THE ROW over MPs' salaries has revealed the real nature of Wilton's freeze. The government is promising the very people who are making the £6 a week massive £24 extra a week. MPs will not be the only ones to benefit from such generosity. The top official in the Greater London Council has just been offered another £20 a week, the retired solicitors who man rent tribunals will receive another £17 a day, the top executives in the water boards are to get £48 a week more. The heads of the nationalised industries are expecting to follow suit.

Yet the MPs and heads of the nationalised industries are not happy. Sir Monty Finniston of British Steel, Richard March of British Rail, Sir Bill Ryland of the Post Office, yes, all those bosses who have been warning their workers to accept less money and more sackings—are putting together to demand increases of £150 a week on top of the £500 a week they already get.

In parliament, MPs of all colours are behaving like petulant schoolboys whose keeper has forgotten their feeding time. The same people who only a fortnight ago were complaining of the lunacy of giving a miner £100 a week are saying that it is "impossible" to live on £100 a week themselves—even though they get free travel and free postage, £60 a week for a secretary plus pensions worked out as if they earned £360 a year.

ERTIC "GREENBACKS" (GB) Liverpool West Derby, is unofficial head of the group of MPs who are pushing for a rise of £3-250 (50p a week), which would bring MPs pay up to £360 a week. Ogden is sponsored by the National Union of Mineworkers, who pay his election expenses and got him his seat in the last place. But he is strongly opposed to the £100-a-week miner. He thinks miners should make do on about £50 a week.

But MPs are different. MPs are, in Ogden's opinion, worth far more than £100 a week. Last week, when MPs were offered £110 a week, Eric Ogden described the offer as "miserable." Ogden is the parliamentary adviser to the Penarth Industrial Society of Great Britain, which represents all Britain's chemists. A spokesman for the society has said that Ogden "should not remember" how much Eric Ogden got for standing up for the miners. But you can bet your pit helmet it's more than a miner earns in a month.
THE RIGHT-WING majority in the leadership of the miners' union are conspiring to slash the living standards of the most powerful section of workers in Britain.

A fortnight ago, at the union's annual conference, they argued that the Yorkshire area's decision to pay £100 a week for face workers was impermissible. They claimed they had to have it watered down. Nevertheless, they did not feel strong enough to throw it out completely and agreed to reduce it to £90 a week.

Hardly had the delegates returned home to work conditions when some leaders proceeded to ignore virtually everything said there. They are now planning to interpret 'throwing out' the £100 as enabling them to put in for a £6 wage increase that will give face miners the grand total of £67. Their motive seems to be 'not one thing and do the opposite, as so as to pretend there is democratic backing for this scheme, they are rushing to a national ballot on the issue. It starts next week and goes on through August. The result will be available just before the TV in so that the £6 freeze.

They know its timing will make it difficult to the left to organise across Britain. They also believe that if they will get away with a ballot now, in a way in which they could not in a few months' time when rising prices and soaring unemployment have brought home to many workers that what Wilson and Healey are really up to.

Many miners are determined to reject the right wing's scheme. It's essential in the weeks before the ballot to carry a campaign to every mining area pointing out what is at stake.

It is necessary to argue why the £6 increase is not a share price increase, that wage cuts won't help the unemployed, they are not the sick, and why miners must stand with other sections of workers against Healey's freeze.

We will be carrying details in the next week's Socialist Worker of the campaign which our members will be waging for a No vote in the ballot.

For Charles Clore, millionaire, it's frighteningly important...

MULTI-MILLIONAIRE Charles Clore now has even more time than usual for thinking about his sacrifice—your sacrifice, of course.

He's having his portrait painted by sculptor Graham Sutherland. Mr Sutherland paints in the South of France while his interests are in Britain.

But Sir Charles has found a solution to this problem. He climbs into his executive jet and flies to London for a week, and flies to the South of France. When the painting is finished, Mr Clore will fly back to London and arrange to carry his £2 million portrait in a deposit box. This is known as caring for his portrait.

