rights like Enoch Powell, and Tory MPs Neil Marten and Richard Body.

So what kind of campaign are trade unionists going to get for the money being spent on their behalf?

They are getting a narrow, nationalistic, 'jobs and homes' workers are altogether because they're British campaign. That Jones and Jenkins can sponsor Tories in their battle is a comment on the depths of their commitment to socialism.

Why isn't the money being used to fight a real battle? A working class battle? Why aren't trade unionists from other Common Market countries brought over to speak on the realities of the European Economic Community? Why isn't the campaign fought to show that the EEC is no great international movement but a squalid alliance of bureaucrats and bureaucrats?

Why is Enoch Powell preferable to a French, German, British or Italian worker?

Brendan Salisbury

Socialist Worker crossword No. 11

The anti-market campaign bandwagon has hit the road. The Doncaster General has been received with the Get Britain Out Referendum Campaign.
LAST WEEK Mr Justice Maganry refused to issue a court injunction restraining the Newspaper Publishers Association from sacking 700 printers' union members of the National Graphical Association.

This was in response to an application from six NGA members, whose union is fighting to maintain craft differentials in the print industry. The employers' case was heard on three occasions. Their appeal against his ruling was also turned down.

The obvious danger in this situation is the use of precedent. The Daily Express, Standard, Evening News and The Times had said they regarded all their NGA employees as having "terminated their employment" because of industrial action taken by the union. The judges simply followed on the side of the employers. This now effectively means that employers can sack all their union members and have the power of the courts to uphold that action.

What makes this case particularly scandalous is the attitude of the union itself. It is clear that Fleet Street bosses are preparing to introduce massive rationalisation in the next two years, and the employers are intent on underpaying the journalists to cut back on the manpower. The NGA, the American Typographical Association has recently fought an eight-month lock-out over the introduction of typesetting computers which do all the work for a 30-page daily paper and replace 20-30 workers.

The bosses are preparing for a "touch or die or jobs" to wean the unions, and the unions instead of firing this threats together, are being led by the NGA into a dispute over craft differentials.

Traditionally the unions involved have jointly submitted a claim which "reserved" the NGA policy of 12½% over 2½% differential between what is termed craft and non-craft workers.

When the NGA registered under the Industrial Disputes Act it was justifiably given, the cold shoulder by the other print unions, NATSPOA and SOGAT no longer recognised the difference.

Nor were they prepared to enter into joint negotiations with the NGA.

The result was that in the last negotiations the NGA lodged a separate claim for 6½ per cent, the NGA claim for 8 per cent and a revision in the working week, which settled at 5½ per cent.

The NGA immediately dropped its claim and asked for 40p more than that others in order to protect the differentials. The bosses refused to give anything more than the difference. The NGA men were forced to go to the other unions the same amount.

Where there was a possibility of mobilising support for the original claim even from members of the other unions, there was an obvious desire of all the other unions to get locked out for anything more than 5½ per cent.

This split in the unions can only add the bosses.

The rationalisation of the industry will not only mean the loss of the bosses want will be easier to push through.

It is essential, whatever the criticism of the NGA claim that other unions accept the bosses. The future for printers in Fleet Street will depend on their ability to move towards solidarity in the coming years of rationalisation. It will be necessary in the process to fight for the retention of craft and division of craft work of many of the members. This is the struggle socialists must take up urgently.

WHAT WE THINK

CRAFT trade unionism and craft consciousness is a poisonous and weakening influence on the working-class movement. It divides workers and in the end benefits only the employers.

The skilled craftsmen who organised themselves into guilds hundreds of years ago—engravers, printers, jewellers, for example—were like small businessmen. They employed their own labourers and were an apprentices. The traditional argument used in favour of craft was that exclusiveness maintained a better standard of workmanship and acted as a protection against craft jobs being taken up by the unskilled.

In the last century exclusive crafts which had long apprenticeship and were difficult to enter led to a "labor aristocracy". They were probably closer to the employers than the rest of the growing working class. Their labour could be made scarce by restricting entry to the craft, just as in the legal and medical professions.

As industry grew, the railways, shipbuilding and heavy engineering took pride of place and developed the modern "craft" concept.

While much craftsmanship has been whittled away by rationalisation and the spread of unskilled industries, it still rules in some.

In the National Graphical Association apprenticeships are strictly limited. At the moment it runs one to every eight qualified men and there are strict demarcation lines with the so-called "unskilled" workers of NATSPOA and SOGAT, the two other print unions. There is no likelihood of a "machine assistant", for example, moving up to the higher grades.

Craftism in the building industry has gradually been cut away by gerry-building and pre-fabrication. The ornate plastering and wood-carving that once decorated the houses of the rich and led to craft consciousness among plasterers and joiners now comes ready-made.

But many of the old craft attitudes cling on. On building sites you see bricklayers refusing to support victimised labourers, plumbers crossing joiners' picket lines. In shipbuilding boilermakers frequently dig themselves from the plant in an industrial fiction.

Nothing serves the bosses better than this disunity. The worst elements of craftsmanship showed in the recent strike at Hoovers, West London, when 150 toolroom workers were laid-off. When the production workers picked a fight with the lay-offs, the toolroom workers first refused to join it, then set up their own picket and told the production workers their support was not needed.

Trade union organisation among the unskilled and women workers had been strengthened, but the toolroom workers—members of the AUEW—didn't want to know. They didn't see that Hoover's £21 million profits were the main enemy.

On Fleet Street there have been similar goings-on recently with the NGA and their beloved pay differentials.

Craftsmen can spell the death sentence for solidarity action. As the economic crisis deepens it will rear its ugly head in the mistaken belief that this is the way to protect the jobs. It isn't. If a car plant is closed, it matters not how skilled the workforce is, and skilled men cannot operate the plant without the production workers. Only unity between skilled and unskilled, men and women, can fight increasing sackings and closures. Migrants must fight against craftism. At the same time, though there should be no scrapping, this only further increases the divisions between workers. If we do not fight together, we cannot win.

THE MINORITY RIGHTS GROUP'S 1974 REPORTS

- Nambish of South West Africa, 1974
- Selective genocide in Burundi, 1974
- Bulgaria's India, 1974
- Race and law in Britain and the USA, 1975

The NUG's 1974 report includes a detailed analysis of the role of the UN in the promotion of minority rights and the development of a new international law to protect the human rights of minorities.

THE UNION WHICH ORGANISED NUG

The trade union that organised the Minority Rights Group is the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), which is affiliated to the Trades Union Congress (TUC). The PCS represents around 150,000 members across a wide range of industries, including healthcare, transport, and public services. The union's work includes advocacy for minority rights, as well as campaigns for better working conditions and pay for its members.

