No to the Wilson-Tory line-up

NO to rising prices

NO to the dole queues

COMMON MARKET NO
"There is too much talk about redistribution of wealth, and too little about creating it."

Thus Sir Marcus Steff, chairman of Marks and Spencer, bringing news of more loot for his shareholders this week. He went on:

"A redistribution of diminishing wealth could both impoverish us and destroy our way of life, the good and the bad."

This populist myth has been given a lot of publicity over the past week. In one way or another, almost all the opinion-formers of our society have been telling us that the 'bad old days' of millionaires and exploitation are behind us.

The facts, however, show the opposite. A book out this week (Your Employers' Profits, reviewed on page 8) shows the enormous profits made in the 'seven days' market for 'super profits'.

"I am unable to pin down enough people in the industry to get an accurate picture of the figures."

While workers' families are exposed to the full blast of inflation, the wealthy can 'hedge' themselves off from it by buying shares or land. So share prices zoom as fewer and fewer workers' families can make ends meet.

The defenders of the system argue that redistribution of wealth wouldn't make much difference. Well, it would mean about £50 a week for every family, which is enough to be going on with.

But the real argument is not just about wealth distribution. It is that all the decisions about what is produced and what services are provided are taken so as to preserve wealth and privilege for one class.

All the waste of society—all the advertising and concordance and ball-busting missiles, all the motor cars for private companies, the useless drugs, the office building, the subsidises for luxury hotels—derives from the fishing of society's wealth by a minority.

Ending the power of the wealthiest doesn't just mean redistributing the wealth. It means altering the entire pattern of production so that working people—all the way from nursery school to old age—will be enriched by far, far more than that £50 a week.

So as long as that minority keep their fingers on that wealth, there can be no end to waste, no end to crisis. 'Solving the crisis' by wage restraint means leaving the wealthy in control.

It means that the ladies and gentlemen featured on this page are going to lay down the rules of production for their advantage.

That's why we encourage the battle for more, and still more, for the people who really do 'create the wealth'.

And why we do want to end Sir Marcus Steff's 'way of life'.

**WHAT WE THINK**

We have news for you, Sir Marcus

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**OUT WITH**

Order books full for £40,000 super yachts

A YOUNG MAN content only with the best, is consulting brokers in London for a 401 foot yacht and willing to pay £50,000 for the cash for the largest of his kind. The man, who wishes to remain anonymous, is said to be visiting the United States and Canada where he has made enough money to finance the project. He will be in London within the next week and will try to arrange a special deal with the brokers for the yacht.

Published in the Daily Telegraph.

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**PARASITES**

**Ferranti: Another killing**

FERRANTI, the company whose bosses took the government for £3.5 million and never even ended up in court, appear to have concluded another successful agreement with the state. The man who presided over the largesse was Industry Minister Tony Benn. £15 million of public money has been handed over by the Department of Industry to bale out, not the company, but the brothers Ferranti. It will not be put into the company as working capital. The £15 million is to buy shares and take up loan stock.

The main consequence of this form of assistance is that Basil and Sebastien de Ferranti will be provided with large sums of government money in exchange for some of their shares. Those they will sell at a much higher level than they'd have got if they'd brought the company to market to its present troubled shape.

The Labour government has also agreed to underwrite the particularly troubled transformer side of the company. While this deal doesn't even guarantee the transformer workers jobs, it does guarantee the takeover prices for Basil and Sebastien.

Price

When the Ferranti shares will be bought is not yet known. It will be at a higher price because the trouble has been underwritten by the government.

But it would not result in the job of one of Ironbridge. Ironbridge has been told to advise them.

Ferranti's have not disclosed and are not disposed to disclose at any point much they paid the good Lord for his sheep.

But they can rest assured that he was worth every penny.

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**QUOTE**

If the property investment market is to be encouraged to return to full activity it requires a steady supply of a rent-stapled property market.

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**NOW WHAT ABOUT SOME ACTION, BROTHER MURRAY?**

TODAY we are marking as a part of the great tradition and purpose of the trade union movement—the assertion of human dignity and human rights.' So saying, Len Murray wound up the speeches, and a stream of similar empty platitude statements, at the end of the TUC's demonstration and rally to celebrate International Women's Year.

4000 women—and many men—marched through London last Sunday to mark the occasion. The biggest contingent was from the GMWU whose members came from the Midlands, Yorkshire and the north, along with many others.

But for all the banners it was a sorry disappointment. The demonstration was for women's equality, but not around any specific slogan.

Alan Fisher of NUPE called on the government to amend the Employment in Control for regular union meetings to be held during working time.

Ken Gill of TASS took a stand against the moves of the select committee decreed by the government to bankrupt the Act to barter protection under the Factories Act for equal pay, Brenda Dean, an organiser for SOGAT in Manchester, got nearest to the truth: 'International Women's Year will not mean anything to single parent families, battered wives, and those who will suffer if the James White Abortion (amendment) Bill goes through.'
THE COMMON MARKET campaign has left a lot of workers confused. The constant statistical bickering, assertion and denial, has made the issues behind the vote seem very complicated. In fact, the central question is very simple. It is this:

Do you want to see the hand of your employer strengthened in the inevitable battles over wages, prices and unemployment in the months ahead?

The Common Market is nothing more than an attempt by the employers of western Europe to pool their resources, so as to strengthen one another. Insofar as they are successful they use their increased strength to solve their problems at the expense of workers.

FOOD PRICES
The aim of the Common Market agricultural policy is to keep food prices within the Market higher than in the world outside.

All the sophistry in the world from the Edward Heath and the Roy Jenkins cannot conceal the fact that every time you buy butter, beef or cheese, you are paying more because of taxes imposed to keep up the price.

Nor can they conceal the fact that food is allowed to pile up because the EEC price is too high for many workers to pay. Rather than cut the profits of the very wealthy large farmers who benefit from such a policy, the Heaths and Jenkins are prepared to back a policy for wasting millions of tons of food.

You claim that this is necessary so as to store up supplies for the future but hardly explains why, for example, hundreds of tons of dried skimmed milk are being sold off as cut-price cattle food.

UNEMPLOYMENT
When Britain entered the Common Market, we were told that entry would put an end to economic stagnation. Today unemployment is higher than ever throughout Europe.

The strengthening of big business throughout Europe can in no way solve the problems created by the big business system. Built into the Common Market is the right of big business to take money from one country to another in search of higher profits.

That means continual blackmail by the multi-national companies against workers in any country who push for decent living standards.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST IMMIGRANT WORKERS
The whole labour policy of the Common Market is based upon denying immigrant workers the most elementary rights and forcing them to do the worst jobs for the lowest pay.

Workers who come from outside the Common Market are compelled to live in miserable barracks and shabby towns, and are threatened with being sent back to their homelands when unemployment begins to rise.

Workers who come from other Common Market countries can be threatened with deportation if they fight for militant trade union action.

That is why the immigration laws in Britain have been made still harsher since the decision was first made to join the EEC.

DEFENDING BIG BUSINESS
The first moves towards forming the Common Market 25 years ago were part of an overall attempt to protect big business in Europe, which led also to the founding of NATO.

This was why the CIA gave massive backing to the European Movement which is now funding much of the Yes campaign.

On Monday the Common Market ministers agreed to offer improved trade terms to Portugal and a better deal for her migrant workers in Europe's 'free conditions'.

These conditions amount to an assurance that the pro-NATO, pro-big business parties are allowed to be dominant in Portugal.