FOR LOW-PAID IT'S A DISASTER

REMEMBER Dennis Healey's claim that the £6 wage freeze would make lower paid workers better off. The businessman's magazine, The Economist, has done a few calculations which might surprise him.

"If inflation is to drop from its current annual rate of 25 per cent to 10 per cent, the average take-home pay would increase by around 17½ per cent. A married man with two young children will be worse off, by £23 a week. Fewer than 1½ million employees fall into this bracket (and most of them are young, working part-time). Everyone else will suffer a sharp cut in his standard of living.

So the real wages of millions of people trying to bring up a family on meagre sums like £15 will suffer.

Trevor Brown, underground worker, Houghton Main NUM: You could have predicted this sell-out from the connections between miners' leaders and the government. The official union has been thrown out that if the miners went it alone, this year's pay would be against us. This is the result of our executive building up special case arguments in the past. It's up to the rank and file now to build real working class unity.

The executive are 'in' for a ballot on the £6 freeze. We have the promise of a 2000s' wage increase. The cost of living is up. The miners are up to the rank and file to show where the social contract lies.

Terry Briscoe, Branch Committee, Dodworth NUM: Blood lettings and cutbacks have left us with a bloated 1970s' payroll. It's time to cut costs and put our miners first. We have to do something for the patients, Dr Wilson's remedy. The Miners Executive, by accepting Wilson's remedy, are helping to hold down the diet. It's up to us now, the rank and file, to show them and their Labour friends what we will do.

For top Tory du Cann it's a picking up HIs £6,200,000 bill

KEYSER ULMAN last week announced the biggest-ever losses for a British bank. Its chairman, who those losses were run up was Edward du Cann, Tory backbench and chairman of the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons.

Yet the losses du Cann and his two cronies who built up Kays, rich, has been. The main bribe will by being a ‘taxpayer’ claim of the £61 million of the £61 million profits.

At the same time, Kaysers and all the other fringe banks which have gone bust in the last year, are being propped up by an enormous subsidy from the Big clearing banks and the nationalised Bank of England.

£120 million has been lent to prop up these sharp practice operators who made enormous fortunes in the裡 banking-house crash.

The Bank of England has paid out £120 million of this: that more than it was paid in the previous twenty years. It was for the purchase of the Inland Revenue Bank and the Carcy Bank.

Kaysers Ullman have been involved in almost every financial scandal of the year and sold off their £61 million in the company shortly before it went bust, leaving 400,000 policyholders with.

For Lord B, it's £122,000

MAIL Sarah is to pursue a career in leisure.

THE MENS wear big business are hard-working, dynamic and bold. But we pay that's what we do because we can read it in the Daily Express any day of the week.

Talent alone carries them to the top of the tree. Talent such as that of men like John Brennan who is famed for his boldness.

Brennan, managing director until 1970 of Ford Motor Company in Sweden, made a fortune of £6,500,000. He claims Ford turned him into an alcoholic following the endless succession of long lunches and debauched parties which are the custom of this type of business. He also claims he was forced to retire at 46, 'just at the time when I was hitting my stride'.

He says he was forced to retire 'at the age of 46' and 'a mere child at 46' when he came to a head when he made a fool of myself at a European dealers' meeting in Dusseldorf'.

Furthermore, Brennan's managerial talents have not, however, been lost to mankind. Brennan is running a treatment centre in the United States for alcoholic prostitutes.

Pete Clennnam, Branch Committee, Barrow NUM: The Yorkshire delegation backed down at the end of the last week to accept the £6 has to be the same thing. Out of that £6 I will pay an extra £2.10 tax, 30p insurance and 30p for the £6. If any rent is going up. So before I start I've virtually nothing left to cut 25p per cent inflation. We're going to press so if we accept this deal, back to the days of Robens.

FOOTNOTE: du Cann was widely rumoured to be the 'Tory Queen' and the 'Tory King' is Margaret Thatcher to the Tory leadership.
Prentice: So much for the ‘conspiracy’

For workers, it’s more and more unemployment, bigger wage cuts

SUPPORTERS of Healey’s £6 freeze within the Labour movement use one argument over and over again. The alternative, they say, is the abyss, with massive unemployment, unemployment and inflation and an anti-Labour coalition government. Under these circumstances, they claim, trade unionists have no choice but to rally round the government.