THE CRAFT PREFERENCE

For example, moving up to the higher grades.

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Trade union organisation among the unskilled and women workers had been strengthened, but the toolroom workers—members of the AUEW—didn't want to know. They didn't see that Hoover's £21 million profits were the main enemy.

On Fleet Street there have been similar goings-on recently with the NGA and their beloved pay differentials.

Craftsmen can spell the death sentence for solidarity action. As the economic crisis deepens it will rear its ugly head in the mistaken belief that this is the way to protect the jobs. It isn't. If a car plant is closed, it matters not how skilled the workforce is, and skilled men cannot operate the plant without the production workers. Only unity between skilled and unskilled, men and women, can fight increasing sackings and closures. Migrants must fight against craftism. At the same time, though there should be no scrapping, this only further increases the divisions between workers. If we do not fight together, we cannot win.

THE TRADE UNION BARGAIN

The Trade Union Bill was introduced by Labour's Employment Secretary Michael Foot to restore the "right of workers to form closed shops" which was taken away by the Tory Trade Union Representation Act. The Tories blocked a previous attempt to do this on the last Labour government.

The government's latest move will delight newspaper editors, who have been waging a considerable campaign to convince parliament that the "suffering of society" will be put at risk if they are forced to accept unionisation by the trade of the union represents the vast majority of journalists.

Strength

They ignore, of course, the fact that press 'freedom' is controlled by a minority, the newspaper-pro prietors who rigidly control the editorial lines of their papers.

Legislating to legalise a system for individual editors or to put press 'freedom' on a par with every other sector's guarantees in the name of press freedom?

Could Morgan assure him that 'neither the union nor its branches or chapels (workplace branches) will be able to call a strike for individual editors or to put press 'freedom' on a par with every other sector's guarantees in the name of press freedom?'

Would he be sure that the 'threat of non-union copy during the News paper Society (local newspapers) dispute was a temporary measure and will not be repeated except in the context of industrial disputes?'

Morgan told him that he thought the NUG executive council would oblige. And it did—by 14 votes to 2.
LAY-OFFS

WORKERS in every sort of industry, in every sort of job, are facing lay-offs. This week Chrysler has laid off the whole of its Linwood plant in Scotland for seven days, at the Ryton plant in Coventry there is a two-day week, and more than 1000 men are laid off at the nearby Stoke plant.

Every day the press and television tell us that this is inevitable. The crisis means that some of us have no alternative but to sit at home for half or even all the week until 'the tide turns', they say. Everything we read and hear pushes this idea that something quite beyond our control has led to our being laid off.

Money problems make it worse. If you are lucky enough to get lay-off pay it is only 60 or 70 per cent of what you normally get. And that means some bill, the rent or mortgage, is not paid. Or you might be on the dole three days a week or on top of a redundancy list.

All these pressures add to the gloom inside the factory. Management say that it has nothing to do with them. But workers know that the question is not whether they accept what has been imposed and all the problems it means or to organise back.

There is only one real answer. We have learnt to our cost in Chrysler what it means to give way to every management demand. Every concession means us because of the crisis is a weapon in their hands in the next round of the struggle, whether it is redundancy or discarding a union.

In our plant, Chrysler, the big lay off threat is forcing us to reconsider our tactics and strategy towards management and shop stewards leadership is under threat to reverse the failures of 18 months and defeat Chrysler's plans.

What happened at Chrysler

THE rot started with the electricians' dispute in October 1973.

The executives of the Transport and the Engineering Workers unions instructed us to cross the picket lines of the Electricals' Union. The company threatened redundancies. The left-wing convenor in the plant used the double pressure from the company and the union to persuade the stewards to cross the picket line and in spite of the opposition of the shop stewards coalition.

Many of us held out for several days, but the company threatened to sack anyone who failed to return. They would have sacked every militant in Stoke and there was little guarantee of support.

Anyone who crossed a picket line can't begin to imagine what effect it had on the shop stewards activities.

Workers began to leave the factory. For the first time in the summer of labour was high. The traditions of labour and organisation were stretched to their utmost. Truck drivers, the toolroom and other sections were threatened with the same treatment as the electricians. The militiarmen were on strike for three weeks while the plant ran with sacrificial labour.

All the time the plant leadership argued at shop stewards committee after committee that jobs had to be protected. We accepted unheard-of demands. We shifted the发生在 out of work. John Worth, the ex-shop steward, was sacked after management worked to isolate him for months.

Cars

Rumours of massive lay-offs and redundancies were continuously used to stop any dispute.

Now the layoffs have happened anyway. Don Lander, managing director of Chrysler UK, explained that exports were worse in Chrysler than any other British manufacturer because Chrysler has 41,000 cars in stock. The reason for this is 'the relatively high level of production during the Tory three-day week' and that there haven't been many major disputes since.

That's the end of the bosses' mouth. There haven't been enough disputes, and we've been working ourselves into a job.

Lump sums

The 18 months of co-operation have left us wide open. But the effect of the past few weeks is proving what all our organisation couldn't. That every time you surrender on some small question you give the bosses the chance to use it for 'job protection' or 'good relations with management' or to 'help keep the plant profitable' then you are just that little bit weaker next time. The plant allowed small infringements to go unchallenged, major principles of trade union organisation to be broken.

Now we have to rebuild. Chrysler are denying that they will close any of their British plants. It would be criminal of us to believe them. Like every manufacturer they are desperate to cut back everywhere.

They are certainly using the present situation to weaken us, but we must use it to rebuild so that we can resist their plans with the strength of the shop floor. Whether they try closure, redundancies or just an attack on wages and conditions.

A clear policy is emerging from the bankruptcy of the past 18 months, the sort of policy militants and socialists have always argued for on the shop stewards committee.

With no men laid off, any sectional walk-out could lead to a strike being introduced, as well as raising all the problems of the lay-off section. With the shop stewards determined and prepared to fight for a guaranteed minimum wage every week, so that we don't have to pay for the bosses' economic problems.

LAY-OFF PAY: What to do

LAY-OFF PAY was the shop floor's answer to frequent short-term work and the general insecurity of working in a car plant. The idea was not to get paid for being laid off, but rather to make it so expensive for management that they would hesitate to lay us off at all.

In fact the agreements have been used, particularly in Chrysler, as a weapon by management to destroy and split trade union organisation.

