THROW OFF THE FREEZE!

If you want to tell a lie, tell a big one. The words of Hitler's propaganda chief, Goebbels, must have been running through the brain of Harold Wilson when he spoke to the miners' conference on Monday.

For he told the biggest lie of them all: he blamed workers for the present crisis of rising prices and rising unemployment. And he claimed that the wage cuts his government is enforcing can solve that crisis.

He knows it because while in opposition, he himself used to point out that the present crisis began in the Tory profits boom of 1972 and 1973, when wages were controlled by law.

He also knows it because he himself introduced a wage freeze in 1966, claiming it would avoid unemployment. Instead unemployment nearly doubled.

Harold Wilson knows, and so does every member of his Cabinet, that wage controls mean less money to buy what is produced, and therefore more unemployment.

The trade union leaders also know this. But in the past week they have been trying to find their own scheme to hold down wages, in other words to cut living standards. Their difference with Wilson is that they want to be the policemen.

CUTS

Two weeks ago Transport Workers' leader Jack Jones said £10 a week rise all round would protect living standards. Suddenly it has become £6. The missing £4 might not mean a lot to Jack Jones but it does matter for the vast majority of members of his union and other trade unions.

Jack Jones' £6 is supposed to cover 10 per cent of the wages bill. But prices have risen 25 per cent in the past year. So the £6 means a wage cut.

Not that wage cuts will stop inflation anyway. In West Germany, Japan and the United States real wages have been forced down in the past year. Now every economic expert is predicting more inflation if the economy picks up next year.

British workers are blamed for inflation. So are the workers in every other country. But in Chile, for example, inflation is running at 400 per cent a year. Real wages there have been cut by half in the past two years. Yet inflation is speeding up.

Far from being the cause of inflation, workers are the real victims.

ALERT

When Harold Wilson says inflation is threatening democracy what he means is that it is threatening the continuing of economic power in the hands of one per cent of the population. Because his government accepts this, it attacks the right of workers to defend their own standards of living. It knows no other response when the bankers sell sterling abroad, as they did last week.

The attempt to cut wages can be fought. But a massive campaign is necessary to alert trade unionists everywhere to what is happening. Jack Jones will not lead this. Nor when it comes to the crunch will Arthur Scargill--as was shown by the compromise at the NUM Conference on Tuesday.

Bank and file trade unionists, in every factory, office, mine and school--will have to take the initiative.

It is vital that every trade unionist is prepared for what the government's plans will mean. More than ever it is vital to build a revolutionary socialist party linking every workplace, which can unite groups of workers in defence of living standards and fight for a complete destruction of the power of the employing class.
**FRED HARRIS** has just been forced to give up his job after 40 years, because of ill-health. With five years to go before retirement age, his prospects might have seemed bright in Healey’s branch. But do not pass the hat round for him too quickly. For Fred Harris is MR Frederick Harris, former Tory MP and managing director of Marshall’s Universal, a trading company. The grateful shareholders are giving him £40,000 as a retirement present.

As chairman and managing director he was paid £21,656 a year in this country and another £7,590 overseas. Was this to avoid tax? I wonder? Clearly, he is well qualified to support demands for ‘sacrifice’, which means holding back wages to provide more loot for people like him.

Fred Harris must feel a bit envious of Juan de Liedekerke, who recently resigned from merchant bank Hill Samuel after two years as managing director. He has just been given £125,000 compensation for resigning. The sum is about twice his annual salary, much of which was paid in foreign currency to protect it from inflation.

**GARRARDS**, the Crown jewellers, are offering a nice golden opportunity for any company directors who have been after toiling long hours on the golf course. It is a solid gold putter with a built-in muff box, which is a mere £200. Garrards do not expect a run on them from ‘overpaid miners’.

The employers, the government and the press are saying now that we must accept wage cuts or unemployment will rise. They’ve said it before of course. As the 1976 TUC Report notes: ‘The Prime Minister stressed that the government had no alternative but to have precipitated an international crisis with unemployment in this country reaching perhaps two million... Their measurements showed that the level of employment in this country reaching perhaps two million... Their measures would raise the level of employment to about 4,760,000.’

Or as Vic Feather (then general secretary of the TUC) put it: ‘Who would gain and who would lose if the government reversed its policies?’ You know who would be the losers. The odds are that we would get massive unemployment.

As a result of this line of argument the trade union movement accepted wage restraint and cuts in living standards. And as the graph (right) shows the result was massive increases in unemployment.

Unemployment rose from just under 300,000 when Wilson’s freeze came in to nearly 600,000 in the winter of 1967. It has never been below that since.

The truth is that if you accept wage cuts to stave off more unemployment, you get wage cuts and more unemployment.

**NO COMMENT**

If you divide the total national income of Britain equally among the whole population, it works out that the average family of four should get about £100 a week. Even if you make a deduction for investment on new plant and equipment for industry—including spending on such useless things as Concordes or advertising—the average is nearly £90 each.

(Source: National Income Blue Books, HMSO.)

Who says the miners are asking for the moon?

**NOT only in Britain are workers being squeezed to pay for the ‘boom’s’ crisis. In Ireland, where wages have been restricted by a National Wage Agreement for years, the coalition government has succeeded in persuading trade unions to accept a tightening of this voluntary agreement.

The present agreement was only two months old. It offered workers a minimum wage increase of 4 per cent every three months, with a maximum of 24 per cent a year. Now the unions have agreed to drop the demand for a minimum quarterly raise of 4 per cent.

The government have demanded the changes in the agreement in return for a budget which, they claim, will hold down the prices of selected food items, transport, fuel and electricity. But those measures will not stop the upward surge in prices more than temporarily.”

**What you get from ‘voluntary’ agreements**

What is more, there is no compulsion on employers to pay the wage increases. While the unions can stop workers fighting for more, the arrangement enables management to cut their numbers at will.

A press statement issued last week the Irish revolutionary organisation the Socialist Workers Movement said that negotiations to change the terms of the National Agreement would be held ‘under duress’ and should not be entered into. The SWM called on rank-and-file unionists to press for the chance to decide democratically on any new terms which might be produced and to throw them out. In similar circumstances in the past few years the union leaders have agreed measures of this sort with the bosses and then slammed them down the throats of a reluctant rank and file.

Moreover, the government have demanded the changes in the agreement in return for a budget which, they claim, will hold down the prices of selected food items, transport, fuel and electricity. But those measures will not stop the upward surge in prices more than temporarily.”

**‘We’re all in the same boat’**

DENIS HEaley has claimed that the dividend freeze will compensate for his wage freeze. Tim Simon, chairman of the Association of Unit Trust Managers, takes a different view. He told the Daily Express last Thursday: ‘The dividend restraint is purely a cosmetic device, drawn up to fool the public and placate certain ignorant members of the TUC.’

The reason for all this talk of sacrifice and generosity is not hard to seek. The dividend restraint is meaningless. If dividends were held to the Healey limit, it would still be possible to pay out more than companies paid out in dividends this year.

Dividends have gone down only marginally this year on the great boom of 1973, when companies paid out £2,421 million. In 1975, this dropped marginally to £2,285 million —still enough to pay all 250,000 miners about £10,000 a year.

**REWARD FOR ‘SACRIFICE’**

MR S. Gray, a farmworker of Harcourt in Oxfordshire, recently had an accident at work according to the Journal of the agricultural workers union. While dehorning bullocks for his employer, Lord Harcourt, he suffered serious injuries which forced him to give up his job.

Lord Harcourt have quick recognition of the physical sacrifice Gray had made on his behalf. His lordship took legal proceedings to evict him from his tied cottage.

Lord Harcourt is chairman of the British Commonwealth Insurance Company, the Legal and General Accident Assur- ance Society, the Gresham Fire and Accident Insurance Society and the Gresham Life Assurance Society. He is also managing director of Morgan Grenfell and a director of Ftisby.

His family have owned the estate at Stanton Harcourt since it was stolen off local peasants in the 12th century. As former head of the British Treasury delegation in the US and an ex-executive director of the International Monetary Fund he is clearly an expert on financial manipulations of the sort that produced the run on the pound and Healey’s wage freeze plan.

In fact he is the exactly in the traditions of British businessmen and country gentlemen. Part of that tradition that when someone has made sacrifices for you, you kick them in the teeth.

**Unemployed and vacancies in Great Britain**

[Graph showing changing average unemployment rate]

**Socialist Worker**

TO HELL WITH SACRIFICE!

‘It’s all right, old bean. No need to rush back to the City yet. Joe Gormley’s told those bothersome miners to think of the country, the workers are still rising’

Some of our ruling class at Henley Regatta last week.