The argument was put last weekend by Anthony Hedgewood Benn, justifying to the conference of the Institute for Workers’ Control its refusal to resign from the government. We must sustain and maintain this Labour government,” he said. “There is too much at stake to risk losing it.” Defending the government’s record, he explained its change of course because the problems it had inherited had been “much greater than foreseen.”

The implication is that, if we accept the freeze, these problems will eventually be dealt with and, with a bit of pressure from the left, Labour will return to the path of full employment. But full employment and wage-gaining and “squeezing the rich”, as promised before the elections last February, he told the Shrewsbury lobby: “I have utter contempt for you.”

Yet, even while such speeches were being made, more and more workers come to light every day proving that this will not happen.

In the last week, details were leaked of an official government estimate of the 1977–78 increase in unemployment. An increase of 1½ million by the first quarter of next year is forecast.

For the Ecologist magazine gave its estimate, taking into account the effects of Healey’s freeze. Unemployment it wrote, “is now set to rise to 2 million, perhaps beyond.”

On Monday, Denis Healey told the House of Commons that public spending would be held down to the reduced level of next year for the remainder of this government’s existence.

That means, quite simply, that as growing numbers of people become dependent on the social services, there will be no growth of the services to cope. The health service, the welfare services for the old and sick, will fall even further apart.

Finally, on Tuesday, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development published its “economic outlook.” It forecast that even if unemployment begins to fall in 1977, it will only do so for a short time, and then there will be another crisis.

In other words, we are returning to the pre-war slump-boom cycles—with each slump getting worse than the previous one, and each period of full employment shorter.

Put crudely, that means that there will be no light at the end of the tunnel. Just as this government was “blown off course” by the economic crisis, so will the next and the one after that.

The unemployment, the cuts in social services, the wage freezes, will not just be temporary expedients. They will become a permanent feature of life—unless we fight back.

It is an alternative to such a grim future. It lies in a fight to replace the present chaotic, irrational organisation of society by one in which production and distribution are planned to satisfy need.

But it should be clear from the events of the last fortnight, if it is, that we are not going to move in that direction for the Labour Party’s policy of attempting to change capitalism gradually, incrementally, build a revolutionary movement.
EVENTS in Portugal have now reached the point of direct political confrontation between opposed political forces. Last weekend mobs stormed the headquarters of left-wing organisations in the north, beat up left wingers and attacked the houses of individual militants.

The British press has a simple explanation for these events. It claims that "totalitarian communism", as in Eastern Europe, is threatening Portugal and that the "democrats" are fighting back. This justifies the mob violence, the arson, even the murders.

But the real truth is very different.

The present crisis broke out when the Assembly of the Armed Forces Movement, which rules Portugal, made two decisions: a fortnight ago, to leave the daily paper Republica in the hands of its printing staff rather than its proprietor, and to call for the creation of a network of "popular councils".

Neither of these decisions was in any sense new. The Portuguese Communist Party, Republica, under workers' control, had been taking a political position close to that of the revolutionary left and often critical of the Communists, while the idea of "popular councils" is generally recognised in Lisbon to be closer to the Revolutionary Workers' Councils of the revolutionary left than to the bureaucratic "Communist Party" of Lisbon, as the government calls it.

Far from being "totalitarian", workers' councils like these have been thrown up in the great revolutions against Stalinist rule in Eastern Europe, as in Hungary in 1956.

In fact workers' councils are much more democratic than the parliamentary Constituent Assembly that exists in Portugal today. For in parliamentary elections workers are expected to choose between a selection of middle-class politicians and once they have voted, they have no further control over what their representatives do.

Under the pressure of big business, he can ignore completely what his working-class deputies expected of him and they have no redress.

What is more, in many places, workers can find themselves outvoted by landlords, stockbrokers, shareholders and other parasitic elements.

By contrast, in a workers' council democracy, only those that work have a vote, and they can challenge whatever comes.