All the agreements have written clauses which list the conditions under which management are not obliged to pay out the lay-off money. The most common is that if there is an overtime ban, a work-to-rule or a stoppage anywhere at all in the factory, even if it involves three men, then in the event of lay-offs, however caused, there is no lay-off pay.

Because the company always know when layoffs are coming, or when they want them, it is a simple matter to provoke some dispute in a small part of the factory and then refuse to pay anyone lay-off pay.

If the section concerned is not prepared to lose the lay-off pay for the whole factory, or if the plant convenors, all too often, put pressure on the section to stay at work, then some small infringement of conditions, which management never expected to win, is given away, all because of the lay-off agreement.

Provoked

At the moment any section, however provoked by the management, has to accept whatever management tries on. Otherwise they will lose the lay-off pay for thousands of their fellow workers. The pressure to accept anything, however outrageous, is enormous.

There is only one answer to this. The penalty clauses in the lay-off agreement must be wiped out.

But even more than this is at risk. In the 'shitty work dispute' at Ryton, when the whole factory came out, the rest of the Chrysler combine took no action because they preferred to wait for the inevitable lay-offs and the money that would come with them.

To break this attitude we need to work for agreements which ensure that the remainder of the amount of money put aside for lay-off payments during a year is paid out as lump sums at the end of the year. Then no one would lose their lay-off pay by coming out in support of other groups and every infringement of conditions tried on by management could be resisted.
NO to the Common Market

THE government's decision to hold the Common Market referendum in June has pushed the issue back into the centre of politics.

But the debate is remarkably confused. On the one hand, we have the extreme right wing of the Labour Party pretending it is 'Internationalist', talking of 'unity with European socialists'.

On the other, the left trade union leaders opposed to the Common Market dole out workers' money to organisations which arrange meetings for Enoch Powell.

It is vital for socialists to cut through this confusion and understand what the Common Market is really about.

What is the Common Market?

It is precisely what its title says it is—a 'market', a business arrangement between the different capitalist states of Western Europe.

After the war, the key sections of big business in each country found they could no longer operate effectively within national borders. The ruling class in countries such as France and West Germany each with populations of about 50 million, knew they could no longer overcome the disruption caused by the war unless they could approach the scale of industrial operations of the US with its 200 million people.

The Common Market was, from the first, an attempt by European capitalism to strengthen itself. In the early years, its efforts were very much directed against Russia and Eastern Europe. More recently, attention has also been directed towards ways in which European big business can stand up to American competition.

That is why ardent supporters of the Common Market have been the giant firms such asICI, which already operate on an international scale. They see the boundaries between the different European states as barriers to their operations.

Their interests find a reflection in the views of the most extreme 'Europeans'. These go so far as to envisage a European state, with its own government, its own armed forces, its own nuclear weapons which would be able to stand up for the interests of the whole of European big business.

Despite the claim of the pro-marketers to be 'internationalist', they stand as much for the existence of national division as do the older-style nationalists.

by Chris Harman

The nation they dream of is not the 'British nation', but a big business continues to call upon workers to accept cuts in their living standards so it can compete with German big business, French big business etc.

At best, the EEC provides a framework within which the competition between the industrialists of the member countries is regulated. It does not end that competition, but it does lead to immense suffering to the working class.

The 'International co-operation' within the 'European Community' is as much a 'poker game' as in this case the stakes involve the livelihoods of millions of workers.

Socialists would be all in favour of a 'united Europe' if it was based upon the principles of socialism, and not on the scale of European big business.

But the Common Market is the opposite of this. It is an attempt by European big business to strengthen itself.

The consequences of the Common Market for the working class are clear. The system means unemployment and wage freezes in every country. There can be nothing progressive in such a system. If it is successful, it would merely mean the addition of one further superpower, willing to threaten mass movements of workers with economic destruction.

The Common Market is friendly to all countries, in every country in Europe socialists must be opposed to its attempts to strengthen the Common Market.

And socialists in Britain must vote 'No' in the referendum.

However, in doing this, we must not fall into the trap of believing that an independent capitalist state is any solution. The Common Market is preferable to membership of the EEC.

The fact that big businessmen throughout Europe are forced to try and show that their system can no longer operate has been leading towards national states.

The production now takes place on too large a scale to be constrained by narrow national boundaries.

We oppose the Common Market, and the Common Market, and the Common Market.

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THE WORKER, paper of the Socialist Workers Movement of Ireland (the fraternal organisation of IS1) should be sold in all 15 branches. Comrades with Irish contacts should order more.

Those intending to return to Ireland will find the paper indispensable in understanding and involving themselves in the revolutionary way forward for the working class in Ireland.

Friday January/February issue, out now, includes articles on the Clarefie, the split from the Official IRA (the IRSF), factory sit-ins, the Irish motor industry, the EEC, redundancies and the Church.

Up a copy (paid 1p for p&pi. Branches should bulk order from 8 Cottons Gardens, London E1. B9. Cheques or POs should be made out to SWM. Individual subscriptions, 80p for one year, from The Worker, Top Floor, 95 Capel Street, Dublin.

"FABULOUS" is a word that most people use, and it is a word that is widely misused. We use it to describe a 'fab' night, especially when no one wanted the last round which would have been victorious.

Fab this, that and the other, everywhere is fabulous. Even a week in a caravan in Cleevehore in a caravan is fabulous.

There is a relationship between the word "fabulous' and the word 'moderate'. Fabulous really means 'things that are false'. Which is exactly the definition of the mods in the National Union of Mineworkers.

This time last year, these hypocritical creatures were bell- laughing, they were pleading to heaven and hell-fire for us to call off our overtime. Yes, they were really worried, these mods, at the damage we were doing to the nation by working a five-day week.

They were appalled also at the amount we were claiming at that time. So think what sany the poor things must have been in when we slapped a £30 demand in.

It stunned the mods—stopped them dead in their tracks. It was ridiculous, ordinary miners wanting a £30 a week rise, wasn't it? After all, they only suffer the hazards in the industry—broken bones, the pneumoconiosis.

Yes, it was an outrageous claim. You miners ought to be ashamed. And just to show how moderate they were, our leaders they performed the act of 'invitation' so they could raise their arms and legs in favour of a £30 a week rise for themselves.

Boasts

They got the rise—plus no broken bones, no pneumoconiosis. And they changed our claim from £30 to 'substantial', whatever that means.

Another well-known 'mod' springs to mind, Gentleman Jack Peel, late of the Dyers and Bleachers Union. The only thing he ever bleached was his own members' wages.

A real nice lad is Jack, oozing good-will and moderation out of every pore. One thing that did not oozle was money into his members' wage packets.