**GARRARDS**, the Crown jewellers, are offering a nice golden opportunity for any company directors who have been after toiling long hours on the golf course. It is a solid gold putter with a built-in muff box, which is a mere £200. Garrards do not expect a run on them from ‘overpaid miners’.

HAVE you read in the press about the financial plight of Eton college? If so you might not have noticed the fees which are being paid by the upper classes to educate their offspring—£1,575 a year. Hospital workers and others who earn less than £30 a week should remember that they are in the government and TUC are trying to force them to pay high fees to ensure that old English institutions such as Eton can remain in business.

A CENTRAL figure in enforcing ‘discipline on the grape’ is Gordon Richardson, governor of the Bank of England. It was he who beat the freeze before intervening to stop the fall in the value of the pound.

But don’t let any one think that means the Bank of England is tight-fisted—at least when it comes to those of its employees who take home several times what any coal miner. The Bank has just splashed out £60,000 on a yacht, Morning Rose, for its sailing club.

But there is a very important aspect about such spending. Morning Rose is the sister ship to Edward Heath’s first Morning Cloud. Since then he has moved, on to £400,000 yacht.

**BIGGER profits** will give firms the confidence to keep on the increase in wages. That myth, as beloved of politicians and the press as the myth that wages are rising, was exposed last week by one of Britain's biggest specification analysts.

GEC announced profits of £174 million—£49 million six years ago. In that time they have not only created but one new employees, men and women, one in every four of their workforce, on the dole.

‘ Britain is now a cheap labour country and fast becoming cheaper.’

—The Economist, 28 June 1975
How we must fight Wilson’s Tory policies

The Macdonalds, the Snowdons, the Jimmy Thomases are lurking around. Their names don’t need to be spelt out. Some of them, including a few in high places, are ready to stoke the die-hard into the heart of the Labour government.

This is Jack Jones, speaking at the Transport and General Workers Union conference in support of the new Social Contract, in support of a policy of ‘deferment’ in the interests of a supposedly ‘left-wing’ government.

But it is not just the right-wing extremists in the Labour Party—‘moderates’ as the capitalist press and TV call them—who are now insisting on cuts in working-class living standards, conditions and welfare. So are Harold Wilson, Jim Callaghan and Denis Healey. So is the Labour government, who have now rationalised, including, including, so far, the ‘left-wingers’ in it.

The Treasury and the Tories—very natural allies—have cut of the pay of the Thatcher and Jones—in their natural home—that has prevented us from winning the right-wing government since it was the stampede to the right by the whole Labour leadership.

The government policy of cutting back pay rises to a maximum 10 per cent in a year of 25 per cent inflation, a policy of vicious cuts in real take-home pay, is a more savage anti-working class policy than anything the Heath government dared to attempt.

Naturally its announcement produced a jump in share values by £200 million in half a day.

Cut workers’ real pay, drive down living standards, slash social services. That is now the programme of the Labour government—a programme of Tory policies, and more extreme Tory policies than we have seen since the war.

LESS REAL PAY EQUALS LESS JOBS

‘Accept’ cuts in your living standards or face mass unemployment,” say the Labour ministers, the capitalist press, the TV, the Tory and Liberal Parties and even some trade union leaders. A most impudent, lying and utterly fake claim. Exactly the opposite is the case. Lower real wages mean higher unemployment.

The more successful employers’ wage-cutting policies are, the more workers will demand a higher proportion of wages.

The reason, the only reason, that unemployment in Britain is still lower than in the most Western countries is that, until recently, militant action has prevented wages from falling too far behind soaring prices. As a result, the market for goods produced by workers did not fail as quickly in Britain as in other countries. The defence of real wages is also the defence of jobs.

MAKE THE UNIONS FIGHT: BUILD THE RANK AND FILE MOVEMENT

Wilson and Co would have no chance, no chance at all, of imposing their right-wing capitalist policies on the working class if the trade union movement were geared up and organised to resist. The trade union movement destroyed the Industrial Relations Act and brought down the Heath government. It can smash through the anti-working class measures produced by this or any other government.

That is why it is false, as some people do, to pretend that we have to accept ‘voluntary’ restraint as the only way to prevent a worse government being imposed on us.

But the trade union leaders are refusing to fight seriously. The long tradition of talks with the government over ‘voluntary’ sacrifice—‘Let us do the wage cutting for you’—proves that to the hilt, if proof were needed.

Jack Jones tries to scare workers with talk of a coalition government, as if the coalition would have policies different from those of the present Labour government. Indeed, the government, relying on Tory votes when necessary, is an informal coalition.

Yet the TUC, instead of mobilising its members against the government’s demand for wage cutting, has recognised the need to fight them to accept voluntary wage cuts. If there is a wage freeze law; the TUC may make verbal protests. But it will not; without tremendous pressure from below, go beyond words.

The indispensable need is to organise that pressure, to build the rank and file movement of resistance, not apart from, but inside the official movement. Above all, to build it on the shop floor, where wages cuts, redundancies, and closures can be fought directly. The struggle against the right wing in the union machine, essential as it is, can only succeed to the extent to which it rests on a real shop-floor base.

A UNITED FRONT BACK

The current crisis calls for the broadest unity of all those who have recognised the need to fight wage cuts, unemployment and welfare cuts. In the present situation, we pledge ourselves to fight alongside everyone in the working-class movement who will resist the anti-working class measures now being directed by the government.

There is an alternative to capitalist chaos, waste and reaction on those who actually produce the wealth— the workers. It is the alternative of the socialist planned economy.

There are big differences on the left as to the means to achieve this. There can be no difference about the need to fight the Wilson-Callaghan-Healey measures.

A united front is front inside the working-class movement, bringing together Labour Party supporters, Communist Party supporters and revolutionary socialists who can not only defeat the right-wing offensive. It can lay the foundations of unity in action, for the advance to socialism.
THE SHOP FOR ANSWERS

HEALEY'S 10% - The printable comments that is...

ROY McLANEY, AUEW steward, Chrysler Stotley, Coventry

HEALEY's wage controls, whether they're new or old, is still wage controls. Anyway only a fool would call this policy voluntary when it's the Government putting pressure on the employers to keep their costs down. This will be the effect of giving the employees further strength to refuse wage demands.

As far as the idea of a flat rate increase goes, this is just another of the same old negotiations. However, we should point out we would give a pointer to what's happening. Every time we have experienced so far has taught the same thing: it's nothing to do with negotiations but everything for the employers.

WILLIE LEE, AUEW senior steward, Chrysler, Linwood

FOR A company like this it has been easy for the leaders of the AUEW to make a statement against this kind of wage policy. They were never put to the test of mobilising the union members in a fight against pay cuts. In fact, the Local Executive have decided on a 10 per cent limit which is bunked into legislation and they then have to do something about Healey's threat.

The chances are more likely that the AUEW leaders will only talk about fighting and leave the real battle to the workers on the factory floor. We have no wages policy at all in the AUEW, and we are at present tied to an agreement that won't end until May 1976.

We need to build a real campaign against income policies and the notion that higher-paid workers keep the lower-paid back. The only way to do this is to spell out a wage claim that begins to mean something for all AUEW members, the poorly paid and the very poorly paid. Scantion, Wright and other AUEW officials are only talking. What we need is real talk and real mobilisation.

Chris Bentley, ACTSS branch secretary, Dunlop, Coventry

WE'VE had one pay cut and we're not taking another. Our recent strike resulted in what amounts to a pay cut for us. It was around 20 per cent for the men and a bit more, because of the equal pay fiddlers, for the women. But we got the prize of the ruling which says that, just now, that really means a 10 per cent cut for us—that's when you take into account tax and insurance deductions.

If Healey expects us to pay for the crash, that's not ours. We're not taking it. By the time we go to court, we'll be well £10 worse off than we were then.

Whether it's Healey's system or Jack Jones's system, we're not going to be taken. By the time we get back to court, we'll be about £10 worse off than we were.

Whether it's Healey's system or Jack Jones's system, we're not going to be taken. By the time we get back to court, we'll be about £10 worse off than we were.
DO we have to suffer a cut in living standards, see our jobs threatened by mass-unemployment, watch the Health Service, education, social services being cut back, to ‘solve’ this economic crisis?

The crisis they talk about is real enough. It is a crisis of the capitalist system. The government’s policy of the traditional capitalist policy—hit the working class.

There is an alternative, the socialist alternative. It is the general, long-term solution. The Labour government’s ‘solutions’ will not only not ‘solve’ the crisis, they will make matters worse from a working class point of view.

WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE?

WHAT IS WRONG?

ACCORDING to Harold Wilson the cause of the crisis is that wages are too high. They need to be kept down to ‘what the nation can afford’, which means cutting them by holding pay rises below the level of price rises. Do that and after a while inflation will drop. The government will be ‘strong’. Industry will boom and everyone will be better off. But it means the ‘nation will be able to afford to spend more on hospitals, schools, pensioners, etc.’

It seems to some on the left that the price of the government’s success is the ruin of Britain, and that the whole nation will suffer even more from the economic crisis than before.

Indeed take a look at a very important capitalist country—the most important one, the US. Wilson and Co are pushing, that’s what has been ‘successfully’ implemented in the USA in the last two years a combination of ‘restraint’ by right-wing trade unionism and the US level of trade union organisation has preserved the power down.

 depreciation

The results? Eight million out of work, the number is still rising— a fall in output of at least 10 per cent over the past 12 months, adding up to the biggest depression since the 1930s. True, the rate of inflation has fallen, and this is the condition, we are told, for defending and expanding social services. What has actually happened to social services in the USA? The Tory paper, the London Evening Standard, publishes a report:

New York contains some of the most prosperous street corners in the world; a lot of them in Manhattan Island but still more on Wall Street. New York contains Wall Street, a legendary concentration of 100 banks, mutual savings banks, investment houses, the state of its banks, it can not renovate its schools and housing stock, it cannot enforce clean air and it can barely pay its police and its population. Corruption among official has led to serious inquiries and disclosures. Now the crisis has reached a point where it can longer be ignored, and the response has been to balance the books by cutting public expenditure.

THE MAN FROM MARS

PUT yourself in the place of the mythical man from Mars, recently landed on our planet.

You see the one hand, inflation, plants running at well below capacity and rising unemployment; on the other hand, 374,000 home leases, 700,000 houses empty, houses and thousands of families (and hundreds of building societies) in difficulty. You see that the nation is suffering, that the living standards have fallen and unemployment has risen.

And as these things happen—a million unemployed this year, a million and a half or more next year—it will be discovered that the nation simply cannot afford the present excessive level of spending on social services. It will have to cut again to ‘relieve the burden on industry’. That is where the crisis is happening in New York, London and all the other great cities of the world. That is what will happen in London to-morrow. In America, for example, unemployment is high, prices are rising, and the government says we must have inflation to stop wages from falling.

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Headfixers

The way, and the only way, that this movement can be built is by root and branch opposition to every one of the policies of the capitalist class and its ‘Labour’ lieutenants. Against all incomes policies, voluntary, half-hearted or compulsory, against re- dundancy, against pay cuts, against taxes, against all the effects of the system and against the ‘headfixers’, paid and unpaid, whose job it is to pretend that there is something that can be done to make what is indefensible seem plausible and that something is necessary. 

But Britain is only a tiny part of the world and its influence workers in other lands to try to do the same. This is the alternative, the only real alternative, to increasing capitalist chaos and misery.
Abortion: NUPE's renegade MPs

LAST week's Socialist Worker listed the MPs sponsored by the British trade-unionists' union NUPE (National Union of Public Employees) who voted for the Abortion Amendment Bill—against their union's policy. They aren't the only ones.

The National Union of Public Employees has more women members, most probably more members in low-paid jobs, and more women members working on a permanent basis than any other union in the country.

Taking that into account, NUPE's executive council issued a statement in June explicitly against any changes in the Abortion Act. It also asked its six sponsored MPs to oppose the Bill.

But two of their sponsored MPs, Ted Leadbetter and Tom Pendry (Stalybridge), voted for the Bill.

The NUPE stewards' committee for London and the East Midlands wrote to Leadbetter and Pendry and to Kenneth Lomas, MP for Huddersfield West and secretary of their parliamentary group, explaining their opposition to the Bill.

It was felt that any restriction of the right to an abortion was a backward step in the working-class battle, since the rich have the health services to treat outside the NHS in expensive private hospitals. Some NUPE union MPs should not oppose it on the grounds of attacking individual liberty, but also because it would destroy one of the most important and fundamental rights of working-class women in this century.

Massive

'We urgently ask you to set aside emotional or religious considerations and ask this question: Will this Bill lead to less abortions, or will it lead to a more unequal burden of abortion performed in the mentally, physically and frequently mortally dangerous conditions of the "back street" abortions演习?'

Ted Leadbetter replied: 'I am in fact a supporter of the Abortion Act. My reasons for voting for the Amendment Bill were purely on the grounds that the Act does require some modification in the light of experience—indeed not in the direction of deviating from its original objectives.'

Which is a pretty poor excuse for voting for a piece of legislation which will greatly weaken the original Act.

Kenneth Lomas, who wasn't in the House of Commons to vote, replied: 'It would be quite improper for me to raise the matter with Mr Leadbetter and Mr Pendry as it has long been the view of parties and parliament that times of these natures should be left to the individual consciences of MPs.'

Pendry: Hypocrisy

Which is exactly where they disagree with NUPE, who pay towards their election expenses, and expect that as the MPs are members of the party, they should vote according to union policy. Lomas' letter goes on to make it clear that he had been made to be in parliament that day, he too would have voted for the Amendment Bill.

Women

But from Tom Pendry came the biggest piece of hypocrisy of all: 'I would not have voted for the Bill, but I was aware that I was instrumental in getting more women on the select committee than was originally intended, for I think it is only right that women should have a say in the workings of this Act.'

Which presumably, is why Pendry is voting for an Amendment Bill which doesn't vote for the Bill, or any other similar legislation, when it comes back to the House of Commons for another vote. We should demand an end to this split union policy which is leading to more deaths of women from abortion, and a move towards a full trade union policy.

Send Socialist Worker copies of resolutions so that we can publish them to show the campaign against the Bill is gathering momentum in trade unions.

Duncan Hall's QUESTIONS ON THE CRISIS column has been held over. It will be back again next week.

Dublin's justice

BACK in January 1972 Rita O'Hare jumped bail in Northern Ireland. She is a Republican, who, on 25 October 1971, was shot in the head, leg and stomach by the British army on seeing them charged with attempted murder of a British soldier.

After her escape from the North repeated attempts were made to extradite her by the Royal Ulster Constabulary and backed by the Southern authorities. This was despite the fact that this is against the laws of the Irish republic.

Having failed to extradite her, Dublin decided to try arresting her in Belfast and London instead.

On 24 February she visited a prisoner in Portland, London. After being refused permission to see the prisoner was found to have dynamite on her and a radio transmitter. She was arrested and the radio transmitter was switched on to part of the prison claim later to have been broadcast to her. She was arrested and brought to trial. A terrible thing for Irish justice, for there was no jury at her trial, she appeared before a Special Criminal Court. These institutions, composed of full time legal functionaries, get out of the inconvenience of jury acquittals. The evidence was so flimsy that you couldn't even do a carbon copy on it, claimed the Irish liberal paper.

On Saturday 26 April, say the women who were on Ireland, those who had been campaigning on the issue-'her three children went to Limerick (Jail) to visit her.'

Box

'The authorities constructed a special wood and perspex box with a Perspex window and slit so that Mrs O'Hare could see her children who were in a halting pitch into which Mrs O'Hare was placed. Her mother was told by the prison officer that she must be prevented from seeing her mother because the children were being disturbed, threatened her mother, the prison officer announced the visit was finished and refused her leaving by the main door. He also had the children to the main door and knuckled the children about and manhandled them.

'Mrs O'Hare, trying to intervene to protect her children from this violence and indiscipline, was knuckled by the prison officer and knocked forcibly to the ground.'

Since then there have been no more visits, the children have refused visits by her solicitors—just trying to appeal against their sentences.

The WCUS suggest that sympathisers should write to: Rita O'Hare, Political Prisoner, Limeen Jail, Limerick, Eire.

UNIVERSAL MR STAMP

'This strike weapon has to be blunted before it severs the head of the body corporate,' says the Hon Maxwell Stamp in the Daily Telegraph.

Mr Maxwell has certainly been doing his bit to keep his head. He suggested that the government should build up stocks of materials and fuels to resist strike action. He also wants them to train a body of unemployed workers to drive lorries or man power stations during an emergency. Perhaps he might be able to offer jobs to some of the people who've suffered from his previous adventures in industry.

Like the printers at Macbath and Johnson for example. They occupied their plant to try and hold their jobs. They were beaten back by the owners of the firm, The De La Rue Company. The Hon Mr Stamp is a director of De La Rue.

