Maudling: Corruption Probe Blockaded

But the Shrewsbury Two rot in jail.

While the government treats Reginald Maudling with such kind concern, Labour Ministers continue their hypocritical campaign to uphold ‘law and order’ by keeping the Shrewsbury Two rotting in jail.

Last Thursday, Jim Nichol, national secretary of the ILP, went to Leicester prison with Marlene Tomlinson and Billy Byrnes, a friend of the family, to visit Ricky. The prison authorities suddenly announced that the visit would have to be cut short. Mrs. Tomlinson might have come all the way from North Wales for a four-hour journey. But they insisted, the maximum time they could allow was 25 minutes.

Des Warren and his family have also been subjected to similar treatment. But his determination not to give in appears to have won out.

Released

Last Thursday, Des was moved from Lincoln, where he has been in solitary confinement, to Nottingham prison. It appears that since the move, Des has been brought out of solitary, therefore winning his long campaign.

Elsie Warren told Socialist Worker this week that the Home Office hadn’t bothered to inform her about the situation, though they had written to tell her the official lie that Des was in solitary at his own request.

She understood that Des was now being allowed to mix with his fellow human beings and would be able to take up a course as a plasterer.

Mrs. Warren is certain now that at no time did Home Secretary Roy Jenkins intend to parole the two men. The only way the two will be released, is by mass industrial action.

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Police inquiries into allegations of corruption against Reginald Maudling, Tory spokesman on foreign affairs, are being obstructed.

The Labour government’s chief law officer, Sir John Simon, knows of this, but has not lifted a finger to stop it.

A number of newspapers and politicians have this week called for a full public inquiry into the scandal surrounding John Poulson, the Yorkshire architect now in jail for corruption.

They have suggested that the police inquiries and prosecutions have exposed only a small part of the corruption in Leeds government, big business and the civil service.

Exclusive

By Paul Foot

The story of the police inquiries into Mr. Maudling’s activities forcefully backs up this charge.

This time last year, senior police officers from the Fraud Squad started to investigate the case of the Gooze Hospital, Maltby, which was built at enormous expense with the help of £1.62 million of British taxpayers’ money. Finished in 1975, it has been empty ever since.

Poulson, the hospital’s architect, was paid more than £250,000 in fees. In 1966-67 he teamed up with the medical department of Vickers in an attempt to get the contract for the building, designing, and equipping of the entire hospital.

While Vickers and Poulson were going for the contract, Reginald Maudling was chairman of two companies whose main purpose was to sell ‘package deals’ of Poulson’s services abroad.

On the board of one of those companies, TNC, was Dr. Kenneth Williams, then medical director of Vickers.

In January 1967, Maudling, Williams and Poulson visited Malta to fight for the contract. The following month, Maudling made

Continued on Page Two

Portuguese revolutionary in Britain

The Portuguese Revolution comes to London’s Heathrow Airport. The picture shows Carlos Silva, a sergeant in the Portuguese Army and a member of the Provisional secretariat of the Revolutionary Council, addressing a meeting on Tuesday of workers in the Heathrow British Airways catering.

Carlos Silva will be speaking in the next week at a series of meetings organised by IS at which the Socialist Worker Portugal Solidarity Fund will be launched. The aim is to send cash to the PRF, the revolutionary socialists organisation with which IS has been developing links, to help the Portuguese Workers’ Co-ordinating Committee, which is spearheading solidarity work in Britain, and to assist IS’s work on Portugal.

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LIVERPOOL
This Thursday, 7.30pm, AUEW Hall, Mount Pleasant.

COVENTRY
Monday 10 June, 7.30pm, Lanchester Poly.

BIRMINGHAM
Tuesday 17 June, 7.30pm, Luttenor Room 1, Digbeth Town Hall.

GLASGOW
Wednesday 18 June, 7.30pm, McLennan Gallery, Sauchiehall Street.

EDINBURGH
Thursday 19 June: Time and venue to be announced.

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Down with the Back-Street Abortion Bill! ● All out on 21 June ● DETAILS PAGE TWO
A 15-year-old girl about to sign the Leicester NAC petition, said I had an abortion last year. They wouldn’t give me any on the National Health, because I had to pay £2.80. I was stupid and naive then, I didn’t really know what was going on. But I had been born today. I was lying in bed last night thinking about it. I truly don’t know what I would have done. If the Bill goes through, young girls will find it a lot easier to get an abortion. No one will be able to give them advice on abortions unless one parent is present.

A speech in the House of Commons. Without declaring his business interests in this incident, he spoke against cuts in Government aid to Malta. The police inquiry established:

That Maulding wrote letters to a senior Minister and a senior civil servant in Malta urging them to give the hospital contract to Poulsen.

That he said to a personal letter to Borg Olivier, the Maltese Prime Minister, that the contract had been awarded with a speedy decision in Poulsen’s favour.

That Maulding put pressure on a civil servant at the Ministry of Overseas Development—the department which provided the cash for the hospital—to hurry up payment of Poulsen’s fees.

BRIBE

That in 1966, £5000 was paid by Vickers Ltd to one of their agents in Malta, a building supplier called John Ahe. The money was destined for the funds of the ruling Nationalist (conservative) Party.

It was a bribe to get Vickers the hospital contract.

The police report was submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions last December. The papers were passed to Mr John Cobb, QC, who was asked for his opinion as to whether Maulding should be prosecuted under the corrupt practices act.

The report contains two questions: did Maulding know about the £5000 bribe? Did he unduly use his influence as a former Minister and an MP to secure the hospital contract for Poulsen?

Cobb decided that, on the evidence in the report, it was impossible to decide on either of these two questions until a full investigation was completed.

EDDIE LOYDEN, Labour MP for Liverpool and a member of the TGWU, voted for the Bill. But now he says:

"If this is a wrecking Bill, I will be opposed to it. My experience after speaking to people in the House is that quite a number would not have voted for the Bill except to support the Select Committee.

The main belief abortion is primarily a matter for women to decide and that all abortion should be free and on the National Health."

The following MPs were on the Transport and General Workers Union, all voting against the Bill: Lewis Carter-Jones (Eccles), Peter Dieg

SOME of the people who marched through Manchester on Saturday in protest against James White’s Abortion (Amendment) Bill. The march was part of the local NAC day of action.