They were glad about the lowest-paid workers in the country. Jack Peel moderately kept them that way, and when his chance of being a European Commission委员 had hardly turned down the £10,000 a year which went into the job.

There's unity—and unity. The kind we don't want is above, with Jack Jones dictating next to Enock Powdell, as part of the anti-Common Market campaign. The unity we need? It's shown below by these Italian workers demonstrating.

And so it goes on, mods all through the structure of the union; all through Parliament. I wonder if it ever crossed their minds that our wage demands are not made so we can sit and gloze over a heap of notes. We want to go on living. So we need the money.

Fined

The mods are terrified at the thought of the Reds wrecking everything they have fought for all these years. But a glance backward shows us the kind of struggles they have been involved in.

What is vividly clear are the hoes of wreckage piled up on the rocks of moderation. All the back-stabbing, all the subordination to the state machine, all the poverty, all the disease. Here's another argument of our friends the mods. Hold back, they shout to the stronger unions. Give the low-pay a chance.

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We'll we the miners did just that in 1972. And so it goes on, mods all through the structure of the union; all through Parliament.

We slept peacefully in our RDP-wide era, and for the life of me I can't remember being disturbed by fleets of Rolls Royces, Anton Martine, driven by nurses, agricultural and hospital ancillary workers.

They didn't benefit one iota from our strike. They only started fighting when we showed them how.

And the same old twit, the same old money bags is behind the wheels of the Rolls, just as they always were.

We are often told that we are living beyond our means and can afford the 'luxuries' such as houses, hospitals, hold on, way, surely we spend too much on arms, and what about another thousand million spent on Concorde (otherwise known as the supersonic henhouse)?

Concorde must look really wonderful to the people living in diabolical housing conditions with their own private view through a hole in the roof. And

I am sure the miners are extremely grateful for the immense sums spent on arms to protect their right to die in their beds from the cold.

We put Labour in to say the Mods: 'It's our Government'. It's not. It's for 'all the people'. Isn't Harold always telling us this? In this 'all back' we find everyone from worn-out workers to multi-millionaires.

All the signs point to the fact that however many pledges Labour makes they are bound to kowtow to the most crushing power.

The Governor of the Bank of England blew this in Wilson's name. The Labour Government is a bundle of parliamentary power—forget your hospitals, better education, more houses, cut, cut, cut, put up prices of health charges, prices of school dinners, knock off school milk etc, etc, that when we change government we don't change the speculators, the inventors, and the rest of the owners of vast fortunes.

Obstructed

A man who we consider an arch enemy at least tells us why things are as rotten as they are and what we can do about it.


The capitalist system has led to widespread disparities in living standards and to the concentration of a large amount of wealth in a fairly limited number of hands.

"We must recognise that this has only persisted because the majority have not been prepared to use their potential economic and political power against the minority.

At one time the English workers were asked to 'fill the holes up with their dead'. The Social Contract is asking us to spray up the system with our working-class back-bottom.

It's time we bred Muldrin's rare spell of truth and kicked out the rotten mesh collapse.
The chasing of witches

WE IN PORTUGAL are asking for your help! To celebrate International Women's Day we tried to demonstrate on 13 January. We intended to turn all the objects which women have been oppressed like feminine toys (dolls, pots and iron) and masculine toys (guns, 'action hero', etc) in a propaganda magazine, all sorts of books where women are treated as inferior beings. There were 13 of us. We were dressed as a bride, a typical sexual object, a housewife, and a witch covered with a sheet with a naked body drawn on it with prices on it just like a cow. We also had 10 children with us.

A crowd jumped on us and we were surrounded by thousands of men. They separated us and after much struggle destroyed our posters. We had to run onwards. Women only in bed', 'Go home and do your cooking', 'Burn them!' This lasted more than two hours, on our way home we saw we were trying to destroy the car which the children were going to be taken away in. They tried to turn it upside down. Everything was stolen. We had to find the car with the children in the car. There were about 5000-6000 people who attacked us.

The only thing we could see was to run. Our struggle was for untractable chasing of witches in the Middle Ages.

The conditions of working women is worse than before due to the unemployment. None of the work contracts giving equal pay to women have been concluded. Letters to newspapers call for the firing of women to give places to the 'chiefs of the family'.

The only way to do something is to blend the struggle with the social movement. Please publicise this and demonstrate for VERERA FALCADA, Lisbon, Portugal.

Untouchables fight back

CONGRATULATIONS to the International Socialists for the recently published Chinghais pamphlet 'Black Workers in Britain' and for contributing to both the Urdu and Punjabi editions of the paper.

But we feel thelene nigra workers sub-continent and Britain has been neglected. All over India, but especially in Bihar, Marathas, Bengalis, Bengali untouchables are beingعةت, involved in the trade unions by Hindu bosses.

In the Amritsar district of Punjab untouchable peasants working for a big landlord asked for an increase from three to four rupees a day. They attacked the landlord's bungalows by bullets. A pregnant woman, two children and an old man were killed.

An old man, a veteran of the Indian struggle for independence was leading the struggle in the area to form trade union. That's why we had a demonstration last Sunday in London. The Indian government is taking no action and continues.

The demonstration was to show untouchables are no longer passive and are ready and willing to fight. For: RAM SUMAN, BILL BEEN, MATHIE SALISBURY, Letchworth.

Women

I READ with interest Chris Harman's book 'When the World Turned East' East Europe, Perhaps not surprisingly, I didn't find the working class opposition in the Soviet Union.

Such information is patchy and notoriously difficult to obtain, since Soviet workers are completely isolated from any open and direct contact with socialists. They are living in neighboring state-monopolistic countries in more than the area of the former Soviet Union.

Soviet workers living in the hundreds of small towns and rural communities in the USSR are not seen, except as a piece of information in a propaganda leaflet or a secret letter from a worker in another area away from their home. And the workers do not have the chance to know in their own press: for this, like the control of production, is the captive state which controls the mass media.

This makes it difficult to realise the extent of the class struggle. However, I disclose some valuable information which I learnt from a Russian comrade following my recent visit to the country.

He said that while, as far as he knew workers don't strike since these are illegal and strictly repressed, this is manifested in other ways. Like non-cooperation with the management, sabotage or deliberately slowing down production.

Leonard Binswanger, former boss of USSR. Some of the employees are less chary ...

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Has IPD been 'sold out'? 

I, LIKE Andy Worthington (26 January) watched the Money Programme on BBC2 (with Fisher Bandt) TVP workers co-operative which the government has graciously allowed to have its wages increased (as opposed to £300 million hand in the key to the factory had been sold out before it had even had a chance to be worked.