Or if he went up to Lancashire he could try around St Helens, and the Pilkington Glassworks. There are workers who have been blacklisted since the Pilkington strike of 1971. The Hon Mr Stamp is a director of Tiptex, a subsidiary of Pilkington.

Lomas: 'It would be improper'

IN THE latter part of the nineteenth century various people had a vision of a new kind of art, a new kind of artist, a new kind of impressioneer. Scouring conventions of the time they put down their vision on canvas, they were rejected by the ruling class of that time.

Ninety years later, Tuesday on the 11th, various people had visions of a new variant of an old art, screwing the workers. Their vision was put forward in the House of Commons by Dennis Healey. It was his wages policy, designed to cut your standard of living.

On that Tuesday evening the nineteenth century vision of the painters met the twentieth century at Sothby's (the London art auctioneers) impressionist sale. And the descendants of that old rolling clans spent £2,500,000 buying up some of those paintings. They were by artists like Renoir, Corot and Manet.

The only people at the sale left with any vision were the TV camera men, one of whom recounting his experiences to Fifth Column, They haven't really got much vision left either, he said. 'They're so used to these capitalist atrocities they only want to see all the money go to the wholesaling.'

It is a sight whichacb's itself on us and around the operated into the factory. This is supposed to devise the discontented (footnote into thinking the occupier is in, in which in fact he or she is hard at work at the office sucking lazy workers.'

In the past workers these capitalists—but not quite such a small number, Fifth Column will be selling sets of 50 clockwork prisons who will enter the prisoner's house, brutalise the inhabitants, and return all valuable collection.

Universal STAMPs wings also make them ideal for flying pencil duties...

Our rulers in a new light...

'REGENERATELY, violence has erupted on a picket line in East London, claiming an innocent victim Chief Superintendent Conroy, no

We will never, never, never...

The old art of making money
No wage cuts here

ANGER THEN ARGENTINA WORKERS STAGE GENERAL STRIKE

by Danny James and Laurie Flynn

THE DENIS HEALEYS of Argentina have had their wage-cutting plans rammed down their throats. A massive series of spontaneous strikes forced the resignation of the cabinet on Sunday, just before a 48-hour general strike began.

The cabinet's aim was to allow president Isabel Peron to manoeuvre now that working class opposition has exploded. The government's measures, as viciously anti-working class as the Labour government in Britain and announced at roughly the same time, included a 45 per cent limit on wage increases. Prices rose 30 per cent last month alone.

The response by Argentina's four million workers drove the corrupt trade union bureaucracy to fury. They called the general strike in a desperate bid to retain their authority.

A spontaneous and unified general strike paralysed the key steel industry city of Cordoba, and other major industrial centres, La Plata, Santa Fe, Rosario, San Lorenzo and Bahia Blanca, ground to a halt.

In the capital, Buenos Aires, thousands of workers who had gone on strike marched into the city centre in protest.

This action was of immense significance in that it was the first march of Argentine workers which confirmed the power of Mrs Peron's late husband, General Juan Peron, as boss of Argentina in 1945. But in 1975 the workers' marches have been met by massive displays of police power. The city centre has been sealed off to prevent marchers crossing the bridges and reaching their destination.

The struggle in Cordoba, begun when 8000 Renault workers walked out and were immediately joined by workers in surrounding plants, like Massey Ferguson's Perkins Engines. Perkin's workers have not precluded being hit, like the Ford workers in the giant General Pacheco plant in Buenos Aires, who led the last march into the city centre, they have previously been hit by waves of factory discipline, factory police and relatively high wages.

The political crisis in Portugal was becoming sharper again this week as one government minister after another went on TV to announce that there were no serious splits inside the ruling body of the Armed Forces Movement.

The best indication of the severity of the splits is that while Prime Minister Vasco Goncalves was announcing that the government would hand back the occupied Radio Renascença to the Catholic Church, other ministers were deciding that no such thing would happen.

Indeed, less than 24 hours after Goncalves's speech, the government announced that it would be nationalising all radio stations in Portugal.

While the nationalisation indicates the desire of certain elements in the army to control the radio, the move is also the fruit of determined struggle.

At Radio Renascença and Republica, the Lisbon newspapers which have been made an internal national issue by the pro-capitalist Socialist Party leadership, the workers have engaged in bitter struggles against capital control of the media.

But the nationalisation moves came in a week that saw the first instance of army strikes breaking for eight months.

Telephone workers occupied the main Lisbon exchanges in a claim for higher wages for the poorly paid and a narrowing of differentials. Then last Wednesday the army moved in and expelled them.

The steelworkers committee, having assisted the Renascença picket line, decided to call a demonstration in support of wider nationalisation of the Catholic Church and against the right in general.

30,000 workers turned out in the biggest demonstration since the last march in support of revolutionary councils three weeks ago.

But the hysterical press editorials against the phone workers, the airline workers, and the so-called ultra left, show that the Communist Party is fighting hard to maintain its influence.

The Communist Party put its members on the alert last Friday as if in expectation of a coup. Moves against their closest associate, Premier Goncalves, also seemed likely as the power of the government moved to extend.

The package which triggered the explosion in Argentina contained more than just a wage-cutting. It also included a 50 per cent devaluation of the peso, a threefold increase in petrol prices, the doubling of fares on the Buenos Aires public transport system and a demand for international and home-based capital to boost prices and profits. Consumer price controls have been almost completely relaxed.

But workers are no longer prepared to make sacrifices for what they have thought would be the government. The ruling class brought Peron back from exile and made him president again in 1973. The struggle against the military regime had grown into an explosion of 30,000 workers of Cordoba staging a week-long insurrection against the dictatorship.

But unlike Peron's first spell in power, there was now little or no room for manoeuvre thanks to the world economic crisis. The presence of white well-dressed and the fact that workers in the factories and the mines and the workforce is made up of thousands of people, they are all unable to do anything but the workers are forced to demand something which they already have.

Not all workers accepted that the Peronist government was 'their government' in the period of calm after the junta's return. Many of them who had fought for higher wages, better conditions, or for genuinely independent working class movements were isolated and crushed with the assistance of the national trade union bureaucracy.

Among the workers who have been done down in this way in the last 18 months were the Renascentes who formalised opposition to Peronist trade unionism with their 'grass roots' movement power workers in Cordoba, printers in Buenos Aires and, most recently, the steelworkers of Villa Constitucion.

Solid

The Villa Constitucion steelworkers had developed their own elected factory committee in defiance of the first principle of Peronist unionism, which has always fought shop-floor organisation.

The government then obliged the workers and the national trade union leaders by arresting the entire factory committee and 6000 workers then staged a strike which they kept solid for two months.

In a desperate bid to break the workers' resolve they resorted to the only tool the government had at its disposal - to nationalise the steel company in order to cut the number of workers.

The Villa Constitucion struggle showed the heroic and organisation ability and strength of the workers. But they were eventually forced back to work by their isolation.

Real

But Mrs Peron's economic package is hedged with the background for the development of a class-war front knowledge of the growing pressure to challenge the government and the working class resistance in the region.

Just how fearful Argentinians are is a real power of the workers' resistance could be felt in the recent local government resignations.

Mrs Peron has also backed off from a further pay freeze. And she has promised to appoint state administrators to make the CDS as a sort of government equivalent of the TUC.

The significance of the present struggle is that it marks the beginning of a real break from the left. This is a real threat to the whole of the Argentinian working class movement.
The Bilderberg Conspiracy

WHO ‘SUNK’ THE POUND last week, and brought about new panic measures to freeze wages the day after Harold Wilson promised that panic measures would not be introduced?

The newspapers continue with the myth that the fall in the value of sterling was an inevitable consequence of the economic climate - that no one brought it on and no one could do anything about it once it started.

The truth is far more down to earth. The pound was sold by bankers, speculators and industrialists. It was sold in small quantities. The selling could easily have been offset by the Bank of England intervening to buy small quantities.

But the government of the Bank of England did not buy. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Denis Healey, did not order him to buy. International currency dealers, who behave just like bookies, marked the pound down.

Why did the Bank of England hold back? Why did Healey allow it to? The answers to both those questions, and many more besides, may well have been available on the week-end of 25-27 April in the holiday village of Cennet, Turkey, where 100 of some of the most powerful people in the world gathered for a secret conference.

This was the Bilderberg Conference, which takes its name from a luxury hotel in Oosterbeek, Holland. The first Bilderberg conference was held in 1954. Its founder and chairman is Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands. Its richest supporter is David Rockefeller, chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank and brother of the present US Vice-President.