ASTMS, NUPE and ATTI members have raised the issue successfully in their unions. Logistocks have gone into the large factories, petitioners have been collected, and pickets are being arranged in Manchester. Anyone in the city who were, have sighted the Bill, a welcome to attend meetings every Wednesday at 6pm, Room 202, the Polytechnic Atrium Street, Council House for the 21 June demonstration from St Peter’s Square.

THREAT

As soon as he returned to England, he redoubled his efforts to get back into the Shadow Cabinet. Edward Heath, then Tory leader, had told him he wouldn’t get back on the Tory front bench until he could prove he was 'shot of that Poulsen business'.

When Margaret Thatcher won the Tory leadership in February, Maulding sought a position, arguing he was 'prime'. She then offered him a job as a senior lawyer to the newly formed Conservative Party. He accepted.

On evidence so far, I cannot see the case coming to court. So Thatcher, who wanted someone in her 'team' from the Macmillan era, promptly appointed Maulding to the Shadow Cabinet. Even if the police are annoyed at the qualified assurance from the Attorney General that there would be no prosecution before the police inquiries had been completed, there is no question now, even if a police report has been kept on record, that the law must take its course against the individuals who were prosecuted for political offences under the last Tory government.

Maulding has full the weight of his office behind Roy Jenkins, the former Attorney General, to secure the dismissal of the Labour councillors at Clay Cross.

He insisted, on the strength of the reports, that Labour's pledge to the Tories' spin on those councillors should be shelved.

But when those same Tory Ministers who perused the bourgeois and councilors' views on the investigation, he covers up.

On 11 November last year in a speech at Oxford he repeatedly re-examined social worker Mr Silkin indicated that a very serious issue of police inquiries were brought to an end. The very councilors are still to be investigated, and so on.

"I ask you this. Is there any phase you want to say, "enough is enough"? Or do you go on fighting? I have to temper justice with mercy.

We now know what means:

Justice for your Labour members.

And mercy for your Tory friends.

NO RETURN TO BACK STREET ABORTION

"Since 1967 when the abortion law was liberalised, the numbers of back street abortions have decreased by three-quarters."

The latest issue of Women's Voice lists the trade union-sponsored Abortion Group of the Labour Party- 


southern public meeting: Three men in the crowd at 202, Polytechnic, Atrium Street, Council House. Sunday, 21 June, at 6pm. 

LOWESTOFF is public meeting: Four women in the crowd at 202, Polytechnic, Atrium Street, Council House. Sunday, 21 June, at 6pm.

HORSEY NAC public meeting: At 202, Polytechnic, Atrium Street, Council House. Sunday, 21 June, at 6pm.
The vote is over—at long last the knives are out.

Benn's call for 'participation' would mean real workers' control—deciding the overall functioning of the economy and making it serve human need not profit—but rather mean workers collaborating with their employers to raise profits and cutting manning levels. Benn's policy here is no different from that used in Germany soon after the war to create rank and file trade union organisation.

Profitable, in fact, both Benn's state intervention in industry and his workers' participation are policies for reorganising the business system and making it more profitable.

Now, at last, the moment you've been waiting for. A great historic occasion in which the cut and thrust of debate in Parliament, the cockpit of British democracy, is brought by radio into every living room.

To get workers to accept this policy, Benn has engaged in a great deal more socialist-sounding talk than he ever translated into action. No doubt he also hopes that his talk will one day help him achieve his ambition to be Leader of the Labour Party.

It is talk, rather than his actions, which anger big business and its most ardent supporters in all three political parties.

They are after Benn not because of what he is, but because of what he could represent to many workers. At a time when they are demanding all-out war on workers' wages and conditions, they cannot tolerate anyone who, even in words, gives the impression that everything is not entirely the fault of the workers.

Benn: Better days playing with Concorde

They want a government that is prepared to wage such all-out war on workers, not to buy workers' support for capitalism with concessions. As The Economist, big business's own weekly paper, puts it: 'Mr Wilson's aim in a situation of this kind is to use the government which is prepared to administer the benefits of medicine that Britain now requires.'

Illuminations

Thus the change in the government is intended not so much to get rid of the 'socialist' Benn, as to produce a Cabinet which is more dependent on the TUC's support and more vicious in its treatment of trade unionists. And that means a government which is not even talk in terms of socialism or cooperation—nor Benn. By accepting these changes has shown, says he, that he is prepared to adopt, he puts political office above all principles.

THE £400,000 BOOZE-UP

The London solicitor of Christie's successfully bid £400,000 for a water colour of dress in a few hours last week. Despite the crises; the celebrated Concorde or the Financial Times are in danger of death, the Christie's auctioneer managed to hold the sale.

A new record was set for a case of 12 bottles of Cristal, the 1870 edition of the £400,000 (50 a bottle), and £280 was paid for four bottles of Chateau Lafite 1945.

We don't know what the lucky people were bought. What we do know is that last week's £400,000 was endorsed by the Financial Times as 'the biggest gift ever in the city's top Alhambra Hotel.

The city's political and financial crisis was the climax of a £600,000 in the City at the Institute of Bankers in Scotland.

The country is living beyond its means, but the economics are being told, so we must cut back by the end of the 12 months. The wage increases and social services. One way to cut back in the factory, however, is by spending the price of a new machine. Benn's policies are to increase their profits through advertising. Last year they spent between them £4,400,000 on television advertising. This year they are spending £1,000,000 on promoting just one new brand, Drive.

THE political have done rather better in their wage negotiations than the railworkers—why even booting out to go to arbitration, and without any bite. The newspapers about breaking the Social Contract.

A congratulations to the police who were on just under £1,600 a week on last year's pay scale, finds his basic pay jumping to £465.15 on the new rate. That's more than £10 (29 per cent a week). In new money—since the rises are on top of the threshold hours payments won by the police last year.

Benn's thing is not in the rise for the chief superintendents, who get a 31 per cent in new money, bringing them up to £1,515 a week.

Jack Jones: Wont's joint agreement on pay policy.
ADVERTISEMENT

Health and Safety at Work

Day schools arranged by the Rank and File Organising Committee are sponsored by local shop stewards' committees and union branches.