The main campaigners for the Common Market are also the main campaigners for workers' "restraint" to pay for the crisis.

 Heath's Yes campaign is just a follow-up of his campaign against the workers through Industrial Relations Act, his Rent Act and all the other attacks made when he was Prime Minister.

Alongside him is Jenkins, who keeps the Shrewsbury pickets in jail, and Prentice, who is preparing huge destruction cuts.

These people have formed an alliance to campaign for the Common Market. It is an alliance that has the backing of every major daily paper of the whole of big business.

Already, many of its supporters are saying that if it wins a big Yes vote, then it should go on to begin a formal government coalition that would impose right-wing policies all along the line.

Rank and file trade unionists must work over the next few days to defeat this line-up. In every factory there must be leaflets, posters and meetings designed to counter the bosses' pro-Market propaganda.

The alternative to rising unemployment, higher prices, and public sector cuts lies in fighting for a socialist Britain as part of a socialist Europe, not in backing the bosses' EEC.

VOTE

COMMON MARKET SOCIAL CONTRACT UNEMPLOYMENT WILSON'S TORY POLICIES

Socialist Worker meetings against the Common Market

ALL LONDON
Tuesday 3 June
7.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1 (Holborn Tube). Speakers: Tony Cliff and members of European revolutionary organisations.

KINGSTON, Surrey: Thursday 5 May, 8pm, Kingston Library meeting room, Fairfield Road. Speaker: John Palmer.

NORTH WEST LONDON: Thursday 5 May, 8pm, Anson Hall, Anson Rd, NW2. Speakers: Chris Harman and international speakers.

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Thursday 29 May, 8pm, Co-op Hall, Upper Tooting Road, Tooting (Tooting Bec tube). Speakers: Duncan Hallas and a member of a Danish revolutionary group. Admission free.

BARNESLEY: Tuesday 3 June, 8pm, Lecture Hall, New Library, Shaw Road Street. Local speakers.

VOTE NO! Leaflets available from Sue Beven, 6 Conyers Gardens, London E2. Phone 01-739 1678.

VOTE NO! Leaflets available from Sue Beven, 6 Conyers Gardens, London E2. Phone 01-739 8600. 50p per 100.
Occupation is a powerful tactic, but support is crucial.

WHY CROSFIELDS WAS LOST

The occupation cost the De La Rue Group an estimated £250,000 a week. In trying to break the workers' determination they try every trick in the book. At first they tried to use workers' elected officials. They used police and scab labour to remove machinery and intimidate the occupiers. Later they tried to split those sections working normally, paying a levy for the occupied, by imposing a three-day week.

These efforts focused on the solidarity of the occupation itself and the support of those still working in other shops.

But management's final play was successful. It worked because it played upon the weakest aspect of the occupation—the lack of real rank and file links with other workers in the area and throughout the De La Rue combine, and the unwillingness of trade union officials to help create them.

During the eighth week, after a court wrangle, the workers were told to expect the police and bailiffs. They believed they were not strong enough to resist the courts, so they made the final deal with management.

The shop stewards' committee had fought hard to get the North London AUEW District Committee to call a picker. After delays a belated call was put out, appealing directly for factory delegations. Two hundred workers came.

Steward Bill Haywood was critical: 'The road outside should have been packed. Much more should have been done in the official union machine. We know it takes time, but we had to fight even to get this.'

Some stewards argued that continued occupation was impossible because a much larger force was needed to counteract the court's threat. Real physical support from hundreds of local workers would have made the difference. In 1972 Crosfields workers were among the thousands who marched to help force the freeing of the five dockers jailed under the Industrial Relations Act at nearby Pentonville Prison. If a fraction of those workers had been at the Crosfields plant it would have been a different story.

Why were the rank and file links which could bring support not built up? Well over £2000 was collected in local factories, but why was this help not translated into real support when it counted?

Reasons

There are two reasons. Organisation at the factory was built on a false and self-reliant basis. There was no contact with the outside. The drawing in of financial support was only the first step. The occupation could have been the centre for a North London campaign to fight their battles. Suggestions along these lines were not taken up.

Mass support in picketing was called only when the occupation became threatened with isolation. The work to achieve really widespread support was never done.

Second, though Crosfields workers stressed their independence of the union machine, and refused to allow the occupation to be smoothed by red tapes and promises, shop stewards confined much of their effort to pressuring the local AUEW District Committee. Here, the Broad Left delegates who dominate the committee voted at a small's pace. Their efforts when they finally agreed to the mass picket were pathetic, the overall lack of support for the occupation was a disgrace.

In the disappointment of retreat stewards were also self-critical. Though commenting that 'It was the law of the land that defeated us,' they pointed out their own very presence in the factory had put them at odds with the courts for weeks.

Slowness

A leading steward recognised the slowness will have to be overcome and moved for solidarity action inside De La Rue. "We can't go on too much time inside. We didn't get out and about to other workers enough. And we put too much on the official machinery. But we have saved at least some of our organisation inside the factory. We will know next time," he said.

There will be a next time. There will be hundreds more 'next times' for thousands of workers. Within a week of the Crosfields events 300 workers had taken over the Keith Blackman factory less than three miles away. As the crisis hots up, occupation will prove a more and more effective weapon.

But especially when a company appears willing to sit it out, to engage in a war of attrition with the workers, the lessons of Crosfields must be remembered. There is no substitute for the support of rank and file workers. Each worker's occupation must be made the centre of a campaign which will go out and draw in the support of other workers. Never depend for this solely on the efforts of unravelling trade union officials.

This support is the lifeline of any occupation. When the bosses call in their courts each support may be pit to its best use. Steward Bill Haywood was right—the mass picket should have packed the street outside Crosfields. Would the bailiffs really have lasted the patience of 2000 assembled members of the AUEW?

The lesson has been learned. Next time we must make it count.
Building the Party

By COLIN SPARKS

This weekend, the International Socialists are holding their annual conference. Worker-delegates from all over Britain are coming together for five days to discuss their common problems. The theme of the conference is: the struggle of a revolutionary socialist party.

What does that mean? Why is it so important to us? The very word ‘party’ puts many workers back up. It conjures up all sorts of images, most of them unpleasant. The images arise from the two sorts of parties that have dominated the working class movement at the moment.

The first, the Labour Party, brings in small ward meetings, workers’ discussions, meetings of the various branches of the movement, to ensure the election of an ex-trade union official or bright young careerist to a position of ease, affluence and impotence in Westminster. The other is the Communist Party, which brings in mind either a series of very unsuccessful election campaigns or, if you are an older militant, a band of political slaters following blindly every twist and turn from King Street and/or Moscow.

Our idea of a workers’ party is different from both of these. We stand for a democratic organisation which can lead all of the fights of working people against capitalism in the factories, in the offices, in the schools on the housing estates. There are good reasons why we need such a party. First and most obvious is that there are deep divisions inside the working class. If it was just us and them, workers versus capitalists, we would have won years ago.

Now it’s a battle for power.

It’s no longer just a fight over a wage claim now, it’s a battle for power. We could run this bloody place ourselves without those bastards. Before I’ll give in, I’ll go to the bloody rally.

‘A worker occupying Magnesium Electrolysis at Greenhill, Manchester.

The Classes are beginning to line up so as though on a battlefield. The struggle, although fragmented, is becoming increasingly bitter. There is a growing solidarity among workers, who latch onto a new technique as though they invented it.