That is why the slogan of revolutionary workers in Portugal is "Out with the rabble!" A government of those who work!"

THE undemocratic nature of "parliamentary democracy" is shown clearly in the Portuguese case. About half the population of Portugal are workers, yet nine members in ten of the Constituent Assembly are lawyers, professors or journalists.

The biggest party in the Constituent Assembly is the Socialist Party. But that does not mean that the majority of the people who voted for the Socialist Party can speak for their party or for its present politics. "Parliamentary democracy" is characterised precisely by the fact that politicians can say one thing before elections and do the opposite after.

In the elections three months ago, many workers voted for the middle class party because they disliked the other main party, the Communist Party, for its bureaucratic manoeuvring and its condemnation of strikes. In the industrial areas, the Socialist Party candidates gave the impression they were very much on the right.

Indeed, the Socialist Party statement of aims sounds almost revolutionary, as a few extracts show:

"The Socialist Party fights the capitalist system and bourgeois domination. The Socialist Party is implementing a new conception of life that can only be brought about through the construction of workers' power."

"The struggle against fascism and colonialism will only be achieved by the destruction of imperialism and the construction of socialism. The Socialist Party rejects those who say they are social democrats because they look to the status quo, the structures of capitalism, and the interests of imperialism."

RULE

The statement goes so far as to suggest that "workers' councils" have an important role to play.

"Workers' candidates elected on such a programme can now work with other candidates who got middle-class votes denouncing 'extremism', and the workers who voted socialist can do nothing about it. Such a democracy is the Constituent Assembly."

The real point about such "democracy" is that it can generally be pointed out that big business can hold real power. That is why the workers who voted for "democracy" in the last three years have produced a massive overthrow of the privileged classes behind its banners. That is why right-wing papers such as the Daily Telegraph and Daily Express praise Soares the Socialist Party leader.

The situation on Sunday showed vast numbers of cars travelling to Lisbon to join the Socialist Party demonstration. In a country where the average wage is less than £2 a week, how many workers can buy a car?

We observed a demonstration called by the Socialist Party in Lisbon last week. It was over when the middle-class workers who made up of bank managers, senior lawyers, doctors, with their expensive suits and carelessly buttoned hair.

POWER

The slogans of the demonstrations were well to the right of the speeches of the Socialist Party leaders. Among the most popular were attacks on the International, which is the Portuguese TUC, and on left-wing publications. The Internationalists claimed that claimed that "Orela"-the head of the security forces, Copes, and Portuguese police who should return to Africa.

The privileged classes in Portugal know that a parliamentary-type regime will not be able to hold the people. They say that it matters: in the factories, the police, the banks, they know that under such a structure, while the Socialist Party leaders make fine speeches, they themselves can organise to attack the class which workers have made in the past year.

Colin Sparks
power is on

SOLDIERS JOIN WORKERS AS THE AFM HESITATES

A DEMONSTRATION of small factories and tenants' committees took place in Lisbon last week. In itself, it was an important demonstration. But something happened that gave it fantastical significance. The 380 soldiers marching in the demonstration were joined by seven tanks and armoured cars. As demonstrators climbed on top of the tanks, even the police joined in the singing of the International. The struggle in Portugal is no longer for that or that improvement in living standards. It is a struggle to decide which class will hold power. Parties such as the Socialist Party, which used to speak of reforms to bring about 'socialism', have joined with the extreme right in opposing the further development of the revolution. The middle classes, seeing the end of the era of cheap labour and their privileges, are turning against the Popular Armed Forces Movement. Some officers are very much on the right. Other officers and many of the rank and file support the workers. And the bulk of the officers stand in the middle, paralysed by indecision.

Every time an attempt is made to use the army to break a strike, it fails. Discipline collapses and men do not co-operate with the orders they have been given. Yet the army cannot be used to destroy the organised base of reaction either. A month ago the leaders of the armed forces seemed to be backing the Socialist Party and its call to 'restore capitalism'. Yet a fortnight later they were calling for the setting up of a popular front. The armed forces plan calls for setting up a network of workers' and tenants' committees, linked to the army through appointed officers. But it does not suggest how these committees can take over supreme power.