BIRMINGHAM 28 June
Contact: John Hindmarsh, 37 Lyttelton House, Castle Vale, Birmingham 37. Phone 0121-747 8007.

YORK 28 June
Contact: Eric Golding, 221 Metropolitan, Hull Road, York.
Phone 0904 - 30413.

MANCHESTER 5 July
Contact: Dave Davidson, 76 Lylec Court, Salford 6. Phone 061-737 7628.

Discussions are also taking place in many other branches.

The safety pamphlet "Causes For Concern" being reprinted so far supplies can now be ordered from the new address:
Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London, N16 8BY. Phone 01-249 1207.

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AUEW-urban: Campaign hots up

Above: The letter from John Boyd, CBE, left, to Paul Foot of Socialist Worker lobbying delegates outside the recent AUEW national committee meeting.

So far, 34 AUEW branches and seven district committees have sent resolutions to the committee for use in setting the agenda for the next meeting in Edinburgh on 22nd August. The branches have adopted a strong and co-ordinated line.

One of the main grievances is the "stop gap" measure announced at the last meeting (SW 24/6/78) of the membership in the junior grades, which it says is not acceptable to the membership.

The letter is part of the campaign to win backing for the socialist Labour and Industrial Correspondents Group at the AUEW National Conference on 21 June in Hull.

Written

The group prohibits all weekly papers from membership. So our industrial correspondent cannot join and the group. We cannot, on our rousing, to come to our conference unless we are a member of a group, from which, along with all other weekly papers, are automatically excluded.

The letter goes on to apply for press credentials for the important AUEW annual conference in Hastings on 16 June.

In the meantime, members and industrial correspondents have written to John Boyd, to ask them to go to the conference and invite him to speak to the delegates. We have written to Ken Morgan, general secretary of the National Council of Labour Correspondents, asking him to write to Boyd asking for an interview and inviting him to the conference. We have also written to the Labour and industrial correspondents group asking for the same.

This is a change from their previous stand. It is a change, we believe, that is related directly to the fine response from the union's rank and file. The following district committeess: Bradford, Enfield, Leeds, Dewsbury and Newton, Warrington, Wakefield and Bolton.

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Your Employers' Profits

Profits of
Public Companies / Subsidiary Companies / Principal Companies
Nationalised Industries / Directors' Reports / Profit and Loss Accounts / Balance Sheets / Liabilities / Concessional Investment Grants
Christopher Bird

9/9 (John 16:9) postcard from PLUTO PRESS, Unit 12, Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Rd, London NW1 8LH.

Socialist Worker Information Service

MAYBE you need to know more about your firm, its products or direction. PERHAPS you're worried about the chemicals you work with. Then put in touch with the Socialist Worker Information Service and we'll try to help.

Write to Alan Deneau, SWIS, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

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The Campaign to allow Socialist Worker reporters to attend the conference of the union, the AUEW, has hotted up.

Last Thursday, we received this letter below from the union's general secretary, John Boyd, in reply to our request for credentials for the amanegmated union conference in Hastings this week. Boyd's letter says:

Insists

It has been explained to you in your representation on numerous occasions, no letters were sent to any of our branches which are to be attended by the industrial group of the NUJ.

We are not in a position to give you a reply at this time, we will communicate with you.

We have replied immediately to Boyd, pointing out that, in spite of the many letters to the contrary by us and by the NUJ, the AUEW still insists on describing the "industrial group" as the NUJ.

Our letter went on: "Once again, can you remind you that the Labour and Industrial Correspondents Group has nothing to do with the NUJ, and is not a trade union body at all.

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The TECH teachers figured: About these postal balls

By Joy Leman

Although few Rank and File resolutions were passed, much of the debate was devoted to the question of a postal ballot for the union's members.

The debate was on a resolution on educational resources, conference rejected the concept of a flexible workforce.

In the debate on salaries, conference insisted in the face of executive opposition on a firm condemnation of the direction of the union's executive.

The quorum point of the next salary negotiations.

Total support by conference delegates for a comprehensive resolution on women's rights makes a step forward in the agitation of the membership for implementation of equal rights for women on the basis of equal pay and educational opportunities.

The importance of generalising the struggle over the issue of the wage and with other unions was in the attempt to organise a national Working Women's Charter of the NUJ, which includes redress for equal pay and educational opportunities, more nursery provision, paid maternity leave, paternity leave and free available for courses.

Even on this the executive punted for an executive committee decision. The possibility of the executive committee decision to set up an executive committee for equal pay and educational opportunities, more nursery provision, paid maternity leave, paternity leave and free available for courses.

There has been a proposal on the issue of an executive committee decision against a resolution calling for the executive to campaign against the Bill and to support the 21 June national demonstration.
END POLITICAL REPRES.SION IN SPAIN! March, Saturday 14 June, 2pm, Hyde Park Corner, London W1, to Spanish Embassy.

THE deep political crisis in Spain has intensified further over the past week.

According to the Financial Times, a majority of Ministers in Madrid have decided that Franco must step down right away, or the movement against the regime could become strong enough to overthrow it altogether.

Their problem is that Generalissimo Franco may not wish to oblige them, and every day's delay sees the opposition gaining strength despite the ever-increasing repression.

The opposition movement is at its strongest in Vizcaya and Guipuzcoa in Northern Spain, the two provinces where the people, of Basque nationality, have long straggled against oppression and where the working class is particularly strong.

Despite the居家にon of martial law and a truly massive police prep-regime, these provinces have already been under critical by underground workers' committees and the Basque Nationalist party may be the key to an armed left wing militant forces which may never have advanced so far.

It will be a major challenge for the same developments in Spain simply because of the country's past and the Madrid government and a dislike of General Franco.

For Wednesday, attempts had been made to spread the strike to the Basque provinces.

The fascist regime has countered these moves by blacking out all information from the Basque provinces and in every possible way trying to cover up the enormity of the situation. They have also launched pre planning of attacks, making literally hundreds upon hundreds of arrests. But in some cases, these sspirits are driving the opposition movement.