The party’s policy springs directly from the needs of the class as a whole. The struggle against capitalism on a world scale. The party is of the working class itself and able to provide a forum where the experience in struggle of the various sections of the class is discussed so that it may develop and modify its battle programme.

Able

It needs to be able to link up the sections of the class through its membership, so that the activity of the last few weeks will be decided and not fragmented. It needs to be able to move into action swiftly and decisively as the need arises.

This means that at the base, which is stretched in and sensitive to, the class, there must be the maximum discussion, ideas and experience. It must have a programme of action that has the fullest understanding and support of its membership.

It must have an elected leadership that enjoys the confidence of the membership and can call the membership into action knowing there will be no hesitation or question. A leadership able to impose the discipline of the party as a whole on its individual members. An informed and toughened membership able to give leadership and direction to its section of the class, although cut off from the main body of the class at times.

Future

It must be clear that the party is not the blue-print of the future socialist society—the workers organised and capable of moving into action swiftly and decisively as the need arises. Nobody can be everything at once. The party can only be effective if it acts together and therefore need to provide the actions. Every aspect of IS policy will be discussed and democratic decisions will be taken or to consult what policy we need in the coming years.

The fact that the organisation is democratic leads to the third argument. Debates do not go on merely at conferences. They are a part of the life of the organisation at every level.

Best

Our members in a particular factory, need to agree on the policy they are going to pursue at the next stewards’ meeting. They can only be effective if they act together and therefore need to discuss their individual positions and ideas and working out what is best in the factory or works. Because this debate goes on at every level and involves many different sorts of work, the party is forced to train specialists in production.

For example, we believe we need to build links with workers in other countries. That means we have to organise ourselves capable of moving into action swiftly and decisively as the need arises. We cannot expect every IS member in this country to be a specialist in foreign languages, so some comrades need to become specialists.

Weld

That is an extreme example, but the same is true of other things. Nobody can be everything at once. But the party can be effective if it acts together. Only we can develop and many different talents in the people of the party, the people of the party, the people of the party. The party can draw on different resources from many areas and many specialities. It is often called ‘the brain of the class’. In the history of capitalism there have been many workers’ struggles in many countries and we can learn valuable lessons.

There are IS, for example, comrades who played an active role in the 1966 General Strike. We can learn from the mistakes made. Other traditions exist only in books and documents but we need to gather all of the rich experiences of the party, and to make sure that party can generalise workers’ struggles in many countries and industries, but also organise the party.

The basic idea which runs through all of these arguments is that the IS is united, active and dynamic, that we can be better, more effective than any government or any individual. The job of getting rid of capitalism is the greatest task mankind has ever agreed to.

With a workers’ party, we have a fighting chance. Without it, we have none.

DAVE HANESWORTH
The business connections of an 'impartial' editor...

A BILL called the Trade Union and Labour Relations Amendment Bill is currently going through the Fleet Street. The bulk of the unhappiness with it is felt by newspaper proprietors and editors. Much ink is spilled in daily, newspaper about the 'independence' of editors, about how they must remain free of sinister influences, in practice they are as independent of their proprietors as a Dock Green police dog is of PC Dixon.

The Bill they are all worried about threats editors are having to belong to the National Union of Journalists. Neither the government nor the bulk of the leadership of the NUJ wishes to hold them to this. But the last NUJ conference has, as the supreme body of the union, insisted

Parlance

The reasoning is simple. The NUJ is tired of having editors working on during strikes or scabbing as it is known in common trade union parlance.

Against the leading crusaders against this outrageous exercise in free trade unionism in Albatross Hertshington. He is editor of the Guardian newspaper, and has spoken out for the 'freedom' of editors, for their independence from all outside pressure.

Mr Hertshington's own position can hardly be said to be completely independent of those who own, and run, this society.

The Poor Man's Torries

JEREMY THORPE has been addressing meetings of Tory industrialists. His message: "There are two private enterprise parties so why don't they cough up for the Liberals?" With his own recent experience on the Board of Trade (4400 a year) now being investigated by the Fraud Squad, and his directorates of five other companies, he was undoubtedly given a sympathetic hearing.

He needs it. The Liberals have been short of cash for some time. Even the party's ex-clergyman backer Lord Beaumont has cancelled his £1000 a month donation to the Party.

It isn't all black for the Liberals—the party that's independent of the big battalions of society. Playboy Club director and part-time Liberal MP Clement Freud is charging £250 a time for after-dinner speeches. Doubtless he swallows the Party's funds with this.

Jack Jones, RTZ and Britain's civilising mission

THE latest instalment in the long running scandal of Rio Tinto Zinc's exploitation of people in Papua New Guinea has involved the company in a brutal attempt to suppress its Bougainville miners workers.

Work stops over pay and conditions and the scent of a union representative had the police close on them after they occupied the mine. The万分 was 'temporarily closed down and the management promised that all workers convicted of offences in court would also be sacked. Robert Stirling of the industrial group said that

Duncan does everything he can to cultivate a better image for his company, but the system of negotiated grievance procedures provide.

The problem of the country is that Sir Val has had a number of similar workers, Jack Jones and Hugh Scandal. Together they seek for ways to stop Sir Val to 'solve' the crisis.

Together, for political reasons make, they forget about what goes on at Bougainville, in Namibia or Avonmouth. It's known as sticking your differences, trying to find a solution in the same.
Ford flies in - and Franco lays out a blood-red carpet

Portuguese crisis deepens

The Portuguese revolution is now in a crucial phase and could face serious dangers. The last weeks have been marked by bitter rows between the two biggest parties within the working class, the Socialist Party and the Communist Party, and by deepening divisions within the Armed Forces Movement that controls the country. The internal economic crisis is getting worse, with unemployment expected to rise to half a million in the next few weeks - a figure that would be equivalent to more than three millions in Britain. The row between the Socialist Party and the Communist Party leaders over who should have influence in certain key sections of the state machine and the media. Over the last 13 months, the CP has been able to build up strong positions in local government, the unions, the radio and a number of newspapers.

Rows

The SP, under pressure from its western backers, is trying to dislodge the CFP from these, and the CFP is fighting back, trying further to build up its own power by bureaucratic means. These rows are dividing the working class from top to bottom. Neither party can present a solution to the essential problems facing workers. The Socialist Party cannot offer any answer to the economic crisis, because of the pro-NATO, pro-western attitudes of its leaders. And the CP is still accusing large numbers of workers with its bureaucratic approach, which means that while it tries to strengthen its own positions at the top of the state machine it still opposes many strikes and harps on about the need for everyone to work harder.

The dispute over the daily paper Republique highlighted this division last week. Printworkers on the paper - some in the CP, but none aligned with the revolutionary left - objected to the way it was increasingly an organ of the SP. They refused to print it and the editor denounced their attitude as an attack on freedom - although he himself, as minister of information, introduced a press law which led last summer to fines and suspension of a number of papers, including Republique.

The outcome was a bitter demonstration against the printers, with crowds shouting 'Death to the Communists'. The middle class is moving to the right under the impact of the crisis. It sees its privileges threatened and is taking advantage of the SP's attacks on the CP to mobilise.

The growing political fragmentation is reflected within the Armed Forces Movement. There are now four different tendencies within it: a right wing around Fontes; a centre group around Cunhalo, Antunes and Jemini, who want to form an MFA political party which will take support from both the SP and the CF; a group around the prime minister Goncalves who want to back the CFP's efforts to gain control of bureaucratic positions; and a group around Ortol de Carvalho who say they are to the left of the CFP.