The shop-floor had been closed for a long time. The company was now a co-operative without consultation with the shop-floor.

Finally, Jack Symonds, the company's lawyer, now proposed to director had already accepted the capitalist principle of profit.

No doubt there are several other capitalist practices (at the workers' expense of course) which I can't condemn strongly enough.

This apology to socialism. I demand that the International Socialists start a campaign to get correct socialist principles put into immediate operation at IPD in order to show the bastards who run this country that we can and will win.

Upala: One Sided...

YOUR report on the dispute between the W Litho and the Against the law was, in our opinion, rather one sided. The figures quoted were a retraced their stance on the issue of unfair and undemocratic liberties. The figure which you refuse to the reply to this was that they were fairly correct in that we are not to remain in business.

Further, it is not true that the alleged 

BRICKS

I HAVE a daughter who lives at Whitleysea, near Peterborough which seems to be the home of women of all hundreds of them, all with very We live in a world in which the police and agents of second homes for 'gray nomads' are nor any non-wage earning people of Welsh, English, Irish, English, Dutch, and others. NR-1, GHULPH PHELPS, Tregoning, Dyfed.

The Language of Non-Violence

THE LANGUAGE OF NON-VIOLENCE has been made a play to the Welsh Language Society at Shrewsbury and the non-conformist poets and philosophers on the subject of non-violence. Their most violent act was to produce a book of essays in the name of the Welsh Language Society, which I believe to be a book of essays and pamphlets on the subject of non-violence.

DIY OR NOT TO BE? Social Worker probe which the workers should make or buy when performing the National Theatre. This is the subject of a report on DIY or not to DIY. MARY PICKERING, Gainsborough.

Back to the Factory!

AS social democratic we were concerned with the report in the Sunday People's paper 'Women's Voice' which stated that DIY or not to DIY article reported, is most important what is happening to the political structures of the House of Commons. If we feel the weight of the political crisis at the supermarkets, which other campaigns are just besides the one. And yet again we are seeing the force of the movement in the left-wing parties. We are stepping into the concern with industry... What about the women's movement in the House of Commons? The women's movement and women's rights to political action is complex... but we can be sure of one thing, and that is that all trade unions are allowed to their charter. And it is to show us what racism is. When are we going to learn from MARY EAGLETON, PAM JOLLEY, GAIL WALK, Glasgow.

Hell and Ships

HELL AND CIGARS. As a Communist wary for the day when the left becomes a political party I pass on the thoughts of a dying officer of the HMS Innisfail. A British Army sergeant during the last war served on this HMS Innisfail in a political battle as it should be called... we were in Washington, Paris, London, they laugh, etc. RYAN HALL, HALE, Peter, happily supported the campaign...
THE THIRTIES, when the struggle our parents had against the ruling class produced lessons for the struggle we are about to face.

The brighters... While millions went hungry, the ruling class lived in luxury and the unemployed marched. But, as at this Allied Breweries dinner in London's Grosvenor House, they always had the police on hand to keep the class enemy in their place.

SUNDAY
BBC-1: 11.15pm, INSIDE THE PLATES is in glorious profile of Robert Fisk's work as The Times' correspondent in the Middle East. A piece of documentary TV with the story of the Arab Spring. Fisk pays tribute to the Arab Spring and portrays it as a revolution.

MONDAY
BBC-2: 9.21pm. POWER FROM THE SEA: A Horizon examines the possibility of energy being derived from sea water. At 11pm the same channel's OPEN DOOR features the London Women's Film Group, a group of women who produce short films, plus a studio discussion on women in the film industry.

TUESDAY
BBC-2: 6.40pm, THE ECONOMICS OF THE REAL WORLD asks whether 10 per cent of the population really own 60 per cent of the wealth. It's a look at the world from an economic perspective.

THURSDAY
BBC-1: 10.30pm, MIDWEEK SPECIAL includes a special programme about the Christians in the Middle East. The documentary is called "Christians in a Middle East" and features interviews with Christians living in the region.

FRIDAY
BBC-2: 10.15pm, SIX SCENES FROM A MARRIAGE is a drama series made by Swedish director Ingmar Bergman.

The Shortblaster

A short story
by L.L. Law

The Factory stands at the end of a long concrete road just south of the town. Travelling along the road a visitor would first pass the furniture factory on his left and then, a little further on, the tractor factory on his right.

Next, the visitor would pass a long compound filled with an assortment of industrial scrap, piles of timber, broken doors, pieces of concrete piping, a rusty old crane and a stack of bricks left over from the building of one of the extensions or the bricklaying up of windows.

The concrete road doesn't come to an abrupt end but curves quite sharply into the car-park of The Factory. The car-park, like the road, is surfaced with concrete and, like The Factory, is bordered by a high chain-link fence. Open fields spread out beyond.

Those of us who work in The Factory don't consider it anything special. It's not as clean as the furniture factory and it's probably a bit noisier than the tractor factory. The other factories, on the other hand, seem friendlier than ours because they organise things together. The tractor factory has its own parts team and the furniture factory runs trips to the coast in the summer. We don't organise much at The Factory.

There are three factories in the town, but we are always referred to at The Factory. It's easier, you see, to describe the other factories.

The furniture factory makes furniture and the tractor factory makes tractors. We don't make anything. That is, we don't make any one thing.

We make bits for ships, bits for cars, even bits for tractors but most of the time we have no idea what we are making.

Sometimes we can guess from the name of the firm on the job sheet what our bit will be. If we get three or four bits on the same job sheet the old men will sometimes lay the parts out on the ground as they imagine them to be in the finished product.

One will lay the pieces out and say, 'This here are two large bearings either side, here and here,' and making shapes in the air with his hand will add, 'and it's all covered in up to here.'

Another will interrupt and say, 'No, no, it rules vertically on a shaft.' A third will give another theory.

Mask

In our section of the works, we do most of the small jobs and special orders and from time to time I have to take a trolley full of bits down to The Shortblaster.

The Shortblaster works in a small room cut off from the rest of The Factory. Everything in the Shortblaster's room, including the Shortblaster himself, is covered in a dark grey dust.

The Shortblaster never says much when I go in, he just lifts up his face to show me something like, 'Dump it over there,' or 'I can't do it until this afternoon.' This said, he pulls down his mask again and goes back to his work.

When the bell sounds for meal breaks he is always first to wash his hands and run across the yard to the canteen.