CONTROVER

Yet it is only by taking power over the whole of society that workers can solve the crisis besetting Portugal. Workers already control many factories, they have occupied thousands of homes to solve the housing problem, they have taken private hospitals into their own hands. But the economy as a whole is still run for profit. There is still a massive waste of resources on luxury goods for the middle class. The legal minimum wage of £7.50 a month is still a tenth of the legal maximum wage. While the unemployed go hungry, the rich still flaunt by in their sports cars.

The problems of production, unemployment and inflation can only be solved if the workers take over the economy as a whole, end the luxury consumption of the welloff, and create a democratic plan that ensures a decent living standard for everyone.

In the present situation every hesitation by the working class, every attempt to be moderate, enables the ruling class to advance, ensures that the economic crisis gets worse, and drives more people into opposition to socialism. That is why the demonstrations of the Socialist Party and the right wing will cross the leaders of the Popular Armed Forces and swing back to the right. They are running at a time when the capitalist country, and the crisis cannot be solved in a few terms without the most vicious attacks on workers' wages, working conditions and social rights.

What is the role of the Proletarian revolutionaries? It is to do their own internationalist duty by advancing the class struggle by their militancy and by their clarity for organisation. In doing this you will move towards your own socialist revolution.

Fraternal and Revolutionary Greetings
On behalf of the Political Secretariat of the PFP-BR
Raul Mendes

THE Portuguese Revolution is going to be decided one way or the other in the next few months. It will be a revolution of the working people. It is a revolution of the proletariat. It is a revolution led by the working class.

Alvaro Miranda of the Portuguese Workers' Co-ordinating Committee, speaking at a half-day school on Portugal organised by East London District IS.

COMRADES IN STRUGGLE?

REVOLUTIONARIES in Britain are often attacked by members of the Communist Party because we criticise the Portuguese Communist Party from the left. Yet our criticisms are mild compared to those of the Spanish Communist Party. Santiago Campillo, leader of the Spanish Communist Party from the right, is made to jump up by the workers and the Communist Party leader has attacked his sister party in the latest issue of the glossy American news magazine Time. He said: 'It is essential that Spain should not repeat the Portuguese experience.'

At a time when Portuguese Communists and revolutionaries are being beaten up by mobs from Socialist Party rallies, he blames the Portuguese Communist Party leaders for not working with the Socialist leaders.

It would be a kind of revolution that would be called scabbing. But not in the British Communist Party. They have arranged a mass rally for Saturday to demonstrate this.


REPUBLIC, weekly paper of the Portuguese revolutionary socialist organisation, not available. Copy price 3p. It is available in short translation price 10p at The Cutting Edge, 367 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

OUR COMMON STRUGGLE No. 8, 32pp., 24p. Committee of the Portuguese Working Class, now available. By Committee of the Portuguese Workers' Co-ordinating Committee, 18 Fleet Street, London NW1.


NAME
ADDRESS
AMOUNT


WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR PORTUGAL'S WORKERS

The events in the past week show that solidarity with the Portuguese revolutionaries is a part of all socialists. Mob attacks on individual Communists and revolutionaries could quickly turn into near civil war in parts of the country.

Action to get the trade union movement in Britain to express solidarity with the working class has to be stepped up. Readers of Socialist Worker should make sure that the appeal for solidarity with the Portuguese working class is published. Campaigns with the Portuguese Workers Class are invited to include a fundraising appeal as possible. Write to 18 Fleet Street, London NW1.

Direct aid for Portuguese revolutionaries is also needed. The Socialist Workers' Solidarity Fund has been set up to help with both these tasks. Readers should compare the plight of the Portuguese revolutionaries with that of the small numbers of working-class Socialists that have not yet raised money for the fund should do so now.

Collection sheets are available.
Why Ghandi’s wrong

THE International Socialists are advertising an demonstration called for Sunday 3 August in protest against the war now being waged by Mrs Gandhi’s government in India.