There is little doubt that the splits within the working class are gaining new heart to the right wing, whose strength is likely to grow as unemployment deepens growing numbers of workers. But these splits will not be overcome merely by discussions between the Communist Party and Socialist Party leaders.

Directs

A movement at the rank and file level is needed that not only unites workers belonging to different parties, but also directs its energies towards a complete, revolutionary reorganisation of Portuguese society.

The problem is that there is no powerful revolutionary party capable of taking the initiative in developing such a movement. There are many revolutionaries in Portugal, but they are divided into competing organisations.

The best hope for the Portuguese revolution seems to lie with the movement for rank and file revolutionary councils, which was initiated by one of the revolutionary organisations, the PBP.

The workers' committee at the Senave shipyard has transformed itself into a revolutionary council and efforts in this direction are now being made in 40 army units.

If some movement spreads, the Portuguese working class can move forward to establish its complete control over society. Otherwise, a bloody attempt by the old ruling class to turn the clock back can be expected in the near future.

The International Socialists will be holding an important series of meetings on the Revolution in Portugal between Monday, 16 June and Tuesday, 17 June. Every reader of Socialist Worker should keep an eye on the dates and get along to the nearest meeting.
Profits: How to beat the bosses' mumbo jumbo

BUSINESSMEN work hard to cloak their activities with lies and half-truths. They desperately need to pretend that their system, profits and finance can only be understood by experts. And to ensure that real knowledge remains within the magic circle and so makes mere workers feel inferior, they surround the reality of their operations with a seemingly impenetrable mumbo-jumbo.

The task of cutting this rubbish away is an important one. For this reason alone, Christopher Nird's new book Your Employers' Profits is an invaluable publication.

He writes: "There is nothing mysterious or magical about understanding accounts, or knowing where to find financial information".

The crucial sections of the book are those which splendidly illustrate what a company's profits really are. When asked to discover this, many point triumphantly to the profits before tax figure.

Such a reply is not only factually inaccurate but betrays a woeful misunderstanding of one of the most essential Marxist concepts.

by ALAN DENEAN
who runs the Socialist Worker Information Service

Surplus value is not some abstract theory. It represents the key to understanding the degree and nature of capitalist exploitation. Without such an understanding workers remain deprived of any real conception of just how massively they are screwed by the profit system.

To find the "true surplus" or "total profit", certain deducted items must be added to pre-tax profit:

These include interest payments, depreciation, plant hire charges, losses on currency or commodity speculation and directors' salaries.

These have all been taken out before the pre-tax profit figure is arrived at. This wealth represents no more than a transfer of thousands of pounds from one group of capitalists to another.

This is a practical tool for workers in struggle. A means of how good it is lies in the simple way that socialist ideas are put over.

When Marxist ideas are explained in such fashioned, concrete real living ways to workers on a picket line, we have the opportunity of taking our politics out of the realm of abstract theories which provide little response.

Data

We can make them into data that all of us can deal with, data which has a remarkably rapid effect on the level of political awareness and militancy.

It is an urgent battle. For we face them at every corner of our lives. At one end of the scale, there are employers such as Stewart Plastics who are now fighting savagely to prevent workers winning union recognition.

Over the last five years average weekly wages have risen by 49 per cent. In a prime cost price figure, total profits per worker have gone up by 46 per cent.

Then there are the big manufacturing companies like Ford, GKN or British Leyland, who control 90 per cent of the British car industry market and whose average return on capital invested was 15.5 per cent between 1969 and 1973.

For them, every standard pound of profit represents $3 per cent profit. Which is why they are determined to defeat the predominantly Asian workers now on strike.

After all, if they win, the bosses and shareholders can expand their remorseless exploitation of labour and continue their lives of luxury.

The present crisis will give all employers the chance to stage brutal attacks on workers' wages and living standards.

To fight back effectively, to move on the offensive and eventually win, we need to know where and how to get the ammunition.

In a real sense, Chris Nird's book, like The Hazards of Work, shows us how to forge the bullets.

Buy it, read it, sell it and, above all, use it. It would be nothing short of a tragedy if this book were not read and distributed.

IT'S only three months since many socialists and financial journalists were saying that the Chrysler Corporation had decided to pull out of Britain.

At that time, the company's surplus UK assembly capacity, the absence of any new model, and the world economic recession pointed in the direction of Chrysler's departure as soon as possible.

The current dispute at the Stoke engine plant has led to the theory that the whole affair is a manoeuvre by Chrysler to justify withdrawal from this country.

This now seems unlikely in the near future. So what has changed?

Secondly, late in 1974, Chrysler UK got an order from Iran for 10,000 Avengers, followed early in 1975 by an order for another 10,000 plus 10,000 CKD cases (completely knocked down imports to be assembled in Iran).

At a conservative estimate, this order was worth £25 million to Chrysler. Their cash flow problems made it necessary for them to grab anything they could get their hands on.

The company have, since stated that if the current Iran order is completed in time (July 1975), then they stand a good chance of getting a further order for 150,000 to 200,000 Avengers units in the world market—the Middle East, the Far East.

Since the metal is available in Britain, their argument is that the money is there for an order to be placed in Britain.

by PETER BAIN, TGWU steward,

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Since the metal is available in Britain, their argument is that the money is there for an order to be placed in Britain.

by PETER BAIN, TGWU steward,

OF COURSE IT'S POLITICAL, WILSON

by GERRY JONES, TGWU steward, Chrysler Stoke

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Wilson tells us that the strike is politically motivated. The press tells us that our objective is to get Chrysler to put out of business. We really have to pinch ourselves to remember what it is we are after—an offer of £4 as a basis for discussion.

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Huge jump in unemployment for Britain's black workers

UNEMPLOYMENT among black workers is nearly twice as high as among white workers. That situation will get worse as the figures climb rapidly to the million mark.

The latest show that the level of unemployment in Britain, in which the areas of big immigrant population have been virtually free from heavy unemployment in the past, have been outstripped by events. The figures show huge jumps in unemployment in precisely those areas: Birmingham and the West Midlands, Central Lancashire, the East Midlands, London, etc.

Heavy unemployment among blacks will increase the strain on the trade union organisation for all workers. Racialists come out of their hideous and shout for Blacks Out First, or for deportation of unemployed black workers.

A recent Runnymede Trust report on unemployment in Walsall showed that racial differences are not used solely by employers to divide workers on the shop floor. 'Commonly,' the report says, 'it was the in-between class, and pattern shops which were worst hit. Racial divisions on the shop floor mean weaker trade unions all over the factory. All experience proves that.'

Fascism

Resistance to racism is becoming a central part of the work of all shop floor militants. That's why the Rank and File Conference called to co-ordinate the work against racism, discrimination and fascism on the shop floor is so crucial.

This conference was considered just for black workers. White workers confronted with racism on the shop floor will find the conference just as rewarding as black workers.

Applications for delegations are coming in from all over the country. Hammersmith hospital NUPE branch have added their name to the list of sponsors. Among the applications for delegates are from the AUEW branch at Upper Woolwich, Braintree, the Coventry 9 NUPE branch and three from NUT branches.

Speak

The conference hopes to invite members of the black strike committee in recent strikes of black workers to speak. Invitations have gone out to Enoch Powell, the Delta Mouldings (Leicester), Lledo buses, Rubalco Pressors (Manchester) and London Rubber Works (Wembley).