The biggest problem is that if you don't get in near the front of the queue it can be ten minutes before you get your food. By the time you have eaten it and smoked a cigarette it is time to go back to work.

The Shortblaster likes to eat his food and spend the other 15 minutes or so sitting outside in the fresh air.

The Shortblaster usually eats alone. Other men don't like sitting at the same table with him because every time he moves grains of dust and gristle fall from his overalls.

When he leans forward to eat, the dust falls from his hair and shoulders onto the table and into his food.

One day last summer I sat outside with the workers in the Shortblaster. From time to time as we talked, he raised his head, his kipper-like face set like a bitch, and coughed into it, great uncontrolled hacking coughs which strained his whole body and turned his face red.

He said he was the doity that made him cough. For weeks now, he said, the foreman had promised him one of those orange-crazed face masks which the spayers use.

Not that he thought it would be much use because he was always having to talk to people who brought him work.

He told me that sometimes he woke up in the middle of the night unable to breathe and had to go downstairs and sit on the back doorstep in the next air.

"In it when I did," I asked him.

He joked that he wasn't going to make his life's work but, just while the kids were growing up, the extra £2 a week meant the difference between two nights out for him and his wife instead of seven nights in front of the telly.

The Book also shows how the rise of the despicable excuse for a man, Oswald Mosley, and his British Union of Fascists.

Most of all it gives an account of a man who has been against The Factory and against the ruling class and an insight into the struggle we are about to face. It is a book I found difficult to put down. I got through it in two nights out for him and his wife instead of seven nights in front of the telly.

Telly

Two Mondays ago, the Shortblaster didn't turn up for work and hasn't been in since. As we weren't very busy in our section the foreman asked me if I would take over the Shortblaster's job, just temporarily, until they found a new man.

I agreed when he promised me the extra £2 over the week. They haven't found anyone permanent yet, but I don't mind.

Any job is as hard or easy as you make it. Just wait until the kids are growing up. The extra money makes the difference between one night out instead of seven nights in front of the telly.

The book also shows the grotesque masques which the spayers use.

AS THE DOLE QUEUES GROW, REMEMBER THIS...

1975 SEE'S the start of a period of recession such as the world has not known since the Thirties. Workers throughout the world are going to be thrown on the dole queues in their thousands.

The capitalists and the trade union leaders are going to blame the workers. Workers are going to rear their ugly heads on the streets. It's all happened before, and it's described extremely well in a book called Britain in the Nineteen Thirties.* Written by Nora Branson and Margot Hemmings, it is detailed but unassailable and tells of the disgusting wages and conditions and greedy mine-owners.

The mill-owners were forced to work six looms instead of four - and on top of this they had their wages cut.

The mill-owners bought cheap yarn when it snapped on the loom, the weavers' wages were docked for the time the loom was out of action. He was also fined if there were any imperfections in the cloth.

The book also tells of the lives of the miners and in 1925, conditions and greedy mine-owners. It gives an insight into corruption in the government and the union hierarchy.

*Britain in the Nineteen Thirties by N. Branson and M. Hemmings (Farrar, 75p)
So you think you’re not exploited...
International Socialists

If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and would like more information, or would like to join the International Socialists, then send this form to:

The International Socialists
8 Cottons Gardens
London E2 8DN

**Name**

**Address**

**Trade Union**

We are a revolutionary socialist organisation open to all who accept our main political 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 build the hard 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, oppressed nationalities and the colonies, and fully support the struggles of all oppressed groups. We are opposed to all immigration controls.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot isolate in one country alone. Revolution is an international 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 win the support of the self-conscious, organisation and socialist consciousness of the working class.

**WE ARE**

For rank and file control of the trade union and the factory, for full operation of all the full-time officers. No secret negotiations. All meetings to be voted on by mass meetings.

For 100 per cent trade unionism. Against all variations and restrictions. Against any reduction of dues or cards on the right to strike and on effective picketing.

Against productivity or efficiency deals. Against any form of income policy under capitalism.

Against unemployment, redundancies and layoffs. Instead we demand five weeks’ pay, the day’s work, the day’s pay, and the full compensation under workers’ control.

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

For the building of a national rank and file movement which will start for the industrial and socialist policies in the trade union movement. Against all restrictions and black lists. Against all immigration controls. For the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise in their own defence.

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

Against the union as a weapon and military alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact, including Russian imperialism.

For unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.

For the building of a mass workers’ revolutionary party, organised in the workplaces, which can work the building of the General Confederation of the Workers’ International Socialist International.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

**Commuter students split**

**The PRESS reported very fully that the British Commune of Students has chosen rights-wing Labour students to be the candidate for the Presidency in the French elections. It was significant in the way in which he was chosen that he was a member of the British Communist Party.**

The main political groupings in the commune were the Communist Party, the Socialists and the Trotskyists. The student body in the commune consists of about 1,000 students. The Communist members are in the majority and have been extremely critical of the student body and its policies.

The student body is divided into two main factions: the Communist Party and the Trotskyists. The Communist Party is the largest and most influential faction, and it has been very critical of the student body’s policies.

The Trotskyists are a small but important group, and they have been very critical of the student body’s policies. They have been particularly critical of the student body’s support for the French government and its policies in the Middle East.

International Socialists

**NO PAY CUTS HERE!**

We stand in solidarity with the strikers who are fighting for their rights. We support the strikers and send our best wishes to them.

**Strikers win vital backing**

**BRISTOL: The 34 AEU members at Sanmo Congre and Newport have voted 30 to 1 to back the strike. They have made a strong stand in support of their colleagues.**

The management are trying to smear the AEU and pay off the workers. There have been 103 workers who are non-unionists.

Despite the strike being made official, the workers realised the strength of the situation and decided to continue with the strike. They have made a strong stand and are demanding a full collective agreement.

The strikers asked for money. Send donations and messages of support to 3/5, Central Office, 333 Burslem Street, West Bromwich, B72 Whitmore Road, London N23.

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53 hours? Work on - or your fired

Camberwell - 15 supervisors at Adkins join management in a 15 hours per week strike. The managing director, Harold Ridgeon, would not negotiate.

The men decided to work to contract and since December 13, 1975, those who had completed 30 hours, refused further work and was suspended. At least 10 supervisors, but had completed 15 hours, refused further work and were suspended. Later, they were called back to work as long as required or they had wandered on. Entry to the factories has been closed. A separate supervisory union, while class teachers get on with the job of looking after the interests of class.

The protests that took place before Conference will help to move the strike. Borderline, Middlebrough and London showed their dissatisfaction with the Union in a series of un

The Houghton steamroller

LONDON - Last Saturday at 9.30am, 2000 delegates set down at the Special Conference on the Houghton Report to hear Sir Edward Britton, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers.