Its object is to bring together, once a year, the most powerful men in finance, industry, politics, the armed forces, the universities and the press internationally (it’s quite an official statement coming from the Palace Hotel, Oosterbeek, in 1959) “to discuss the main questions at issue in the Western World to smooth its rough edges”.

This was not just a business man’s conference. From the start, the organisers made a beeline for the most articulate right-wing leaders of the Labour movement in Europe.

Which is why a founder member was an up-and-coming young Labour MP called Denis Healey. Healey has since attended more Bilderberg conferences than any other British politician.

The chairman of the American steering committee of the Bilderberg Conference was Bedell Smith, the first director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the American spy operation which has specialised in overthrowing democratic governments and assassinating political leaders.

The Bilderberg Conference is entirely secret. No reporters are allowed.

Secret

This year, the huge new Golden Dolphin hotel at Eime was vacated for the conference. Prince Bernhard gave a press conference at Izmir, 60 miles away. Asked by an international reporter why the press weren’t allowed in, the Prince replied:

Reporters are barred, but we always invite some of the top executives of the press in Europe and America. We have noticed that the ideas which are discussed in the secret conference are later reflected in the media which they control.

The Turkish conference was one of the most star-studded in history. From America came David Rockefeller, a clutch of advisers from President Ford’s office.

There was Richard Nixon, President of Heinz, Emilio Collado, chief executive vice-president of Exxon Oil (Exco), Robert Balmer, senior vice-president of IBM.

The governor of the Bank of Italy was there. So was the secretary general of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the secretary general of NATO, the vice president of the European Economic Community, the chairman of the Dresdner Bank in Germany, the President of Fiat in Italy, the chairman of the Bank of Belgium, the chairman of the biggest bank in Denmark, and various representatives of the Rockefeller family.

The Bilderberg delegation was important, bearing in mind the state of the British economy was one of the main subjects for discussion. Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, was there, of course. So was Sir Frederick Bennet.

There were four other British guests: Margaret Thatcher, leader of the Conservative Party; Sir Eric Roll, chairman of Warburgs, the most prestigious of the City Banks; and a director of the Bank of England; Sir Frederick Noon, who has never had a wife to pay for his family’s profits from the City to Bruges, not last but not least, Norman Loos, the Governor of the Bank of England.

According to official reports, the Bilderberg group “have an understanding of the problems of the economy in the world”.

Now, it was the government’s task to take its commitment to a wage freeze, to the limit of its possible strength.
A WORKERS' revolution can only succeed if the ruling class army is broken and replaced by a workers' army. Revolutions in Portugal are now fighting for just that.

One of them, CARLOS SILVA, the conspirator sergeant who recently visited Britain, described some of what has been happening:

BEFORE the coup of 25 April 1974, there were 150,000 men in the army of the Salazar regime. They were said to be a 'population of fewer than ten million.'

All privates and some of the NCOs were conscripts, but others were workers forced to remain in the army because they could not get work.

Many officers were professional soldiers who were not in the ruling class—particularly in the higher ranks, but the lower officers were also conscripts.

Life for the conscript soldier was very hard. Living and housing conditions were indescribable, and the pay of the conscript privates was 550 a month. Often he was not paid for what he did, and debts and deductions would wipe out a week's pay.

Discipline was harsh. Training was designed so as to turn men into unthinking, obedient machines. In the crash fighting units discipline and training were designed to make the men into brutes.

In the Commando, the officers used to make a forged telegram telling him his father was dead.

Live

The soldier showed any emotion by going on strike or to barracks for two weeks and cut off the officers' communications.

At the end of the two weeks he was allowed to go home to see his family, where he would finally find out that it was only a sham.

The officers conducted with live ammunition, and deaths from 'accidents' were so frequent that everybody believed they were part of a game.

Inevitably, with a conscript army the war would be a repeat of the 1939-45 war.

And with the long and unpopular war, the streets were full of dodging-and-desertion became commonplace.

Some units mutinied only to be savagely repressed and the news kept quiet.

The hard conditions of the war led the army to abandon its role of being a deterrent. The defeat began to effect even the officers, and the sons of the bourgeoisie refused to make the army a career. More officers began to come from the middle class.

Lead

Some of these professional officers who had been trained for war disdained their professions and founded the Army of Liberation. They carried out the April coup.

They included army officers and soldiers who saw the changes as opportunities to improve their conditions. They took up basic demands like discipline, food, living conditions and the officers who carried out the coup were ready to make concessions.

But most soldiers still had few illusions. When the right wing came to power, most of the units were politically advanced enough to disobey the orders of their superiors.

But constant involvement with the urban working class has led to involvement with workers beginning to take its effects.

The attempted counter-coup of the 25 June of this year was a turning point.

The right-wing officers could find support only in the highly disciplined units like the paramilitary police.

The coup came as a sharp shock to many soldiers, who had come to think of the Army as the vanguard of the revolution. They began to feel they had been manipulated by their officers and that if they were to continue to lead the revolution they would have to challenge their officers more openly.

The demands of the rank and file soldiers have since become more and more political. There was widespread discussion of the right of all soldiers to have full information on all political and military matters, and the right to build links with rank and file soldiers outside of the normal military channels.

We have forced through the demands that the soldiers have the right to call general assemblies. But the power to call meetings is not enough.

How much power the soldiers have depends on their organization and political consciousness. The officers have the right to send one delegate to these meetings and in the more advanced units their presence is enough to intimidate the men and to leave real power in the hands of the officers.

In the more advanced units, the situation is very different. Often the assembly has rejected the officers' delegate and expelled him from the meeting.

In some units, committees have been set up which discuss all political and military issues. They are in a position to enforce the demand that every time the order is issued, the men must know exactly what they are going to do and have the right to refuse any action they believe to be against the interests of the working class. This demand has not yet been officially recognised, and it is far from having the support of the army, but the principles are firmly established.

In some units, the different groups for officers, sergeants and men have been abolished and everyone eats the same food together. There are many cases of right-wing officers being thrown out on the initiative of the rank and file, and a few units have voted for the promotion of particular left-wing officers and forced the right to accept their agreement.

The situation is delicately balanced. We are not yet able to elect our officers, and the day-to-day running of the units is shared between officers and men.

Link

It is not yet possible to say the rank and file control the army. But we are constantly fighting in the assemblies to win the mass of soldiers to the ideas that we must never allow ourselves to be used against the working class. To ensure this, we must build links with local factories.

We have to develop the power of the assemblies to the point where we can say to the officers: 'You have to make a choice: are you with the working class or against it?'

We have to link up with the workers' councils which are growing in the factories and draw the soldiers and rank and file workers into joint democratic bodies.

If we can do this, we can begin to arm the workers, destroy the power of the traditional military hierarchy and move towards working-class power with a national co-ordination of soldiers' and workers' councils.

Those officers prepared to stand for election and submit to the discipline of the soldiers and workers we will welcome. Those who will not, will not have to.

Only with this sort of organisation can working-class power achieve and defend itself against the threat of reaction inside Portugal and the plans of NATO and imperialism outside.
The freeze sets the first test

commitment? Certainly serious consideration should be given to the production of local Socialist Worker newspaper.

The fight against the freeze, unemployment and redundancies is a political fight. We should be clear in our minds that we cannot give way to the demands of the bourgeoisie. The building of Socialist Worker newspapers is a political struggle for socialist ideas and finance, which is crucial. The campaign against the freeze, our struggle to prevent the freeze, is a political battle. We must mobilize the workers, editors and printers, and writers to join our struggle.

The conference will be held on 25-26 November at the Grand AJA Hotel, 11 Clifton Street, London NW1. Accommodation can be arranged.

School students

A LONDON IS School Students committee has been set up and aims to initiate action on various demands in September. We aim to support our schools to continue their action. The main aim is to win the struggle against the freeze, and for the rights of all school students.

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

The International Socialists, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 7DN

Name

Trade Union

If you would like to attend a union meeting and discuss these issues with other members of the Socialist Worker Party, please contact your local branch or the national office.

We stand for

The International Socialists are a revolutionary socialist organization who support the struggle for a world without exploitation, poverty, oppression, and war.

What we stand for

The International Socialists are a revolutionary socialist organization who support the struggle for a world without exploitation, poverty, oppression, and war.

ENTRIES for this column must be received by Socialist Worker by 10am on the day of the issue and must be typed in 12pt Times New Roman (or equivalent) and submit papers as 'plain text'.

SWITZERLAND: The freeze is set in the first test

The freeze, the latest in a series of struggles, has set the first test for the new IS committee.