The conference is on 14 June. There is plenty of time to get delegations from the AUEW and the NFU. Organising Committee, Rank and File Conference, 9 Woolwich Road, London NW10.

Get your applications in now. The conference could prove a crucial organisation base for a real attack on racism on the shop floor.

Against racism and discrimination in the workplace, the union, the community.

The Rank and File Conference Organising Committee invites all trade unionists to a conference on racism.

Saturday 14 June, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham.

Credentials and details from Roger Cox, Secretary, Rank and File Organising Committee, 241 Roundwood Road, London, NW10.
Paisley threatens UDI by loyalists

A RHODESIA-type UDI by Northern Ireland loyalists with Catholics either driven out or denied all political rights—that was the thinly veiled threat from Ian Paisley on Monday. Paisley was commenting on the statement by the Rev William Ailroy, one of the clergymen who negotiated the IRA ceasefire, that British troops would be withdrawn if the Constitutional Convention breaks down.

Such a sequence of events is possible, but in the current climate, vis-à-vis Mr Ailroy and his colleagues, it would amount not to withdrawal but to an Ultimatum of a sort—a repeat of the Vietnamese tactical weapon which enabled the Front to hold in Indo-China for two years after the United States had in theory withdrawn.

In arguing for the withdrawal of the army, British soldiers should remember that by far the largest British army unit in Ireland is the Ulster Defence Regiment. The 8,000-strong, part-time force is organized as a fully-fledged regiment.

Some of the delegates at last weekend’s Troops Out Movement conference

Paisley is correct, but he must think of the British troops as more than just a war fighting force; they are also the police force, the authority to keep order, and their withdrawal could lead to chaos and strife.

The UDR is, in effect, better armed than the RUC and cannot be withdrawn in any conventional sense. In his interview on Irish Radio, Mr Ailroy said that a British withdrawal would lead to civil war. Possibly so, but it would be a civil war between the loyalists and the Catholics, one armed by the British, the other by the British.

Socialists must see that the growing calls for an "Irish Army" refer not simply to getting our land back of the line, but to the conquest of the "Irish bosom", the whole Irish people as a whole to determine their own future and that means, at a minimum, the disarming and standing down of those forces which would enable the mass rights elements in the British establishment to continue their imperialist thrust against the Irish people at long range.

by Eamonn McCann

The Irish problem began over eighty years ago, when England invaded Ireland and established the first colony. It has been a continual struggle, and the British government has no right to any military or political presence in this country.

The only solution to the Irish question is the Irish Free State, which was established in 1921, and has been maintained ever since.

The message is clear: the British government has no right to any military or political presence in Ireland. The first step to any solution to the Irish problem is the immediate withdrawal of British troops and the recognition of the rights of the Irish people to self-determination.

Mervyn Metcalfe, a TASS member and a delegate from Coventry on the Council, stressed the difficulties of getting this understood in the working class community. The day-to-day struggle is not just economic and political, but ideological too. Ruling class ideas permeate our class.

We have to challenge the chauvinism which leads workers to believe that the government has a role to play in Ireland. We have to carry out the reform of the Bill of Rights.

This idea—that the British government, as any European government could guarantee democracy in the North of Ireland—was totally rejected in the resolution passed by the conference.

There is no question on this rather long-winded resolution. John Glen of the Glasgow Corporation Electrical Workers Committee gave some details of his experience with the troops as strikers. He emphasized that as the ruling class, the army, was against migrants in this country, they could more easily see the connections with the Irish struggle.

He successfully moved an amendment to the resolution, which was carried, calling for action against the Provisional IRA and in support of troops in industrial disputes.

The conference gave full support to the Troops Out Movement’s two central demands: troops out now and self-determination for the Irish people.

Bigotry

However Leo Abse, Labour MP for Pontypool, who was one of the platform speakers, put forward a different perspective. He blamed the present situation, he said, lay with the Labour and nationalist leaders who have castigated Paisley, Craig and West and their bigotry and for holding the northern Labour leaders in contempt.

But while he called on the Labour government to break the bi-partisanship and force them to change their tune, he now suggests that the British ruling class has fostered the bigotry which it suited them. Indeed, he stated that the British presence in Ireland is not to win support for a clean and radical British state, but to prolong the imperialist war.

In the deepening crisis in Ireland, where the Convention will meet, at some point, and where the so-called Six Counties, which are described as six months, the work of the Troops Out Movement in the labour movement could have a real effect. The right-wing Labourists will depend on British military and economic support to ratify their supremacy in a new Labour State. If the labour movement can force the withdrawal of that support, then the Labourists can be crushed.

The British labour movement cannot stand idly by while our Irish brothers and sisters are threatened with another round of even more brutal and bloody reaction.

by Socialist Worker reporter

The resolutions to the conference are:

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

For the building of a national and local movement which will fight for policies in the trade union movement, and for against racism, and politics violence.

For all immigrants, for black power and other oppressed groups to work together.

For social, economic and political equality for women.

Against all nuclear weapons and alliances such as NATO that advocate for "peace" at any price.

For unconditional support to the international liberation movements.

For the building of a mass working class movement against the capitalist class, and against the trade union leaders who are enthusiastic about the "socialist" class, power, and for the building of a socialist society and a new international.

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

International Socialists, 8 Cotton Gardens, London E2 8DN

Address

Trade Union
Stonehouse: I handled over £300

John Stonehouse... money man?

Tony Benn... workers' man?

The law and social security

HOURLY-PAID employees on the GEC Telecommunications Installation worksite at Farnswood in Doncaster recently laid off were paid less than they should have been, because of the 'white-collar' industrial action.

Three days later, I had a circular from the union, the EETPU, telling me I was eligible for unemploy-ment benefit. I signed on and began receiving unemployment and supplementary benefit.

The same day I phoned the union head office and was told I had been laid off as a temporary measure, in accordance with the 1972 Employment Act. This says that in contract work there is no minimum period of notice and the employer can close the work- site down as a temporary measure, and lay off workers.

A temporary lay-off lasts between four and six weeks. After this, no staff would be eligible for whom the lay-off was in accordance with the 1965 Redundancy Act, which says that if employment is ended by an industrial dispute, re- dundancy pay is sacrificed.

That was all several weeks ago. Last week I asked Socialist Worker what would happen if the lay-off of lasted more than six weeks. They told me they were not sure of the procedure but that I was still employed by GEC.

As far as they were concerned, if the lay-off lasted more than six weeks it would be permanent and not temporary.

Has any reader got an answer concerning the legality of this? Those of us at GEC would be pleased to hear from others involved in similar work on the same contract.

The word is that the local employers, STC, Fisons and Yeo PMC, Richard Strange, Wimborne, are refusing to replace the laid-off workers.

We AUEW members are dismayed by the election of John Boyd as the general secretary of our union. We are also disgusted by the way he has used the million plus £ million in TV to attack workers and left-wingers in our union.

The media must do more to keep the mass media informed, so that those who control the union's future understand the interests of the union.

We hope trade unionists in other areas can be as effective in their press and radio appeals as the London AUEW members who have been so successful in attracting large numbers of new members.

Union leaders often say they are left, but the only way they can fight against redundancies is to fight against the leadership for the interests of the rank and file.

We AUEW members have been fighting for the interests of the rank and file.

ANDREW McDougall. A MIDDLEMARCH, W. MORRIS. PARSONS. EDDisbury.

THE LAW AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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The changing face of civil servants

By a supporter of the rank and file group, Redder Tape

THE PRESS was full of the victories of the civil service unionists who attended the recent conference of the Civil and Public Services Association, the biggest union in the public service.