An hour later they were allowed to ask questions - for 20 minutes. Then, for 13 minutes, delegates were allowed to speak, with a time limit of four minutes per delegate. At 11.00am the Houghton Report was overwhelming ly accepted. So in 93 minutes the level and structure of teachers' salaries for at least the next seven years was finalized.

The Report gave rise to a great deal of anger among qualified teachers, who bear the heaviest burden of class teaching. Breakaway unions have never succeeded, and have smashed militancy in the traditional union.

The most positive way forward from this call is to fight for rank and file's policy of getting Heads out of the NUT, which they dominate at all levels - including Conference and encouraging their own members to form separate supervisory union, while class teachers get on with the job of looking after the interests of class.

The protests that took place before Conference will help to move the strike. Ordinary members in Leicester, Liverpool, Middlesbrough and London showed their dissatisfaction with the Union in a series of un

The NUT. This is dangerous. Breakaway unions have never succeeded, and have smashed militancy in the traditional union.

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THINGS ARE beginning to happen in the Heinz food empire. Throughout Northern Ireland, more than 1,000 workers in the milk industry have been on strike since December 22.

In Coaldale, 330 workers at Pickering, a subsidiary of Heinz, are out in support of a claim for £50 for 40 hours and two weeks holiday. The present basic rate is £23.69 for men and £19.85 for women.

The pickets have faced vicious intimidation by factory and some workers have been assaulted. Meanwhile, shop stewards are being threatened. But the strike is being run by the workforce determined to hold out.

At Heinz's Kitch green factory in Wigan, the night workers have imposed a ban on Friday night working. Like many work, they are demanding a four-night week. Management did agree to let the men work four ten-hour shifts but the men threw out the offer at a mass meeting when they learnt it involved cutting their lunch-break to half an hour and restricting their holiday entitlement.

All the Heinz plants in Britain should be involved in these two important disputes. The Halden factor y lies behind as usual.

Talk of a secret ballot on the night shift is the latest in a series of half-hearted moves. The union has said that it would give solidarity to Kitch Green and not allow any late production to be switched down south. However, production in Halden has risen considerably recently. The union leadership must do more than pay lip service to solidarity.

We must be up to our obligations to fellow Heinz workers, especially those in Pickering workers and the night workers at Kitch Green. Too long have our leaders been willing to let other Heinz workers fight on their own.

We call for:

The setting up of a national shop stewards' combine committee so that shop stewards from all Heinz plants can discuss the very important national issues, such as the four-night week. Management operate nationally, so must we.

Immediate practical and financial support for the Pickering workers.

Four nights' work for five nights' pay.

Plans to be laid for a national pay claim in April.

HEINZ PICKETS ARE ATTACKED TUESDAY


COMRADES MEET IN KENT HOUSE, London WC1. 7.30pm on Saturday 20 February. The meeting will be addressed by six speakers, including Tom Terroni, Leon Foster and Dave Le Mesurier. The meeting will be followed by a dance.

NOTICES

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LEAVING THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

From the latest of the 'Electric Leaves and Sounds' pages series (large in the construction of the Socialism Education Board) is the message of Heinz, 139 King's Cross Road, London WC1.

£37,000 for bosses - £13 for workers

STRIKERS from the Yardley from in the city's Chester shop. The women workers are demanding the reinstatement of two shop stewards for organising a union to fight the outrageous working conditions - £13 for a 40-hour week. Pickets have been on the shop and factory floor today, by delegations from the Women's Executive, National Women's Executive, the National Union of Women's Organizing.

The women workers made a clear protest on this year's sale of halliday property (of £40,345) - nearly as much as the total value of Bursmills. Five directors paid themselves £41,792. The women workers need help on the picket lines, picketing of Yardley shops in Chester's. The women workers need help on the picket lines, picketing of Yardley shops in Chester's.

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GLASGOW—450 Corporation dustcart and horticultural strikers are now entering the fourth week of strike action for parity with the private road haulage men. The Corporation still refuses to discuss this claim for £3.50.

At the same time, 500 Corporation electricians, who are among 13,000 local authority electricians on strike in Scotland, are now ballot on their own claim with the rates in contracting now fixed by the Stewards Board.

Two of these groups have decided to coordinate their activities. At the strike picket meetings on Thursday morning, they will hold a joint demonstration demanding the establishment of a minimum rate for their industry. After a meeting for a week in the same hall, the strikers will be joined by other local authority workers and they will strengthen their case if they begin joint action.

Local authority workers can link claims and more effective demands. The next step is to make this link up.

The striking electricians are demanding the continuation of an agreement that gives local authority electricians the rates for pay operating in the contracting industry.

The employers have made it clear that they do not intend to follow a pattern established over many years. They are also blaming the social contract template.

JBD Rates

The strike is solid, with only the small authorities involving a couple of sports such as football and soccer but all of this is being sorted out. Official support is also expected today. The dispute is having repercussions in England, where council sports have a separate agreement with the Shareholders Association. Electricians in Leeds have given an indication that they will strike from next Monday, but there is no firm agreement.

In Scotland, the main pressure point has been Glasgow where the wishes of the electricians have been refused. The men at the one-time bus depot had brought the electric to a halt. On Thursday, the first electric vehicle ran on the cable fault caused all night to be finished. Otherwise, there is a steady flow of police and river officers, in all, they hope to have a Scottish police officer in every area.

The committee has a very active campaign. Although some employers have a tendency to say what they want that they would be his to allow the police and the transport department to take the lead off the union leadership.

The strike committee has the support of the employers' trade unionists, and it is expected that the committee will be able to continue the campaign and make a significant difference to the situation.

Duckers' strike

Duckers' strike has been postponed due to non-registered ports and depots. For a decade we've seen the registered firm closing and reopening two miles down the road. H. Robertson's is not 200 yards from West India Dock, Dagenham. Dagenham Cold Storage is owned by Hays Wharf. In 1967 Hays closed their Tower Bridge wharves leaving 2000 dockers jobless. Hays plauded that the wharves were "uncommercial"—which meant there was more profit in building up Dagenham. Now Hays plan to make £30 million by developing the Tower Bridge area.

How would you feel if, after years of fighting and organisation to get a decent living wage, a firm actually closed down your factory and then re-opened weeks later across the road with a fraction of the work-force, lower wages, and a bloody union ban?

That's what registered dockers have been fighting for over the past two months. In 1971, the year of Pompiersville, there were 10 dockers' meetings held this year and the Union took no action.