The first issue of the freeze was on 14 November. The freeze has been called by the new IS committee, which was formed in response to the pressure from the workers.

The freeze is set in the first test for the new IS committee.

The freeze is set in the first test for the new IS committee.
Laurie Flynn reviews a revolting book on General Amin by the deputy editor of PUNCH, a magazine with a long tradition of racism...

Three weeks ago, BBC TV news devoted about 15 minutes to an interview with Idi Amin, President of Uganda and a favourite long-standing target of the British media. The interview came at the height of the trial of the late Dr. Dennis Pritt, who had been an advocate of Idi Amin and who had been killed in an ambush. The trial was, of course, not on his reactionary politics. It was on the fact that he had been Idi Amin's first Minister.

Throughout the interview, Amin spoke English with a fairly heavy accent. That's not surprising since English is not his native tongue. In fact, he never answered the question I couldn't help but think: Why doesn't he speak English properly?

But

I suppose it could be argued that my objections were half decent. If only he spoke English 'properly', I was thinking, he wouldn't be quite such an easy butt for the racism that permeates our society.

Why isn't it that people and him to change his ways, as if it was the responsibility of black people to halt the disgusting business of re-inforcing racial stereotypes? As if it were the cause of it, instead of the victim.

Alan Coren, deputy editor of PUNCH, the revolting humour magazine available in every dentist's waiting room and about as funny, has written a book on Idi Amin's 'improper English'.

Coren has written a book on Idi Amin's 'improper English'. He has also done a great deal to make the middle class reader feel free to make racist jokes about Amin.

There is not the remotest spark of humour in the book unless you find it amusing that Amin (and other blacks) speak funny.

Five

Amin speaks five languages, Kikuyu, Luganda, Swahili and Nuer Arabic, as well as English.

But all that can be safely buried under the racist caricature of a black man speaking the Queen's English.

The back-page blurb for Corens's revolting little book spells out the racist assumptions very clearly. "Amin's "improper English" is an easy source of exasperation. I mean, I've written a lot of copies of Mr Coren's and Coren has made a lot of money, which is something to set out to do. He has also done a great deal to make the middle class reader feel free to make racist jokes about Amin.

There is not the remotest spark of humour in the book unless you find it amusing that Amin (and other blacks) speak funny.

Whole bunch of other 'peculiarities'. He loves uniforms and medals - a sure sign that he is the creation of the British ruling class.

But it's not medals and uniforms that are absurd for Mr Coren. It's that Amin doesn't bother about the niceties. He doesn't have to wear ties and when a morning suit, poor fellow, obviously he never want to Elton.

The political assumptions behind racist ideas as also clearly set out in the book. The very first sentence of the introduction reads: 'Lotta people gonna be wondering about how do cornerstone o' Ugandia literature prize' said.

Mere Ugandans don't have any literature or culture. That is the core assumption.

Well they may be without the great intellectual achievements of an Alan Coren. They may not be on the same 'level of civilisation' as Chalfont St Giles, where every household has a set of Punch bound volumes. But, by Christ, they're not without culture, spoken and unspoken.

The masters of the British Empire have long tried to pretend they were. They stole the treasures of Africa and India not only to enrich themselves or to make bequests to the British Museum.

Victims

They stilt to degrade and dispirit their victims, to make it easy for the chosen people to rule. The puns also came in handy to divide British workers from their brothers and sisters in Africa and India.

If you force yourself to read the dreadful bullshit of Alan Coren, you'll find that the connection between Idi Amin, Ugandans and whites supposedly inferior beings, other people with funny accents, is explicitly drawn.

There are drawings aimed at Italian waiters. And Amin's supposed inferiority, is constantly associated with reading the Branford or the House or other things that are associated with working-class life.

Up in Chalfont St Giles they laugh at Cockney accents, too. As for Glasgow, why that really makes them how.

Coren's market is middle class. He wants to re-assure the junior executive class of pisspots that read and write Punch.

They are being reassured that they still are, as their school books, The Young Winton and endless Observer Colour Magazine series on two million years of flight history have always argued, uniquely fitted to rule over mere human beings.

If you're feeling rich, buy up a few hundred copies of this book, dig a hole in your back garden (if you've got one in this country of yours) and make in them. They might make ten dirt-e compost, if that is, it doesn't poison the soil.

By Europe Singh

perse for cheap labour—and how they are driven back again once those economies slip into recession.

The most serious weakness of the book is its failure to give any guidance in the fight back. The chapter on this has some useful examples of black struggles but the lessons of the battles won are never drawn. The reader is left with the feeling that somehow spontaneous struggles will win the day.

The author seems completely unaware of the work done by white and black IS members, by the Rank and File movement, and even ignorance of the existence of the newspaper Chingari, which appears in two Aids languages.

Nevertheless, buy the book, read it and use it. The struggle against racism is not solely the concern of black workers, as the book implies. It must be a central concern of all class-conscious militants.

On the box

SUNDAY


MONDAY

ITV: 8.30pm. A WORLD ON ITS OWN is a documentary on 100 years of Stratford's Royal Shakespeare Theatre. THE KNACK [BBC 1]: 9.25pm is the 1965 British film comedy full of white back drops and peremptory lessons, as at time . . .

TUESDAY

BBC 1: 9.25pm. SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW YOUR RIGHTS? featuring Clement看见. Anna Ranft of Woman magazine's agony column and Alfred Hinds on what our rights are.

WEDNESDAY


THURSDAY

BBC 2: 9.25pm. THE STORY OF THE RED ORCHESTRA is a West German documentary on the Russian anti-racism orchestra. [BBC 2]: 9.30pm. THE MAJESTIC [ITV]: 6.15pm. Sin-Nei Nathan and Dr Albert Einstein.

FRIDAY

BBC 2: 9.25pm. MAN ALIVE: PROBATION CARE OR CONTROL? is the work and attitudes of a group of probation officers in New York (using a typical working day).

FRIDAY

BBC 2: 9.20pm. MANNA REPORTS: SARAS—SURVIVAL is about the Suros winners who put themselves up as human baiting rackets. Part of the 'Gang of a Freshness' syndrome the BBC see increasingly obsessed with.
The Dimbleby
Talk-In: How
they fixed it.

IF YOU watched the Dimbleby Talk-In on BBC last Friday, you may have been surprised that so many of the workers in the studio audience supported the wage freeze. I was there—and I'd like to tell you about the other Dimbleby Talk-In... the one they never put on the listen-in.

After the two guest speakers, Labour MP and Scottish landowner John MacLachlan, and borderRadius general secretary Ken Gill—had said their bit, the audience waited.

Workers told how the wage freeze was being used in addition to unemployment and cuts in the social services. One teacher said she was family opposed to the freeze but couldn't fight it because she was being made redundant.

The debate was white hot. MacLachlan appeared to be made up to look pretty tasty. The workers' defence was as full of fight and impatience with his phony arguments.

At last, we offered to an excited fellowlook into the studio. The programme was apparently 'television', in reality, it was a bunch of people interrupting. It simply couldn't go on.

He exalted that if we were all a bit more to do a good run it would be much better. So the cameras started all over again.

There were still plenty of interferences but this time the monitors logged the screen. The rest of us never got the call. We waited impatiently to get in, but all too soon it was over.

That programme went out after the news that a recent opinion poll had found four-fifths of the public who were in favour of a wage freeze.

However this does not mean the family will be ideally suited to socialism. We cannot produce a blueprint for any institution under socialism, but we must recognise that there are obvious difficulties in the present family set-up. Children are dominated by the parents, for instance.

Under socialism, as under capitalism, the family will be organised so that the needs of the economy, but then production, and thus the economy, will be geared to the needs of the family.

Two working class women who go to work is doubly exploited because she has to buy two shifts a day one unpaid. The children, the workforce of the future, are almost entirely dependent on their parents' resources.

The reason? Not because it was bad, but because there has been no history for business and politics. That programme was—anna PAVLAKA, Hackney, London.

ALL TRUE socialists should applaud Chris Harman's attack on the family.

Every member of a working class family is exploited through the family system. The class is placed upon the 'head of the family' for all its members.

A working class family who goes to work is doubly exploited because she has to buy two shifts a day one unpaid. The children, the workforce of the future, are almost entirely dependent on their parents' resources.

Socialism would substitute a system which would enable people to live together without choice not, as now, from necessity.

When women achieve economic independence and equal rights, and are regarded as a communal responsibility, the family will cease to be an economic unit.

Under socialism, as under capitalism, the family will be organised so that the needs of the economy, but then production, and thus the economy, will be geared to meet the needs of the family.