They rejected at the election as president Roy Birkett and Bob Causton of the NPCPSE who was endorsed by the Daily Express as "Cockney Kate", the red-baiter.

And there was a second development on the second day of the conference. The left retained its control of the executive by 15 votes to 10. Although some figures have yet to be produced, the four candidates supported by the rank and file group, Redder Tape, did very well indeed.

Record

There were also a number of victories on policy. One resolution, which was passed "overwhelmingly", ordered the executive to reproduce by means of branch circulars a record of all motions debated at NEC meetings 'together with a detailed record of the voting of individual NEC members on those motions'.

CPSA is probably the only union in the country with this valuable role on its books. Other unions take note.

There were also a number of important agreements between Right and Left—nobody in the debate on political contributions—what were voted down largely because of the recent recalls of the Labour Party. The Left, however, won the conference and the Left wing has captured and maintained control.

Considering the hysteria and the efficiency of the witch-hunt against 'Communists, International Socialists and their isolated Maoist allies', this victory is considerable advance.

CPSA is the best organised and, potentially, most powerful white-collar union in the country. It has 400 workplace branches (up to 9000 strong) and has organised around a single basic grade.

The government and the big private employers are being increasingly terrified by this situation. The civil service is a crucial part of their state machine. Loyalty to the 'values' of their society is crucial if they are to stay in control.

Until recently, they have always looked on the trade unions in the civil service as tame poodles of the government. That is changing, and the government will do their best to hit back.

For instance, in an attempt to 'swamp' the Left, the Civil Service department agreed recently to allow union meetings in office hours.

Crucial

They assumed turnover would rise, and the 'small, militant, left minority' would be overcome. Turnout did go up—but usually when wages and other crucial matters were being discussed.

The result has been rather different to what the Civil Service mandarins hoped. Even the Economist (10 May) had to admit: 'The reverse for the Left has been rather less severe than it might have been.'

The report went on: 'Leaders of the right-wing faction have held secret meetings with Lord Shepherd, Lord Privy Seal, to see if it is possible to extend the system of meeting in office hours further. Lord Shepherd has been sympathetic, and ma be highly sympathetic, and will be highly sympathetic.'

Afraid

When will they ever learn? The real left in the union is not afraid of big union meetings, or of union meetings in office hours. The more members who take part in union affairs, the better.

The more people who listen to the arguments, the more successful we shall be in organising a mass rank and file movement in the union around Redder Tape.

We underestimate the influence of Redder Tape at the conference. 200 Redder Tape trades being won by delegates within hours of being held.

Redder Tape supporters took up the lead on three main issues in the union: union democracy, Whitelaw and pay research.

Inactivity

We shall continue to get stronger if we build up our programme in the rank and file—and react sensitively to the stronger Broad Left, now in command in the union.

Inactivity and manoeuvring by the Broad Left has to be attacked harder than ever—and just as positive action from them against the hard Right backslab must be supported.

TIGHTENING THEIR BELTS?

DELEGATES to the recent APEX conference in Margate will remember the impassioned plea for economies voiced by the union's executive members and officials. They will also remember that it was extraordinarily difficult to track down the executive after hours.

Not surprising. General secretary Roy Cranham and his cronies were tucked away in the inaccessible Castlefield Hotel, some miles from the conference centre, and living it up at the members' expense.

The cost for the 12-man executive must have been something like £250 for accommodation alone.

THE ‘DUMB ONES’...

Another decision by a civil service trade union has worried the government and the press. The Society of Civil Servants' conference voted unanimously to instruct its executive to "secure the abandonment of administration terms of HEO (A) level of entry to and promotion within the civil service."

It sounds harmless enough, but it enraged the Economist—because it threatens the system by which the traffic in the civil service picks out the haves, consents and promotes them over and above 'ordinary' trade union members.

Every year, the civil service selects some 200 university graduates with the highest possible qualifications—almost always top first class honours degrees. These 'high fliers' are carefully sifted, kept apart from humdrum grades and, after further examinations, plucked into what the Economist calls 'Whitehall's fast track'.

Once there, rapid promotion to the top is ensured. All through this time, of course, they are vied with privileges and higher pay.

The sort of attention is crucial to class administration. The civil service must be kept close to the class, and that means finding out who the top people are and keeping them separate from ordinary people.

Or, as the Economist put it, there is no place for the 'dumb ones'. At Margate, the 'dumb ones' had their say. And, if the executive of the SCS moves as instructed, the 'high fliers' have it good.

Classified

Ads for this column must arrive by first post Friday, eight days before publication date. We cannot, unfortunately, take them over the phone. Send cash (up to a word) to Classified, Socialist Worker, Cardboards Works, Corbridge, Cressington, London NW5 6SS.

COUPLE SEEK shared accommodation, North London, for one year from September. Homeowners, 5 Sommerville Terrace, N3. 2750.

GENERAL WILK, a Bradford-based tour manager, seeking £250-£500 for campers, motorhomes, caravans and campers. One musician and one driver essential. Must be prepared to live in place. 222, Stannium Road, Bradford, S. Yorks.

JOHN AND MARGARET LIVY invite you to enjoy a North Wales farmhouse holiday. Stay in a mountain stream, country rambles, fishing wild- life, bird-watching, a luxury self-catering home. Telephone: 0477 2722 or write to: 116 Apsley Road, Gran Y Garth, Betws-y-Coed, North Wales.

COMMEN MARKET OR COMMUNIST GENERAL Phy. Does it matter? Out/Out what difference does the answer make? Plea Taken Seaton 2, June 26, Hasley. 0242 251 1129, The Four have each served four years of their terms, far from their original intention of taking the Army Brigade hounds. We need another one in the chamber for the House.

SOCIALISTS AND THE EEC Debate 2, 7, 8 Thame Street, London WC2. (Susan Board) Rover Club, 21 Chichester St, 071 836 7794. (National Executive Committee) 01-836 7999, 01-836 7997. (Common Market) 01-336 1725. (Not United Socialist Committee) 01-581 4000. (Independent Socialist, & Broad Left) 01-836 7048. (Independent Socialist, & Broad Left) 01-836 7048.
THE HYPERSONIC BEHIND THE LAW LORDS’ RULING

MANY PEOPLE are seething over the Law Lords’ ruling on rape. Lord Hailsham and his friends have said, in effect, that what matters is not what women want, but what men think they should want.

What produces such attitudes? Why does rape seem to get away with it all?

There have been societies in which rape was considered a social evil. Yet in Britain today, it is increasing.

The reason for this is that rape can be as much a form of social control as a form of sexual aggression. The rape mentality is not a new one. It is a form of control that women find a way to control others, and that men find a way to control women.

Look at the photos in The Sun and The Mirror. They show women’s bodies to sell things. That’s what the media wants to give is that women are not human beings, nor people, but objects designed to provide pleasure for those with the money to get them.

The same papers that preach anti-socialism among the ‘miseducated’ of some women who have had their private lives destroyed through the law courts will also point these ‘miseducations’ in the most lurid colours so as to fill the readers.

Bliss

Such a mentality is not accidental. It is a typical expression of the double-edged attitude to women of those who believe they have no equal partners.

On one hand, they practicalize the virtues of control and marriage. They paint an idealistic picture of a world in which marriage and family are the only things that matter, and their own children all living together in perfect harmony.