In Getafe, the main industrial suburb of Madrid, there has been a wave of political strikes. Workers at the Casa aircraft factory and at Siemens and Kevlaron went on strike. Riot police were mobilized to stop them and to Kevlaron plant to clear the workers out. Strikes were also reported at the Fiat, Standard Electric, (ITI) and Femsa electrical plants. Construction workers also supported the strike.

Students at Madrid University also moved into action against the regime. They walked off campus and halted rush hour traffic shooting 'Down with Fascism' and giving the clenched fist salute.

There is also evidence to suggest that there is more and more support for the professional and middle classes to join the opposition movement, often in response to the outrages of the police. Four hundred of them who attempted to hand in a letter of petition to the Ministry of Information in Madrid were arrested and charged. Nearly 2000 had signed the document.

Just how serious the crisis and repression can be gauged from a recent statement in the Washington magazine that if the arrest continued at the rate, to the front half of the population of Spain would be in jail and the other half working overtime to feed them.

For printing this analysis the magazine has been suppressed.

The Western Allies and Spain, and editorial in the Financial Times, 22 May 1975.

Supporters of the Spanish Solidarity Campaign picketing Spain's London Embassy last week. PHOTO: Andrew Reid (Reuters)

Pressure

Two other students, Inigo Alain and Jose Arroya aged 21, got eight years and six years respectively. The fifth defendant, Juan Bastida Las, aا a got 12 years for possession of explosives.

Another factor that may have caused the regime to back off in the government's attempt to prosecute the trials and the repression. This factor could be kept on because another Basque militant, Echeverria, is still to go on trial on a capital charge and Echeverria, a 35-year-old bank clerk, who it was thought would be given the death sentence and sentenced to 13 years in jail from the military court, and Juan Zabala is a student also.

Profitable bloodbath for the West

ANGOLA, the extremely wealthy and former Portuguese colony, is moving smoothly into the heart of the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) and the FNLA (Front for the National Liberation of Angola), the organization which is being used by big business in an attempt to gain control of the rich world and Angola.

Over recent months, the MPLA and the FNLA have been actively fighting for control of the country, and have been active in the left wing movement. They have held to the interministerial agreement reached with the Portuguese authorities which envisages peace until 1974, the complete withdrawal of Portuguese troops this autumn.

But while the Portuguese government has been holding the MPLA to this agreement, troops from the regular army of Zaire have been moved across the border to assist the FNLA. Zaire, the rich copper state of the north of Angola, is the main source of the MPLA.

The opposition of Henry Kissinger's new American imperialism in Africa.

Offensive

By operating in this way the FNLA was also able to help itself to the opposition's resources. But the MPLA, fearing that its organization was going to be totally destroyed, moved on to the offensive. As a result they have now taken some back of some of the initiative.

Against this background, the leaders of the FNLA and of UNITA, the third black organization active in Angola, which is supported by the white workers, have talked about staging top level peace talks.

The MPLA sees the Angolan forces still on the ground in Angola as "not to get involved"—that is, to give a pause to support to the reactionary forces.

But after an intense debate and all sorts of splits inside the Armed Forces Movement in Portugal itself, the Portuguese army has resolved to intervene more directly in the Angolan situation.

Problems

This policy seems to amount to sending 'disciplined' troops to Angola. But disciplined troops means paramilitaries and the people who are not so affected by revolutionary ideas and who therefore tend to be rights.

It is this contradiction which is seen clearly in the last six weeks to 60 soldiers due to go to Angola refusing to go on board their plane.

The fascinating problems that the crisis in Angola creates for Portugal itself is something that those who frame American and British colonialism understand only too well. They are doing in the same in their power to increase those problems.

At the same time, Angola is an immensely wealthy country, with the fourth largest coffee producer in the world and the fourth largest coffee producer. The coffee has since been processed in the county and has been used for the benefit of the people in Angola.

The presence of General Franco in Portugal is also causing difficulties for the Portuguese army, which is responsible for the occupation of the country.

"Black workers must not be burdened by superfluous appendages like women and children*"

*G"Viel ONED WHEN SOCIALIST Worker 14 June 1975.

Last Grave at Dimbaza

Himba LEGALLY to South African Adene 28th June by BLACK film makers

SCL SOCIALIST WORKER 14 June 1975 5

BRADFORD: Monday 23 June, 7.30pm, 845 Wordsworth, Highgate Green, Stepney Green, Sunday 24 June.

LEICESTER: Wednesday 29 June, 7.30pm, 625 Wordsworth, Highgate Green, Sunday 30 June.

BLACKBURN: Thursday 26 June—details week.

DERBY: 26 June, 7.30pm, Queen's Hall, London W1, Sunday 27 June.

CAMBRIDGE: Monday 30 June—details week.

BIRMINGHAM: Wednesday 2 July—details week.

COVENTRY: Thursday 3 July—details week.

WEST LONDON: Friday 4 July—details week.

NORTH LONDON: Sunday 6 July, 7.30pm, 1100 Wordsworth, Highgate Green, Sunday 7 July.

SCL SOCIALIST Worker for further details.
RON HAYWARD, the Labour Party's general secretary, has been calling for 'selective import controls' to help solve unemployment and increase output in Britain.

The idea has already been taken up by some trade unions and is being argued by some car workers.

A member of the International Socialists, selling Socialist Worker on a demonstration by Vauchall workers fell into conversation with one of them who told him: 'These blokes are our own worst enemy, half of them have lost foreign cars, if they drove a British car Vauchalls we wouldn't be on short-time.'

You shall, of course, is wholly owned by General Motors of Detroit.

But what about it? Are import controls in the interests of working people? Are they, as some trade unionists argue, a 'socialist measure'?

Two things can be said right off. The call for import controls or other 'protective' schemes such as special tariffs— sufficiently

tions of workers and their employers—that is what is happening in textiles—and divides the working class, both here and international.

It is a version of the old 'free trade versus protection' controversy, which the employers (through the Liberal and Tory Parties) used to divide the working class back in the first decades of this century.

That fact in itself should give pause to those who think that there is something inherently 'socialist' about controls.

It was the Tory and Labour governments in the 1920s and the Tory-dominated 'national government' of 1931 that abolished free trade at the same time that it cut unemployment benefits.

Nowadays, the Tories are practically all 'Commo' and the Comminist is a 'free trade area'. So they oppose 'British import controls and tariffs (which are forbidden by the Rome Treaty) in favour of 'European' common sense. But the obvious result would be to make car workers and car workers' employers against one another.