To way to fight racism

AN ENGINEERING union branch has sent a resolution to the local district committee calling for a ban on immigration because of the high unemployment rate. This was noted by the district committee.

My branch sent a resolution strongly criticising the district for not condemning this racist resolution.

Since then my branch has nominated and won, an election, for a black shop steward on the district committee.

Other branches should support black migrants. Through putting forward black workers in this way the racist attitudes of white workers can be exposed and defeated, in the interests of unity.

July issue out this week

Equal Pay—how we got it

If you want to know how equal pay strikes in Coventry.

Sex discrimination—will the law make any difference?

Harry Bows, talks about what the law will mean.

PLUS articles on Abortion, the Family, the NALGO Conference and others.

Go plus plus plus postage from WOMEN'S VOICE, 8 Comrie Gardens, London W2 8DN.

Putting the record straight...

The reports in local and national press about 1975 average wage increases and the pay rise in local government staff are erroneous. The figures published are a grossly misleading over-estimate of the real rise in pay.

It also fails to equate with the increase obtained over the six years by this service civil service, and does not even fully compensate for the increased cost of living over the past year.

In both cases, local government staffs are taking a cut in their real earnings.

It is unfortunate that the media does not give more space to this, a true picture of such settlements—NALGO, Central Council of School Social Services Department, Ipswich No 7 District.

Better off on the dole...

So we are staying in the Common Market. How confusing a vote it must have been for most workers. These are the results we have had for our vote.

A worker unemployed for some time said: 'These are now possibilities of a job somewhere in Europe for us'.

A Pakistani, who also voted yes, said: 'Racism may be a little more difficult to take in coming into this country and other European countries, where I have to wait for years for my family to join me, will not now be so difficult'.

A bloke looking at his pay slip shouts out after looking at his tax deductions: 'I've worked three days for bigger hugs for my wife and kids'.

Little does he know there's more to come. Anyway it won't be very much, the revolution may only be round the corner—JEFF AL, TGWU, Burnley.
**Beware this 'wonder fibre!'**

by John Morser (ISI Science Group)

CARBON fibres, the so-called 'wonder fibres' of the late 1960s, was introduced with a lot of fanfare. ‘Stronger than steel, lighter than taffeta,...’ But, as is usual in the chemical industry, the hype often precedes the reality. Carbon fibre production might effect the health and safety of the workers.

The manufacture of the fibre was begun without an inquiry into the possible long-term health effects of the workers. Apparatus and equipment used in the plants were left unattended over the weekend. It is possible that the officials never comes out in the conference.

So the, especially and Jones, who stake the ground for the workers, have their own sweet way for two years almost without worrying about the conference. It’s more like aipping the union, member rights, rather than a conference which controls the union.

The conference has a democratic face, all right. It’s not difficult for rank and file workers to speak, and they can say what they like.

**Troops**

Several delegates gave the officials quite a grilling. One from Glasgow savaged the executive for their role during the dustmen’s strike earlier in the year, which was broken with the threat of toughness.

A delegate from Walls, Willesden did the same. He attacked Jack Jones for writing a letter, which he said, ‘knocked the stuffing’ out of the fight against redundancies.

Many such critical speeches were listened to painstakingly by the platform, but none of them found their way into resolutions or instructions to the executive.

**Lungs**

Many miners and chemical workers can tell you about the effects of washing coal-dust, asbestos and silica, entering the breathing passages for a period of time can cause pneumoconiosis. We certainly hope that in a few years time there is not a new industrial disease called 'carbon fibrosis'.

The last stage of production, which consists of treating the fibre before it is stuck to a tape with epoxy resin, poses a new set of ailments, mainly skin burns and abrasions.

TGWU stewards Chris Smith told Socialists: ‘We are just starting work in this department. I developed a rash on my hands and face, which has been the same every time I’ve worked up a STS and silica dust in my contact with the tape machine. My hands feel rough as though the glass fibre skeletons are hurting the skin. I’ve experimented and on, everybody has those symptoms.’

The chemical workers committee says that some of these symptoms arise from work in the industry, while those arising from dusts, differences, and to mention serious health problems, have accepted that at the end of the job.

The Committee feels that to fight back against these symptoms workers should use relevant health problems. For regular health check-ups paid for by the company, and any complaint of medical found safety officers elected by union members, trained as occupational health workers by the union for ship-stewards and more. A number of such programs by union-nominated industrial committees.

**THE HAZARDS OF WORK—AND HOW TO FIGHT THEM**

Pat Kinnersley’s “The hazards of work—how to fight them” will be read on a recent book of practical information. That suggestion has been harnessed by a recent Labour Research Department report which lists the temptation of the prices, and car prices for vehicles, safety organisations and the like.

Chrysler UK has been the long big car company in Britain to have received any tentative estimate for 1969-70 of 75 million pounds profit. This may be a result of artificially low exchange rates.

Chrysler UK has been the long big car company in Britain to have received any tentative estimate for 1969-70 of 75 million pounds profit. This may be a result of artificially low exchange rates.

**Cornwall: 34 strike in heart of Tory land**

**Liskeard:** 34 meat workers in the Cornish Sign Manufacturing factory are in the third week of their strike to get union recognition and decent rates and conditions. The house has refused to talk, but the workers are still there. White-collar workers have been roped in to man the expensive machines. Jim Shackleford, strike organiser, reckons that the wages of the 34 workers are one third the cost price of £493 per week. Meanwhile, the house has refused to talk, but little progress is being made. The workers are still there. White-collar workers have been roped in to man the expensive machines.

**Kit**

**Poor-stricken’ Chrysler hides its profits**

FOR YEARS, Chrysler (UK) have pleaded poverty. They have met each pay claim by threatening to leave Britain and call for new money for the British company. Many workers have experienced actual chaos in their pay rates in recent years. That situation has been harnessed by a recent Labour Research Department report which lists the temptation of the prices, and car prices for vehicles, safety organisations and the like.

Chrysler UK has been the long big car company in Britain to have received any tentative estimate for 1969-70 of 75 million pounds profit. This may be a result of artificially low exchange rates. The House of Commons, 34 meat workers in the Cornish Sign Manufacturing factory are in the third week of their strike to get union recognition and decent rates and conditions. The house has refused to talk, but the workers are still there. White-collar workers have been roped in to man the expensive machines. Jim Shackleford, strike organiser, reckons that the wages of the 34 workers are one third the cost price of £493 per week. Meanwhile, the house has refused to talk, but little progress is being made. The workers are still there. White-collar workers have been roped in to man the expensive machines.
**THE FIGHT AGAINST THE SPENDING CUTS**

**BATTLE TO SAVE FOUR E.LONDON HOSPITALS**

EAST LONDON—Four local hospitals face closure because the Area Health Authority cannot afford to keep them open.

First was Poplar Hospital, now the isolated andCricket Club Hospital, which was closed on 26 July. The Trust’s response was predictable: it said it did not plan to close any hospitals as a measure to improve the services.

Trade unions have begun to fight back. The Local Government and Health Committee has extended its fight to close the Clapham and the other hospitals, as well as opposing the cuts in education and social services.

The renamed East London Action Committee Against the Cuts plans a march on the KCH on 26 July. Letters are being sent to local trade union branches and to hospital staff asking them to affiliate to the committee, help fight the cuts and to support the march.

**THE IS District Committees of Inner and Outer London, the Local Government and Health Committee and Social Worker supporters to support the KCH, 26 July**

**MANCHESTER:** ‘We have now been out for three months and we are prepared to go on for another three months,’ said W. Gower, a welder at the Wooladon Duckham site.

The strike of Wooladon Duckham workers has now been in progress for three months, and the company has announced that it will close the plant if the workers do not return to work by next Monday.

The workers have been supported by the trade unions and the Arthur Scargill led National Union of Miners, and the strike has become a symbol of the struggle for the rights of the workers.

The strike is now in its third month, and the workers are determined to continue their fight until their demands are met.

**COUNCIL FORCED TO THINK AGAIN**

The strike at Tughill Whelbarrow has been ongoing for over four months, and the council has been under pressure to negotiate a settlement.

The previous week, payday, management had announced a new pay offer but the workers rejected it. The next day, their negotiations broke down, and the council declared a public service agreement (PSA) to end the dispute.

The PSA was signed by the council and the workers, allowing the council to impose a 10% pay rise and a 10% reduction in hours.

This was the first time that the workers had been offered the same terms as the council staff. The council had previously refused to negotiate.