Never mind that they may be cramped together in two rooms, without any privacy, with their indoor toilet, the children screaming, the parents forced to work on different shifts so that they hardly see each other.

The traditional family is to be praised, even if all too often there’s boredom, unhappiness, unhappiness, and the stress of street aborizations.

For the family to suit the needs of big business perfectly, the woman, by waiting upon the man and the children, ensured he’s fit and healthy to work and they go up to join the labour force.

None of this costs the employer a penny. The husband is the owner of the factory, of making ends meet at home, the son is the order of work, if the employer decides, he wants to expand the labour force.

There is one idea pumped by the employer that we should all be to the head of appeal to women trapped in this situation to put up with the sanctity of the family.

However, sheoor her own life, she often feels it would be better to be miserable, not to be abandoned by her husband and forced to maintain the children by herself.

And so, all too often, she accepts all the teasing by the church or right-wing politicians, or by the need to have the same idea as the family.

Right-wing political movements always have to speak in the name of the family. By doing so, they can get support from many women for a situation that subordinates women’s lives to the profit system.

That is why, in periods of crisis, such as at present, we see a strengthen- ing of those forces with re-actionary views on subjects such as abortion. Politicians who support the status quo need all the political support they can get— and one sure source of it is from the ‘defend the family’ antiabortion lobby headed by the leaders of the Catholic Church.

Bodies

Alongside this mythic presentation of the role of the present day family, capitalism presents another, rather different view of women.

Those who own wealth under the present system take it for granted that they can buy or sell anything they wish. They can even buy human beings— forcing any worker who wants to stay alive to labour for them to produce profits. Necessitated, they expect to be able to buy and sell women’s bodies as well.

Members of the ruling class have always kept to the rigid chas- tity which they have preached to everyone else. They have taken it for granted that, if they personally find the conventional form of marriage unbearable, they should be able to indulge in sexual delights outside it, buying the bodies of prostitutes.

So, in the middle of the last century, at the high point of the Victorian doctrine propounded by employers and politicians, there were thousands of prostitutes in London. One house in which they were kept was a brothel.

The same hypocrisy prevails to- day. Only a few months ago, one high dignitary of the Catholic church in France died in a brothel and another collapsed in the house of a call girl.

Businessmen see there is money to be made from the frustration of the masses. Through advertising and fancy stories in the gutter Press, they stimulate and exploit the frustra- tions, produced by the very structure they so ardently defend.

Cost

No one’s sexual appetites are stimulated while they are forced to live cramped and crowded lives, which often prevent them from even beginning to satisfy those appetites. Their entire psychological make-up can be dangerously twisted as a result.

Most people just want to survive. They make do as best they can— although at enormous cost in terms of personal happiness. But some can’t bear the strain and end up drinking alcohol or other stimulants, or even killing themselves in despair.

And a few men take to their legal colleagues who are taught about women being subhuman commodities. Why not ‘steal’ one, inflicting on the women in the same way you would on a thing.

If human beings are presented rather like, for instance, sliced bread, why not nick the odd crust?

The Law Lords’ decision shows how small is the difference between the right’s attitude and the atti- tude of those who make the rules in our society.

The Law Lords believe women are not capable of making up their minds on sexual matters and that therefore, verging insanity must be given to alleged rapists.

Ranting

The ranting carries the view to its logical conclusion and indulges itself— regardless of the woman’s view of the matter.

To solve the problem of rape, you have to tackle the society that pays such bills, and replace it with one in which women and men can relate to one another as human beings, not objects to be bought, sold and despoiled.

But simply to enact the economic organisation of society that the wealth at pre- sent holds by the ruling class is used to provide every individual with the privates of a decent existence.

Only then will people be able to establish relationships that are mutually satisfying and without being compelled by ideology and material necessity to unhappy and frustrat- ing lives.

The problem is not the present reactionary attitudes to rape— the problem is the态度 embedded in the rape rule- ling. Nor is the problem the proposed law before Parliament— it is an essential part of the structure of our civilisation and the rejection of society.

But a fight to change attitudes— or even laws— will not be ultimately successful unless it is integrated into the physical fight to seize power, from the ruling class.

CHRIS HARMAN

 Quotes

In matters of taste, yes, I am, I fairly moral person I think in other words, I worry about none.


IF human beings are presented like sliced bread, why not nick the odd crust?

SATURDAY

BBC2: 9.50pm. THE END OF THE WORLD SPECIAL.

TUESDAY

ITV: 10pm. WEEKEND WORLD SPECIAL is 90 minutes on the Commons Market from one of the better of TV’s current affairs programmes.

BBC2 (2.75pm) is THE WORLD ABOUT US. THOMPSON-owner of BBC2, is THE WORLD ABOUT US. THOMPSON—FESTIVAL OF ECSTASY on a minority Hindu sect in Malaysia, at one of their festivals, at which they train a trance state, and can rivet them with a spear, books etc.—and leave no Wednesday.

BBC2: 9.10pm. Best view of the week is a KEB the film about a boy and his best friend in Baskets and how the adult

ON THE BOX

will be inspired by recent events.

SUNDAY

ITV: 10pm. WEEKEND WORLD SPECIAL is 90 minutes on the Commons Market from one of the better of TV’s current affairs programmes.

BBC2 (2.75pm) is THE WORLD ABOUT US. THOMPSON-owner of BBC2, is THE WORLD ABOUT US. THOMPSON—FESTIVAL OF ECSTASY on a minority Hindu sect in Malaysia, at one of their festivals, at which they train a trance state, and can rivet them with a spear, books etc.—and leave no Thursday.

BBC2: 9.10pm. Best view of the week is a KEB the film about a boy and his best friend in Baskets and how the adult

BIBLICAL SCRIPTURE

(BBC2, 9.50pm) is a documentary tracing from the boardroom, the collapse of a company. WEBBEY TALEIS (BBC2, 9.30pm) is THE MELANCHOLY HUSKAR. THURSDAY.

BBC2: 9.25pm. MAN ALIVE: TERROR part 1: THE PALESTINIAN GUERRILLA purports to examine the political frustrations and despair that erupt in terrorist violence. Later perhaps we may get a programme on the mentality of the Israeli, US, Russian and British ruling class and what has led them to bomb, blast and shoot their way to fame and fortune. BY COMMON CONSENT (BBC1, 9.20pm) is National Youth Theatre production of a political fantasy set in the future.

NIGEL FOUNTAIN

CHIS HARMAN

CHRIS HARMAN
LONDON RUBBER

The news in Rubber was of a strike by workers at the Shellrubber Ltd, Shepperton, which began on 9 September after the failed attempt at conciliation between the company and the Independent Rubber Workers. The strike was called for the restoration of the £3.10 an hour rate, which had been reduced to £3.05 during the previous round of negotiations.

GARTONS, SOUTH LONDON

MANAGEMENT at Gartons (Glynn) have announced that they will not accept a 5% pay rise for workers at the factory. The workers are demanding a 10% increase, but the management has refused to negotiate.

LLENFGENNIAU AUEW

The local Engineering union branch met to discuss the proposed redundancies at the factory. The union is demanding that the management consult with the union representatives before making any decisions.

CABLES STRIKE GOES ON

The strike has continued for the second week, with no sign of a resolution. The workers are determined to fight for their rights and are demanding a new contract that includes a 10% pay increase.

Support grows for 40 sacked printers

PETERSBOROUGH—Scab labour at Sharmans printworks produced a copy of the Petersborough Evening Telegraph on Friday after last week's sackings of 40 printers. The printers are being assisted by local trade unions to boycott all the Sharmans printworks.