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be homeless is to be nameless

By MOTA SINGH

Imigrants, apart from exploiters and opportunists, have no faith in these agencies and consider them as the watchdogs of the state. They are to keep the status quo and do not accept the lifestyle of the colonized and so nullify the initiative from us. They use us and abuse us. Trade unions have not shown any particular interest in opposing racism, and most immigrants are good trade unionists. Immigrants have helped to form many new trade union branches. We have shown militancy and solidarity with our white brothers and sisters.

The only way to solve the workers’ puzzle is to get away from the Indian worker, the Pakistani worker, the British worker, the Turkish workers—to the workers of the world. In real socialism, nobody is divided on the basis of colour, race and nation, and the prejudice and fear that hurts us all is finished.

That is why our slogan is Workers of the World Unite.
THE CLAIM

The NUR want rises of between 30p and £2.60 per ton for less than 50 charged rates (now on £2.60 basis), 15p per ton for up to 50 charged rates (now on £2.00 basis), and 30p per ton for over 50 charged rates (now on £1.80 basis). The highest increase for the smallest shipper would be £2.60 per ton for less than 50 charged rates, and the lowest increase for the largest shipper would be £1.80 per ton for over 50 charged rates.

THE OFFER

Trials offer D.£.50 new money to low-grade traders rising to £2.60 for top grades. Condensation of trade within £2.50 per cent off maximum freight. Rites of charges £2.50 reduced by £1.80 to £1.80. Since most NUR shippers are forced to work on excessive overtime, they are to be given increased compensation which would cost D.£.50 per ton.

THE ANSWER

What’s the best thing about going on strike? Well, we’ll all get a raising of £2.60 per ton for less than 50 charged rates, and £2.00 for up to 50 charged rates, and £1.80 for over 50 charged rates. We’ll also get a £2.50 reduction in condensation, making it £1.80. And we’ll get an increase in overtime pay, which will cost D.£.50 per ton.

The Strike called by the National Union of Railwaymen from 23 June is potentially the biggest for the RMT. Harold Wilson has stated that, while he is not a supporter of the strike, he will cast his vote for the ASLEF general secretary’s campaign to mobilise the workforce. He is more likely to be affected by the strike than thekulubist corporations, he believes.

ASLEF: What happened?

By Geoff Hasty, ASLEF

SO MUCH for the ‘militancy’ of ASLEF. The recent budget produced talk from general secretary Ray Buckton of putting another 14 per cent on the original claim.

Now the executive of the locomotive union have accepted the miserable “improved” offer on the same day the NUR executive were voting to strike, and confirmed the suspicions of many railway workers that the ASLEF leadership is less interested in defending their members’ living standards than in maintaining its precarious position.

The humiliation of the ASLEF executive has virtually ruled out any possibility of rank-and-file members overrunning it.

Where were the ‘leaders’ in all this? My branch, with several Communist Party members present, sent a telegram calling on the executive to reject the offer. Yet one of those who voted for the sell-out was ASLEF president Bill Ronksley... a CP member.

The Morning Star’s front-page report on the NUR strike was made no criticism of ASLEF’s decision. There was, however, plenty of praise for ASLEF in a little piece in the same paper which announced the splendid news that the ASLEF executive had donated £50 to the Star’s fighting fund.

When Ronksley made a powerful speech at the NUR conference, the Star was content to claim his speech was ‘a clear break with the past’.

Strategy

The message seems clear: you may sell out your members, but so long as you give money to the Star and say No to the Common Market, you’re alright with the CP.

This is not accidental. It’s just the latest example of a strategy that sees the road to socialism in getting ‘progressive’ people into positions of power and of reducing workers to the role of a state agency.

When the ‘progressive’ people move to the right, the CP has no answer. This month it is Ronksley’s turn. Last month it was Bernard Panama of the AUEW.

Rank and file CP militants, in every industry, must question such a strategy.

And the nerve to... they’re back

By Geoff Hasty, ASLEF

MANY people say: ‘The railways are broke. They can’t afford to increase wages.’ What are the facts?

The railways were nationalised in 1948. For years before, shareholders in the private railway companies received small dividends as the companies ran down investment.

Yet each shareholder was granted compensation by the government in the form of government stock which guaranteed three per cent interest, and which was sold for its thirty years’ payments. The railways had to be run by the new nationalised railways. In 1949, for instance, £44,700,000 was paid out of revenue to the shareholders of the former companies.

For the first five years after nationalisation, the railways made an operating profit — but it was wiped out by huge interest payments, amounting to £50 million a year.

Reject

Then the Tory government introduced a series of rules designed to turn the railways back into a cheap service for manufacturing industry.

Pricing policies were strictly supervised. The railways had to be a “common carrier” for all goods presented to them, while the road haulage companies could pick the profitable load and reject the unprofitable.

The railway workshops were still not allowed to compete for work outside the railways. Railway investment had to be paid for in one year’s revenue, while other companies, investment could be spread over five or even ten years.

Railwaymen collecting their pay: “moderation” has made millions, but the losses which the companies had made before nationalisation...

OPERATING PROFIT

1963-64 £24,500
1964-65 £26,000
1965-66 £28,000
1966-67 £28,000
1967-68 £24,000
1968-69 £2,500

It is not nationalisation that has caused the railways to give much higher rates to road haulage companies, but they remain at 10% in the industry.

1963-64 10% 15% 25%
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1966-67 10% 15% 25%
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1968-69 10% 15% 25%

And BR have the nerve to... they’re back

BY GEOFF HASTON, ASLEF
JOBS: 10 years of slaughter

1911: The railmen's 'momentous hour'

THE RAILWAYMEN were among the last of Britain's traditional industrial workers to be organised into effective strikefighting unions. Throughout the last century, they were fragmented by geographical differences, bound into subjection by ruthless employers who refused to recognise even the most modest unionisation. Sir George Sidney, general manager of the London and North Western Railway, summed up the owners' view on unionism in the 1890s: 'You might as well have a trade union in the army, where discipline has to be kept at a very high standard, as have it on the railways.'