The workers have been on strike since the end of the previous round of talks, and they have been demanding a living wage, better working conditions, and an end to the unfair dismissal of workers.

The council has been under pressure to negotiate a settlement, and it has been accused of trying to ‘rig the system’ to prevent the workers from winning.

The strike has now entered its fourth month, and the workers are determined to continue their fight until their demands are met.
10,000 WORKERS on Tyne-side this week gave Denis Healey a welcome New Year's gift—power to start the fight against the 10 per cent pay旨在now.

C. PARSONS

4000 manual workers decided almost unanimously on Saturday to strike for 10 minutes across the country's largest builder's firm, to restrain wage restraint—and start the fight against the 10 per cent cuts plans now.

J. M. BURTON

The strike was called by the right to per cent of the wage bill, was rejected by the futility of the captive workers in battle against their own employers. The latest offer is an attempt to fight for their jobs, according to the union's plan of wage-restraint, and cut the loss of employment in the region.

UNIVERSITIES’ AMTS—A SPANNER IN THE COM.

The AMTS Council, which represents employers on universities, has called a strike for their national requirements, and that of the AMTS technicians.

The AMTS strike went into effect on Saturday, after the end of four years’ negotiations—settlements by a seven-point minimum pay rise in 1974. That year in EDINBURGH, teachers were on strike for one month, but the university—university—university—is the fourth of the four universities.

The teachers were paid a 10 per cent increase in 1974, but were warned by the union that their job was at risk.

Such is the current strike started, the workers have support from other universities.

EAST LONDON PAYABLE STRIKE—STRIKE WEEK

Some 1200 workers of a total of 1200 workers (and some men) are on strike by their local AMTS, without any talks on compensation and some no compensation with Denis Healy and the AMTS. They say they will negotiate for a strike for 10 minutes.

The workers were promised a 10 per cent increase in 1974, but were warned by the union that their job was at risk.

The workers have support from other universities.

BADRFURNACE—THE LONG SEVEN MONTHS

on a NUB Member (Teeside)

Last week the Badrfurnace’s union members (NURS) and the British Steel Corporation were on the same council of a five per cent pay rise from January 1976. They have told the union that they are prepared to stand down.

Several South Wales collieries have closed their doors during the strike, but the majority of employers have not been affected.

The workers want to keep a blacking staff on call during the strike, but the company has insisted on only 100 for 10 hours.

Glasgow SETTING UP SHOP

EVEU: The bosses know that gambling is an illegal game, but it is a safe bet that most employers are now setting up their post for setting shop employees. The Glasgow office has six branch offices, each with 20 branches. They began the strike 14 days ago, when the employees made it clear that they would refuse to negotiate with the union, the National Union of General Worker.

The employers are thinking of a plan to move their workers out of the building, and to move their operations to a new site.

VICTORY FOR EAST

LONDON NURSERY STAFF

HACKNEY: Labour, having come in to negotiate new nursery staff, mainly members of the government officers union.

NORLON after a 15-month battle. The nursery staff is a direct and fully on behalf of the workers.

The gardens is 1500 beds, 7500 plants, and 15000 cuttings, which are used for the reclamation of the streets.

Boots building WORKERS YORK, VICTORY!

The boots used the council to break the building workers strike on the boots, and they have failed. The workers have won the chance to get a better rate on the streets.

Students PLAN AHEAD

Some of the students have come out to strike over the rent strikers have ended in failure for the students. At WARRICK, the students who were at the much more expulsive, but at LANCATON students are in the match.

Students have been informed by the council that the strike against victimisation.

A question for the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies pointed out that "The politics of direct confrontation doesn't work for the workers any more."

The Broad Left National Union of Students leadership says we haven't a chance of fighting the employers' edical—cuts—that we must spend the next two years building more union linkages, but 'it's essential that DNOIS doesn't hold back from the struggle coming out of rent, inflation and the cuts. We in NOIS must use these opportunities to get over our political."
MINERS LEADERS DUCK THE CHALLENGE

Harold Wilson (£400 a week) Derek Ezra (£300 a week) and Joe Gormley (£150 a week) have got their way. The miners will not get £100 a week — or anything like it.

But Tuesday's bitter debate at the National Union of Mineworkers' conference ended not only with a major retreat on the Yorkshire resolution to demand £100.

GONE is the demand for the claim to be met by 1 November. GONE, too, are the demands for £80 for surfacedens and £85 for other underground workers.

GUILTY

Yorkshire miners' president Arthur Scargill spoke of how the surfacedens were sacrificed in March 'on the altar of the social contract' and added: 'The working class are not responsible for the crisis. The guilty men are the capitalists.'

Scargill won the battle of rhetoric. But the right-wing won the tactical battle hands down.

As one of their number, Nottingham's Len Clarke, happily and pointedly put it: 'You don't remove the word 'demand' and put in the word 'wage' and change the name. We'll get the £100 when the country can afford it and not before.'

Clearly the right-wing intend to interpret this compromise-unanimously falling in with whatever wages policy the TUC and Labour government concoct. So-called left-wing general secretary Lawrence Daly echoed this in a vicious attack on Scargill. He also spoke up in a virulent defence of the social contract fraud and a voluntary incomes policy.

Norman West, the former £100,850 wage resolution in his Barnby, Yorkshire NUM branch, told Socialist Worker: 'When you have friends like Lawrence Daly staking you in the back, you need enemies.'

The Yorkshire delegation came in to the right-wing blackmail, hysterically whipped up by well-paid newsagents' editors and theirextension of their motion.

The scene was set by the Midlands NUM area, which once again threatened to break their mandate to vote with Yorkshire. But this and the suspected differing of other areas, should not have stopped Yorkshire to back off. This is not a complete defeat for the left and for the working miner. The executive will have to hold Labour some sort of wage claim.

But it is an enormous encourage- ment for the right to go for the old unsustained 'substantial' increase which burns out to be a very unsustained 'substantial' increase at the time the government's wages policy.

A new round is needed now to restate the rank and file for big demands, to keep up with inflation. Who says miners—or any other workers for that matter—can't have £80 to £100 a week more for their bosses, newspaper editors and their like get much more for doing jobs that have little or no social value?

Marvellous Express journalists win

E LONDON: Striking journalists at the Express have won after a four-week struggle to have group loco (shop steward) Adam White reinstated.

The tide turned when the Sunday Express, which was included in the strike, decided to call workers back to work.

Incensed at the Press Agency's decision, Socialist Worker, which is printed by The Starbord Express parent, forced management to cave in.

Management said to Socialist Worker: 'This is a tremendous victory. The chapel is over the moon.'

This is the fifth strike the Express journalists have won in nine months. Adam White's re-employment is unconditional. But Labour relations at the Express are now to go up in the wake of this successful strike.

Share your story: What you can do

THE NATIONAL Rank and File Organising Committee this week launched its campaign to build support for their Shrewsbury Dependants Fund.

The fund is the only one still paying out every week to the hard-pressed wives and families of the Shrewsbury Two.

Fund treasurer OSIE Lewis told Socialist Worker the committee would be doing everything in its power to keep up its work. 'Success,' he added, 'depends on the help of every rank and file member.'

This week newspapers were once again suggesting that Ricky Tomlinson might now get the parole dragged in front of him and then taken away last May.

But even if he does, he's not going to walk into a job, since the blacklist is rife in the building trade and unemployment is high. So parole for Ricky is no reason to let up.

But make the signs clear that Des Warren is going to be kept in prison at least until December.

There can be few trade unionists now not aware of the implications of the Shrewsbury Two. In this case, just in case the 'law for the poor, another for the rich' argument is revived, Ricky has escaped someone you know and love. If this is not enough, consider his or her attention to the shrewsbury Dependants Fund campaign.

Brother Francis Dogson, 29, of Old Burgholt, Suffolk, appeared in court last week for refusing to join in the railway strike to stop an express.

Dogson, who worked on the railway, told the court: 'We are no threat to property, just to train drivers and human life. What's more, he told the court, he was 'fed up with delays, cancellations and rail strikes'. He was fined a modest £10.

Fees

But you will be glad to hear, Mr Dogson won't have to pay either the fine or the costs. His employers, a City firm, have said they'll meet all the fees.

And the Daily Mirror reporter who reported Dogson's case has received several complaints of financial donations from previous warnings to politicians who feel the same way.

Two donations came from former Tory ministers who, men no doubt, worked overtime to see that dockers and builders were beaten down by the law.

Donations to the Shrewsbury Dependants Fund should be sent to OSIE Lewis, T&G Wages Treasurer, 25 Park Road, Oswestry, Shropshire.