But our stand has been criticised by some on the left, notably by members of the Indian Communist Party of India. They say that support must be given to Mrs Gandhi because she is fighting the right-wing, she should also be supported, the argument continues, because she is a “progressive”, someone who is trying to break the hold of the big landlords and speed development of the country.

It differs firmly with this position. In time, it is the majority of the politicians Mrs Gandhi has locked up who are the right-wing. It is not that Mrs Gandhi’s repression is against the right; it is against the left.

Last week, Mrs Gandhi’s government launched the most brutal repression against the Indian railway workers. Thousands of their strike leaders were arrested and rank and file members were called up into the army to break the strike. And long before the recent emergency measures, the Gandhi government had locked up thousands upon thousands of left-wing political prisoners.

While it is true that the overwhelming majority of the recently arrested political prisoners are right-wing opportunist politicians, they don’t fall into that category.

Arrested

Among those arrested in the wake of Mrs Gandhi’s state of emergency were Priya Gupta, the secretary general of the All India Railwaymen’s Federation, K. A. Khan, the secretary of the Transport and Dockworkers’ Union in Bombay, and three workers from Shri Mahantand. Shri Sowami of Bhubaneswar arrested the agricultural workers of a large village in the Punjab. They have occupied major railway stations with the striking workers, and are arrested, as are many of the leaders of the railway workers. Shri Sowami is himself a member of the Indian Communist Party of India.

And yet, after some periods of neglect by the newspapers, squatters are back in the news.

Many letters are being written to the Times on the subject, clearly a genuine concern. Squatters have discovered a new interest, about ‘disorderly hands’ invading decent, rich people’s houses. The Daily Telegraph has run an editorial on the subject, demanding strong measures. Labour and Tory MPs and councils have voted with equal support for ways of removing the squatters from our (or rather their) midst.

Why the sudden interest?

Squatters have a long and honourable history, as is shown by the number of laws relating to it that our rulers have passed since the Middle Ages. It was immediately after the Second World War that, with the housing crisis, the homeless found themselves forced into R.A.F. camps, and into empty houses and were met with resistance, with violence, battles, from the Labour government; and from the local authorities; and from the Squatters’ Guild, all of which are still in use today.

In the mid-1960s squatting returned. The Labour government had not solved the housing crisis despite the vast increase in wealth our rulers have pocketed over the last 20 years. On the Eastern edge of the capital, squatters in the disused buildings like the ‘private security man’ and the trade unionist, Barry Quaarmeyne, were forced off the property, forcing the government to create a new law.

But after that, in London, squatting of the style we know today was not to be tolerated—until now.

There have been many bitter battles to evict squatters, but squatting was a recognition of the incredible contradiction between the two systems.

The councils, starved of money, paying heavy interest to banks and property developers found that squatters meant that families could be accommodated, cheaply, or for nothing, and some of the best went off them. But now the money has run out. The government’s cuts don’t mean ‘tightening belts’, giving a year for ‘Britain, not at all. They mean that for many homes in London, and around Britain there is no chance of their getting anywhere to live.

And once the councils have accepted the rules of Wilson’s game they mean it is only one other alternative. If our rulers can’t, or won’t solve a problem, look around and see whether you can load the blame on the squatters. Blame it on the squatters.

HONG KONG The British crown colony in the tip of China has long been a by-word for the very highest standard of corruption.

Its capital city, Macao, the Portuguese equivalent 100 miles west of Hong Kong. For years it was governed by Portuguese and Chinese officials, with the latter in charge of the police and of the judiciary.

This system of dual government has been in place since the mid-19th century, and has been maintained by the Portuguese in order to keep the colony’s wealth and power in their hands.

In 1999, when the territory was returned to China, Macao was allowed to keep its autonomy for 20 years, during which time the Chinese government would provide financial and political support.

However, this agreement has been constantly questioned by the Macanese people, who feel that the territory is not being managed in their best interests.

The situation became even more complicated when Macao was declared a special administrative region of China in 1999, which gave it greater autonomy compared to other Chinese territories.