Biggest

The main railway union took its name from the subhuman misery imposed by the Railways and Tramways Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants. A change in mood came from the rank and file with the growth of an 'all-trades' movement, which forced the leaders of all four unions to approach the companies together. A threatened strike in January 1907 led to a complicated system of arbitration and conciliation panels. But the companies used expensive lawyers to obstruct the panels—five main cases were taken all the way to the House of Lords, almost breaking the union's financial resources. 

In June and July, seamen and dockers struck in London, closing the ports, and winning small victories, and in Liverpool, where trade unions stopped work, the South African and Northern Railway. The ports came out in sympathy by their strike quickly spread into Manchester, Sheffield, Birmingham and Cardiff as a spontaneous gesture of fury at wages and conditions.

Reasons

The companies and the Liberal government replied with a massive display of violence.

The leaders of the four railway unions rushed to city after city, door to door, to calm down their members. By 17 August, they realised that the prolonged rhetoric could not contain their members' rage. Fostering on to the return of the companies to recognise their union, they issued a call for a national strike. The response was instantaneous. More than 100,000 railwaymen, many of them not organised in trade unions, turned up, and the Home Secretary, Winston Churchill, ordered an immediate mass mobilisation of troops in all the cities.

The troops surrounded the railway stations provoking fights with the strikers. The Royal Engineers were put on alert to start moving trains. But, for two days, the strike was won. The companies were forced back on the union leaders to get them out of a situation they could no longer control.

For the first time, they agreed to sit down and negotiate with the union leaders. Present were two bosses, including Sir Guy Granet, chairman of the Midland Railway, and six union men, among them J.T. Williams and T. Thomas of the Amalgamated Railway Servants.

“...the momentous hour has come. Unless the railway companies are prepared to concede to their employees the elementary but important right of being represented by their union a general railway strike will take place. Railways are determined to be halted no longer. Their long years of bondage must be brought to an end. The Conciliation Boards have broken down. Their existence in their present form can no longer be tolerated. They have become instruments of oppression and caricatures of justice and fair play. They must be removed or ended. Men will be free—men railwaymen. They will not consent to be outsold any longer. What they want is justice and fair play, the same opportunities for effective combination as others, the same open road to negotiation, the same right to select their own spokesmen. The same chance to have their wages and hours settled by agreement between their chosen Trade Union as is enjoyed by other workers. They are determined to be satisfied with nothing less. A forced agreement is no bond. A compulsory Conciliation Board, where all the advantages are on the side of the companies and all the disadvantages on the side of the men, is not good enough for free men. The joint Executive have spoken. The present occasion sees railwaymen united. It is for the men to respond. Who would be free, themselves must strike the blow.” Let them settle the job on this occasion once and for all. No half-hearted rallies; no sectional or merely local stoppages will do. There must be one great united effort, and then the fight will be won. The word has gone forth. Let us end the present intolerable

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How to make this your paper...

The meeting also discussed the part of the conference which resolved to support 'un' papers for separate regional editions. It agreed that these would not be possible unless the whole conference was prepared to ensure that the party had the resources to carry it out: just as the national and regional sections had to be supported and that technical and other resources as well, with which the party and Socialist Workers and for liaison with the paper. This job should be separate from the sales and distribution of the paper.

The conference agreed that the district office should be made its priority in the next few months to visit all the districts.

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Portugal is at stake

ONE of the most moving moments of the 1975 International Socialists Conference last week came when the fraternal delegate from the Revolutionary Party of Portugal spoke to the delegates.

He wrote that the invitation made to his organisation to come to the IS conference indicated greater liaison between the two organisations. "Let us then obtain even greater solidarity", he said. Let us get even closer together."  

Portugal what is at stake now is the struggle for power...all will be lost and the working class victory will come out defeated..." It is in this context that international solidarity is a source of hope for resistance in one of the South American countries which will pay Portugal its solidarity campaign against the coup d'etat in Portugal. The coup d'etat is possible if countries pay Portugal's solidarity work will pay back the working class to accommodate their anti-imperialist struggle. The time to act is now. The coup d'etat is at this moment. This is the time to act. From the bourgeoisie is able to consolidate its own political domination or working class will take the power and impose the dictatorship of the proletariat.

At this practical moment there is an opportunity for the workers of Portugal to resist. Many firms are in flux, the banks and are being reshuffled out of government hands. The possibility of out of government meetings as one goes in and out of a regime. Many workers in the factories who have been involved in the coup d'etat have exhausted its programme. This coup is irreversible. There can be no unity between the workers and the bourgeoisie. The coup of 1974 cannot save the face of the government of Portuguese society.

In face of this insidious, a split can be seen in the body of the coup. In opposition with the consent of the workers, the coup cannot be stopped, or it can be stopped by the possible need to arm the working class to prevent the coup d'etat from revolution.

**Organs**

There are already moves towards the formation of a National Council for popular action and other organisations to undertake information.

Others advance a very different programme to organise revolutionary councils, organs of the working class political and social movement. The creation of a separate organisation is an important initial step for the workers. Some officers are supporting these ideas for the moment. It is a different situation for the workers. The inclusion of the working class into the organs of the state is also crucial.

In many cases, two alternatives are completely postulated. Reform or revolution, with the reformist alternative certain to lead to disaster.

But the workers are really strongly organised in accordance with the political and social movement of the situation. The idea crops up in the class struggle and in the working class revolution. In March, many of our party members are in Portugal and are likely to be involved in the situation. We think the economy, the political and social crises will force them into this.

**Succeed**

But we also think that they will strengthen the regime. The regime is in control of the government, the government has been replaced by a new one. We think it won't be possible to bring the defence down.

The fact that a small section of the AFM supports the revolutionary organise is very evident. But it is not possible for the working class to make the coup d'etat of revolution possible if it is possible to carry out. And thus the coup d'etat in Portugal.

In Portugal one can see a situation of political and social revolution but the coup d'etat of the government. Indeed such a government would not be possible as it would be a complete contradiction of the coup d'etat in Portugal.

But we believe that such a government would not be a contradiction of the coup d'etat of the coup d'etat. It is a necessary condition for the formation of a revolutionary government in Portugal. We think the idea is not to make links of making links between workers and soldiers.