The dispute began after the NGA called a 24-hour strike to try to bring out an evening paper using new technology. The printers were replaced by a combination of the girls in the office, Sharmans refused to make any new agreements and sacked all 40 NGA men working on the evening edition. 17 of the 40 men were already members of NUJB, and the NUJB met with the printers to try to settle the dispute.

With the NUJB's backing, the printers managed to negotiate a new agreement with Sharmans, which included a 24-hour shut down, which was later agreed to by the management.

NUJB CONFERENCE

The NUJB conference on the Public Em- ployees' strike was held in West Bromwich against hospital pickets on the last day of the conference. Mr. R. W. Alderson was the only delegate from the NUJB present. Mr. Alderson said the NUJB was the only union to have a full-time official at the hospital and was opposing the picketing.

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TV bosses lock out technicians

LOCK-OUT. That's the tactic of the commercial television companies in their battle against the technicians who followed the instructions of the film and TV technicians' union ACTT to strike over the weekend.

The strike put back by eight technicians owned the technicians from the time of the Boeing flyovers, and also the trade unionists on Monday security guards at the studios - including that of techniques who had opposed the lock-out to stick to the claim, win the industrial dispute and save a television company ACTT members. We have to back the 500 workers on their claim. The money has been due for years as wages.

In SOUTHBOROUGH, at the Southern TV studios, the lock-out was less successful - about 200 ACTT members returned to work on Tuesday by a "petty decency", of the chief accountant, general manager and station manager.

The 120 technicians are in trouble with the picket line and asked that they be allowed to join their jobs. The company officially refused.

The union of 120 technicians voted to keep the picket line and not to return to work until the union was allowed to join.

The strike is the first to occur in the television industry since the first picket line was set up in 1977.

GASWORKS
PLUMBERS
FOUR-WEEK
PARITY
STRIKE
'SOLID'

MANCHESTER. This is Robert Buick, the plumbers' shop steward on the Woodfall-Dubarry contract at Partington gasworks. It's one of the plumbers and welders there who've been striking for four weeks. On 13 May they were fired by the site management, including the Woodfall-Dubarry Engineering Union's official W. Charles had warned them that his hands were "out of the picture" but Robert and the rest of the strikers are "solid" and "determined to win their job back."

The workers, who are installing natural gas in the area, are fighting for parity with the nearby gas engineers who are on strike. The same job is controlled by a national collective agreement which allows for local agreements.

Ring support to Robert, the PTU steward, on 061-747 0874. Donations to Woodfall-Dubarry Strikers Fund, Midland Bank, Manchester.

Boyd wins AUEW poll and turns on the Left

by John Deason

RIGHT-WINGER. John Boyd has swept into the general secretary of the Engineering Union with 164,276 votes against Left candidate Bob Britton (96,116). This is the most dramatic victory for the right wing inside the union for years, and it has delighted the bosses' press, which has praised him for his "solid" character.

Boyd's first campaign at General Secretary was to the workers, their International Socialist Congress, and all of whom condemned the strike as a "vandal" of the right wing. In theает the safety of the National Congress, the "anti-congress." The left wing and the Right wing are now at each other's throats, and the Black Left Community Party has been reduced to 18 votes.

The rest of the results are not yet clear. But those for national offices show the same trend. Ken Brett, sitting assistant secretary and a member of the Broad Left, was re-elected into second place with 69,725 votes against 94,853 votes by right-wing candidate (57,354) and now has to go into second ballot. Bob Foster, sitting national organiser and a Broad Left Community Party member, has been re-elected but only after going to second ballot.

The result was as predicted by Community Party member Bernard Wiedemann, who, after an appointed full-time official's job, was elected by 216,436 votes against 150,609. This is the only result at national level against the right wing. The latest result at London's Labour Party (122) held the right wing against John Wexley (112,569). The Broad Left is as much a socialist against the right wing as the Broad Left is against the right wing.

At district and divisional level, this trend of elections is predictable - generalised, but the right wing has made inroads.

These results were disclosed in the executive. They are the result of the balance between the right and the left. This is the first election in which the right wing has been defeated.

The great result is the bankruptcy of the Community Party-led Broad Left, which sees a bureaucratic head count as more important than the failure of its own machine to mobilise rank and file enthusiasm for its candidates. The Broad Left, is an effective machine within the rank and file, is in decay.

The Boot goes in at a second site

THE Boot is going in again. In NORTHAMPTON the UCATT building committee has won a strike at the Henry Boot's Eastern Road site in its sixth week, and now a second area of the site has been taken over by the union workers. This has led to a site occupation in DUNSTAN.

Eight building workers were sacked from the Dunston site last Friday just after they had joined the local Transport Workers' Union branch. They were at the works on the working conditions and safety issues.

"These are the worst employers I have ever seen in 26 years in the trade," said one worker. Another was told of putting the danger that he had no "right" he was "merely a labourer."

"Camever Boot is one of York's main scourges" and the whole building industry calls them "Foul". Social self-preservation has already fallen off.

"The men occupied the site, and are demanding reinstatement for the eight who have been sacked."

The workers' wives have been going out to protest at the site, and placards are being held up. They are all upset. We want five men back in their jobs and the Boot can't move.

The occupation has not been made official, but the police have tried to re-enter the building.

NORTHAMPTON a motion about the Boot's strike there to the local trades council has put a Labour councillor on the spot.

'This trade council is seriously concerned about the news that the society will be doing all within its power to solve this dispute,' he said. 'We will not allow anything that might prejudice the outcome of the dispute to be done.'

One of the main reasons for the national concern is that the Boot has been in receivership and is now under receivership. The union is pressing for the receivership to be dissolved and a new business to be set up.

The non-union workers are pressing for the receivership to continue and for the business to continue. This is to ensure that the workers' rights are protected.

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Abortion: How we forced BMA to act

By Ron Singer

THE FIGHT against the back-street abortion Bill was given a boost last week by the action of militant doctors.

Twelve of us, mostly ASTMS members, confronted the Secretary of the British Medical Association and demanded a written assurance that he would make a public statement of opposition to the Bill at a press conference. He refused, so we occupied the BMA House.

The occupation lasted all night—and eventually the Secretary made a statement which was much more to our liking than we had called for.

We allowed the BMA’s opposition to the Bill and undertook to publicise further this opposition at the next BMA Council meeting in June.

Meanwhile, our action will continue. We are making a petition with the National Abortion Campaign of that meeting, as well as calling for support for the 21 June demonstration. Further information from 01-732 9011.

Rights

We need to make more use of the law as a weapon to defend the rights of the individual. If it is to be used properly it must be fought over in the courts and defended in the courts. The following resolution should be adopted at all trade union branches, trade councils, shop stewards meetings, public meetings and pickets in all local MP’s constituencies.

Socialist Worker posters for a new law, to be available in next week’s paper for use in the area.

Women’s conference postponed

THE NATIONAL Rank and File Workers’ Industrial Conference has been postponed for want of a suitable venue in circumstances beyond the organisers’ control.

Rank and File organiser Ken Appleby explained to Socialist Worker: ‘The new date we chose was subsequently adopted by the National Abortion Campaign for their national demonstration against the Abortion Amendment Bill.

‘This demonstration is obviously so important for working women that we are bound to call off our conference and urge all trade unionists to support the demonstration.

‘We will be discussing with the sponsors of our conference a new date, which will be available as soon as possible.’