In HUILL, Transport and General Workers Union leaders are pushing their hopes on government money and a workmen's co-operative. But experience shows that these ventures mean wage-cut, productivity dealing and a drop in earnings. At present little is happening at the Hull plant. The work-force is not mobilised for action, and so some workers are leaving the factory, hoping to step up the few local job vacancies before the rush starts.

The role of the TGWU leaders is confused. Regional official Peter Grant stated both that the job will be saved and that when workers are sacked they can come to him for help in finding alternative work.

Workers ' action committee' allowed in Department of Employment offices but so far the few jobs offered are at rates well below even wages at HUILL.

What is essential now is some action by the men of the work force, not just a handful of officials. The factory should be occupied now.

Meanwhile in LEICESTER on 21 January the Trades Council unanimously adopted a resolution setting up a sub-committee to help workers fighting redundancies and closures. They then drafted a regular bulletin to counter propaganda which blames redundancies and closures on workers' wage demands.

Two days later nearly 1000 Imperial workers gave unanimous support to a resolution on calling a government inquiry into the dock closures.

The workers weren't permitted to speak from the floor. George Brandley, TGWU District Secretary who moved the draft didn't explain what he meant by nationalisation. Instead he warned workers that they didn't have a ghost of a chance of keeping the firm!

How many people are fighting to keep the two plants open in Hull and Leicester? One of the battles that has begun is the strike of local artists at the Imperial factory. They have been helped by a local Communist Party leaflet.

Illusion

The decision to close the Imperial and Hull production lines and concentrate on the German produced Adler machines is because of allowing the British owned industry to fall into foreign hands.

This kind of language, playing on fears of foreign workers and spreading the illusion that British workers are somehow better than their foreign counterparts plays straight into the hands of the National Front. It is to be hoped that Communist Party members point out the fact.

Imperial—phantom war

Dockers using this week to picket the two container depots.

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Imperial—phantom war

Dockers using this week to picket the two container depots. Picture: Chris Davies (Report)}
NEWCASTLE—Massive police protection is now being used to guard the London based sabs on McAlpine’s Fiddon Square site. More than 200 salfieers from all over Tyneside are now on strike against the victimisation of 13 TGWU members.

Eddie Brady, the TGWU shop steward for the salfieers, was warned by McAlpine that they were ‘out to get him’. He was sacked for alleged bad timekeeping along with 12 others. The real reason is the fast expansion of the TGWU organisation in the last few months and the success of the men in improving their conditions.

The bad timekeeping allegations are completely false. None of the victimised men has received any verbal or written warnings about time keeping before being sacked. McAlpine ignored the pro- vocative agreement to and went straight in and sacked them.

FOREMOST

The sabs come from a Brixton, South London firm called Foremost Scaffolding Supplies Limited. This firm has been used before by McAlpine. All the sabs are members of the TGWU. They joined the union on 24 November in London and were brought up specially for this job. Union officials are demanding that the men be taken off the job.

Socialist Worker reporter, Laurie Flynn rang Foremost Scaffolding Supplies to ask about circumstances in which the striking workforce joined the union. Foremost Scaffolding Supplies Ltd. Mike Kelly said the company abided by the building industry working rules agreed on with employees. There were no deals, he said, all members of one London TGWU branch.

He was then asked whether Foremost had any links with McAlpine’s. Mr Kelly replied as follows: ‘If you print anything I don’t like, I’ll tear your guts out!’ asked to repeat his statement, he declined and said: ‘You’re trying to suggest something. You’re trying to make something out of this.‘

Socialist Worker reporter was interested in precise information about Foremost because it is common practice for big construction firms to set up and fund small, nominally independent sub-contracting outfits. This enables them to pursue the most blatant anti-union policies, while pretending this is not their responsibility.

Mr Kelly stated that basic information can be gleaned from Companies House. But while Foremost lodged a certificate of incorporation as a company when it was set up in March 1972, no further returns have been made. This is illegal but, like breaches of the Factories Act, it only results in a petty fine in the unlikely event of a prosecution.

Scaffolders from other sites and shipyards in Newcastle have come out on solidarity strike. And with the sabs in the Foremost site it is beginning to grow on McAlpine, particularly as the contract is now months behind.

Capital and County Securities, who are financing the job, are worried about their money. McAlpine have reacted by calling in the police. On Monday night, more than 70 arrived after the sabs had gone home to instigate the picket line. Even the local press called it ‘over reaction’.

The strike committee have asked Socialist Worker to appeal to all customers to refuse to raise the strike in their branches and on District Committees and to ask for financial and moral support. The strike committee is also appealing to Trade Councils.

Appreciation and signed letters of request for support are available from Eddie Brady, 8 Benwell Lane, Newcastle on Tyne, Phone: Newcastle 23625. TSWU members have within their power to ensure that McAlpine’s excludes the men on the picket line and that control over the issuing of cash is exercised.

BRENTFORD.—Workers at Rank Pullins Controls, part of the huge Rank Organisation, struck last Monday over the sackings of AEW union convenor, Eddie Bennett, Eddie, who has built a militant union organisation in the two years since he became convenor, led a successful, peaceful, 24-hour strike last September.

And with wage increases of £10 won in the last year and a swing- ing productivity deal resisted, management clearly felt it was time to be rid of him.

A month ago, Eddie started getting verbal warnings. He ignored them. They tried to hand him a written one. He refused it, because the whole time system violates union principles.

On 24 January, he got the sack from a personnel officer specially brought down from Rank’s central organisation.

The shop stewards made the mistake of calling a mass meeting in the canteen, without Eddie, instead of around him at the gate. And the meeting made the mistake of voting to wait for official AEW intervention instead of walking straight out.

Incredibly, top management marched in to address the meeting, which boomed them. They made the significance of Eddie’s sacking very clear by coolly announcing that future shop stewards’ committee meetings would be attended by management representatives.

But if they thought the delay in action meant they’d won, they got a shock first thing on Monday morning. Eddie and other stewards held a mass meeting, which voted unanimously for all-out strike action, which now has union backing from the stewards, a shop steward, two members of management, sent out by management, tried to in- terview the people who sabs, including Eddie and trying to push him into the stewards.

It wasn’t this, of course, that caused the managers to act. They just objected to more than that.

After two years of successful struggle, workers are now ready to let their union die and have management walk all over them.

They know the battle for their precarity is their own battle. What they need above all is support from other factories in the area and in the Rank organisation.

The picket’s solid—and the strikers are determined to stop management destroying their union organisation.