**Threat**

We feel a solidarity between workers and policies. Workers are workers and after the repression of the TAP workers no one seems to see the repression. The repression is a real threat to the world capitalisation and system. In relation to Portugal imperialism is playing a key role. This is a key to the Portuguese situation.

The state apparatus in Portugal can repress the workers and soldiers. Either themself and the state apparatus.

We feel the unity between soldiers and workers is real and tangible. For the moment we are solidarity in Portugal. The Polish Workers' Movement is to be involved in the situation. We think the economy, the political and social crises will force them into this.

**WHAT CONFERENCE DECIDED**

The conference decided in the weeks ahead the following work is necessary.

1. The preparation of the military to work on the civil war in Portugal. Our intervention on the organisation of the military police to organise and prepare to organise the police to organise and prepare to organise. The mobilisation of the police to organise and prepare to organise.

2. Troops Out Movement: Our basic view of arms for the struggle against TAP is to be used in Portugal for the struggle against TAP. Our main weapon is to organise and prepare to organise. The mobilisation of the police to organise and prepare to organise, to organise and prepare.

3. Anti-militarist work. The struggle against the army in Portugal means the role of the army in the abolition of the state and the abolition of the state. The role of the army in the abolition of the state.

4. Impersonal independent work. Any British firms involved in the struggle against TAP are involved in the struggle against TAP. The struggle against TAP is to be considered in the struggle against TAP. In the struggle against TAP.
WHAT'S HE GOT TO DO WITH SOCIALISM?

TONY BENN's policies of worker co-operatives and industrial democracy will NOT spread ideas of workers' control. They will evade them.

Workers' co-operatives must make a profit to survive, even when Benn warns them they will receive no more government money for them. They, therefore, must run "efficiently", which means in a time of recession, laying-off workers. In other words, workers doing the bosses' dirty work. Hardly an advert for workers' control.

Another form of industrial democracy, worker participation, is a con. Plant level wage bargaining and organisation on the shop floor are abandoned.

For what? Representatives that are unaccountable and unreachable to the shop floor and, in some cases, elected not by the workers but by the shareholders. Isolated from their fellow workers, they are impotent. Furthermore, the workers' boards can only discuss "figned" company policy, the important short term issues being left to the bosses.

So the shop floor, the very place that is organised, is weakened. Real workers' control will come only with socialism. To say otherwise would be to lie.

Send your letters to LETTERS, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Work, Corbridge Co-op, London E26 2QF. Let us have your name and address, but specify if you don't want your letter published. Please try to keep letters to no more than 200 words.

Labour Party will bring it to a joke, since the Labour Party is not a mass party of millions not preeminently workers' class in national or local leadership.

There can only be one answer, and that is the spreading of revolutionary politics.

ROY JENKINS, 'international socialist',

But what an odd idea of socialism Jenkins has. If there is workers' control, there will be no need for ballot boxes. Democracy will be on a day-to-day, completely open basis, not the secret and hazardous impositions of Jenkins.

By blinding and penalising individual workers and by claiming that they are the 'main problem', you are diverting action from those responsible and letting the leaders off the hook.

For the sake of keeping the other trade unions to follow the policy of your AUEU members, I hope they will reject and expose it.

Of course, voluntary redundancy should be opposed but surely not to the extent of ceasing to exist without any mention of the inactivity of those members and the ability to lead--J wealthy Oxford.

In such a case we are in favour of putting pressure on people not to accept voluntary redundancy and no more than we campaigned for them to go to the end of the jobs queues before being created, a policy of non-union labour that the employers don't want, never wants, which would happen if members were expelled from the union.

How to make AUEU more democratic

RECENT articles and correspondences in Socialist Worker on the issue of elections in the AUEU have failed to give a clear lead to milliunis. In my opinion, 15 members and genuine socialists in the AUEU should work towards a change in the structure of the union with a shift towards factory-based branches. We should also raise the question of weekly branch meetings in workplaces.

In this way we can work towards a direct democracy in the branches.

Given the latest amazing display of concern for democracy in this union I hope that we should make sure that their concern is not just a fabrication for the sake of being seen to be doing something positive. I hope that we take the time at socials and meetings to discuss the way for the time we spend at meetings--PAUL WN, Wythenshawe, Man chester.

I disagree

I READ with interest the letter from comrade Connolly and Griffiths about ballot papers. In the last three years, ballot papers (including those for the Boyd-Wright candidates) have been addressed to the house address, which was returned to Italy in January 1972--SIMON MADDOSON, Hitchin, Herts.

RESENDANCES: YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG

I WAS dismayed to read in Socialist Worker (3.2.75) that your AUEU members have decided to penalise workers who accept voluntary redundancy and to enforce this by expelling them from trade unionism. The idea that the 'main problem' at the moment is the fight against voluntary redundancies is completely misplaced. Surely the main problem is the acceptance of redundancies by trade union leaders and their continual refusal either to support workers in struggle, like at Crescent Silks, or to help in the struggle, like at Coopers' Bobbins, etc. or to offer a way which would enable us to resist redundancies.

why don't your AUEU members or the Spike Action Committee attack the leaders responsible and demand their removal and expulsion rather than creating a load of officials apathy, disinterested and truculent.

By blinding and penalising individual workers and by claiming that they are the 'main problem', you are diverting action from those responsible and letting the leaders off the hook.

I agree that other trade unions will follow the policy of your AUEU members, I hope they will reject and expose it.

Of course, voluntary redundancy should be opposed but surely not to the extent of ceasing to exist without any mention of the inactivity of those members and the ability to lead rather than to give up as Jenkins does--LORNE ANTON, Garve, Ross-shire.

Ballots coming out of arrears...

Ballots coming out of arrears...

I AGREE with the letter from comrade Connolly and Griffiths about ballot papers. In the last three years, ballot papers (including those for the Boyd-Wright candidates) have been addressed to the house address, which was returned to Italy in January 1972--SIMON MADDOSON, Hitchin, Herts.

Wilson's terrorist friend

I AM writing to draw attention to an article in the Daily Telegraph (14.5.75) by Sadighe Zia'malak, by the Iranian secret service.

The recent murder of nine political prisoners in Iran, and the reported sentence of four years and ten months in prison of a political comrade to trespass' laws against 21 protesters, is a point high-lighted the reality behind the charges and the criminal mentality of the Labour government in backing this regime.

Harold Wilson is Chancellor of the University of Bradford, where Mr Zia'malak was a student. Yet his response so far to telegrams from new islanders has already been a disapproval.

In the case of Bradford Union, I would be grateful if your readers could bring this matter up to their trade unions and wherever the possible.

In my opinion, 15 members and genuine socialists in the AUEU should work towards a change in the structure of the union with a shift towards factory-based branches. We should also raise the question of weekly branch meetings in workplaces.

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Rent rises make new student grants a joke

A FORTNIGHT ago Reg Prentice, Labour’s Education Secretary, announced the student grant increase for next year. It is 22 per cent, bringing grants for students outside London to £740.

The rise is a joke,” said one student. “Already universities are talking about rent increases of 20 to 40 per cent next year. Take this, for example, they are planning rent of £400 a year. That leaves £340 for books, clothes, travel, pocket money. What are we supposed to do, eat exam papers?”

If it's a joke for university students it is a better one for students at polytechnics and further education colleges. For these students not only do rent increases crop up, the rent they're paying grows at 22 per cent.

For those students not on degree courses the rise doesn’t apply. University undergraduates receive monetary awards from their local authorities who have to pay...

Discriminatory awards aren’t binding on the local authorities. Last year Prentice claimed that to raise these would cost £360 million so they're being left in the cold.

“They love to beat us,” said a student. “They think we can’t do anything about it.”

No recourse to the courts for now. The Institute of Education, London, has made 650 appointments for September—figure last year was 496.

So whether you're a parent, a child or a student the picture is the same. The rent means no money for books, travel or pocket money. What are we supposed to do, eat exam papers?

Ready

We’re going to have a very hard time finalising their studies and winning their support. Authorities don’t realise this.

There’s a wave of dictatorialism going through the education system. They’ve created a climate of fear in which academic freedom and individuality have been stifled. The result is that students are left to decide the fate of their studies and their lives.

We don’t have to do this. The universities are not the only institutions which are run by the university authorities.

The universities are run by the government. The students are the ones who have to pay...
HENRY PUTS THE BOOT IN AT NORTHAMPTON

NORTHAMPTON: All 14 UCATT members at the Henry Boot site in Northampton have been sacked for over two days week of their strike over bonus payments, have been sacked. On Tuesday the men received letters asking them to return to work on Monday. But the strikers stayed solid and on Tuesday morning received letters saying that all had been dismissed, including the two shop stewards. Boots have an agreement with UCATT not to sack strikers, without consultation.

On Tuesday three letters turned up at the picket line, as the letter奇was written in large text. They were prepared to be shown to the picket line. The strikers told Socialist Worker: ‘We are all staying out and leaving them.’

The strikers have been picketing outside the site for over two weeks, and the last picketing day was on Monday. The men have a strong feeling of support from the local community, with many people coming out to support them.

THE POLITICAL WORK GROUP: The work group will meet on Monday, 6th June, at 8pm, in the factory, to discuss the situation and plan the next steps.

MANCHESTER GASPWORKERS: The stewards and men mark 10 years for their fight.

COLLINS, GLASGOW

The executive of the SCA was meeting to discuss the recent developments in the Scottish Musterers’ Network. The meeting was attended by representatives from all of the network’s branches.

SCOTLANDS SOILS (AG)AL: The executive of the SCA was meeting to discuss the recent developments in the Scottish Musterers’ Network. The meeting was attended by representatives from all of the network’s branches.

LONDON PAINTERS: The executive of the SCA was meeting to discuss the recent developments in the Scottish Musterers’ Network. The meeting was attended by representatives from all of the network’s branches.

Teeside UCIC: ‘We’re not having it,’ was the response of the UCIC to a report that the local council was considering cuts to public services.

SCOTTISH CABLES: The strike was called when the Scottish BAC issued a new contract, which was rejected by the workers.

STEEL STRUCTURES, KENT: Management have already had a long time since the strike began, but they have not yet been able to reach a settlement.

WOMAN KILLED ON ROLLING PICKET

The strike at Rolls Royce in Crewe was called by the UCIC. The workers were demanding a 10% pay rise over two years, but now 400 are being asked to accept a 4% pay rise over the next three years. The workers are concerned with the increasing amount of sub-contracted work going to the company, which they believe is damaging their job security.

The picketing has been described as ‘chaotic’, with a large number of pickets turning up each day. The picketing is set to continue for the foreseeable future.

The strike was called when the company announced plans to cut 600 jobs over the next three years. The workers are demanding a 10% pay rise over two years, but now 400 are being asked to accept a 4% pay rise over the next three years. The workers are concerned with the increasing amount of sub-contracted work going to the company, which they believe is damaging their job security.

The picketing has been described as ‘chaotic’, with a large number of pickets turning up each day. The picketing is set to continue for the foreseeable future.
WALSALL: 80 OUT AGAINST BID TO SMASH UNION
WALSALL: 80 workers, white and Asians, have been on strike for two weeks at the Ford Dagenham plant of the Dagenham Motor Company. The dispute is over union recognition. All of Ford's wages and conditions, including the 1975 agreement, are to be ignored. The workers have been on strike for two weeks. The union is the Transport and General Workers Union. The Ford management has threatened to close the plant if the strike continues. The workers have been on strike for two weeks. The union is the Transport and General Workers Union. The Ford management has threatened to close the plant if the strike continues.
The article discusses the challenges of the British government in dealing with terrorism in Northern Ireland, specifically mentioning the IRA and Ulster Unionists. It highlights the ongoing struggle and the impact of terrorism on the environment and society.

The text also mentions a sit-in protest by workers against management decisions. The situation is described as stressful for the workers, who are facing threats to their livelihoods.

The article concludes with a statement about the support for workers' rights and the importance of finding peaceful solutions to social issues.

Additional historical context: The Troubles in Northern Ireland are a complex conflict that began in the late 1960s and continued until the Good Friday Agreement in 1998. The IRA was a key player in this conflict, engaging in acts of terrorism and violence against the British government.

The text is written in a formal tone, typical of a newspaper article, and uses journalistic language to convey the seriousness of the situation.