Since then, there have been several protests and demonstrations calling for greater democracy and human rights in Macao, which has led to some tensions between the government and the people of Macao.

In recent years, Macao has become a popular tourist destination, attracting millions of visitors every year.

However, the high cost of living and the lack of affordable housing have been major concerns for the people of Macao.

In 2015, a new government was elected in Macao, which promised to address these issues.

So far, the new government has implemented a number of policies aimed at improving the living standards of the people of Macao, including the introduction of more affordable housing projects.

However, some critics argue that the government is not doing enough to address the root causes of these issues, such as income inequality and the lack of job opportunities.

In conclusion, Macao is a unique case, as it is the only territory in China that maintains a certain degree of autonomy.

While there have been challenges in recent years, the people of Macao have not given up hope for a better future, and continue to work towards a more prosperous and democratic society.
Labour: An open cheque to break strikes

WHAT will happen if an employer holds out against a strike for more than the government’s £6 pay limit?

The answer will surprise many Labour voters. For the government has been discussing, with the CBI, the setting up of a special fund to help private employers hit by such strikes.

It is not a new idea. Two months ago, according to the Sunday Times, the CBI planned an “insurance fund”, but it was shelved because of the “political climate”.

A similar move in the days before the White Paper on the wage freeze came out, members of the Cabinet and the CBI discussed whether the time had come for a fund.

In the Commons, Harold Wilson told him it was a matter of “negotiation”. But the reasoning behind it is clear enough.

The government believes that with cooperation from union leaders it has a reasonable chance of holding out against claims in the public sector. If other unions follow the miners’ example, then there will be many public sector claims higher than the £6 limit.

But many private employers may find it too expensive to resist claims for more than £6 fought by well-organised factories. The government wants a way of helping these employers to hold out. The fund would be used to do this.

There are three ways it could be set up. It could provide the money and simply pay out on the basis of the length of the strike, the numbers involved and the loss of profits.

The CBI could operate the scheme and receive either cash help or tax concessions from the government.

Not having to pay tax would be equivalent to getting a gift from the government anyway. Or firms which take a “patriotic” stand could be subsidised through tax concessions by the government.

Dole

Because of the large sums potentially involved, any scheme would need some sort of government backing.

The Financial Times, the employers’ newspaper, said: “There have been hints that such a fund, if proposed formally by the CBI in the future, could be backed by a guarantee of government funds.”

The effects would go far beyond strengthening individual employers. Groups of workers, whether on strike or not, could be told “either you accept our terms which might be well below £6 or we’ll just sit it out. We’re not losing any money.”

The fund would be a lockout fund. Employers would be given the strengths by a Labour government to turn any strike into a lockout.

And, of course, once such a fund exists, it won’t cease to exist when the £6 limit is forgotten. The employers will fight to keep it for good.

Already such funds exist in individual factories. The British Printing Industries Federation, the employers’ organisation in the general printing industry, has a special disputes fund used to help employers faced with strike action.

The Shipbuilders and Engineers National Association had £2.8 million at its disposal in April 1973. These funds are already used quite extensively.

The Engineering Employers’ Federation is the best-organised employers’ association in Britain. Nearly every major and many minor engineering firms are members. In 1972 the EEF co-ordinated resistance to the wave of strikes and occupations in Manchester in support of the 1972 engineering claim.

Shop stewards occupying Rushton Park’s in Newton-le-Willows near Manchester discovered confidential documents from the EEF. The documents made it clear that the employers wanted to make massive inroads into the engineering union’s strike funds. Therefore firms which provoked the disputes in their factories into strikes or occupations were subsidised by the EEF’s central fund.

In a speech which could hardly have been more passionate from the mouth of a Cabinet Minister, Sidney Weighell—general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen—last week explained his 180,000 members’ “not to kick the government in the teeth”.

But Mr Weighell, who was speaking on Labour’s wage cutting plans at the union’s conference in Jersey—the first of any union since the White Paper—failed to mention that the government has just kicked the NUR “in the teeth” in one of the most cynical exercises even of Harold Wilson’s career.

He failed to mention the fact, jubilantly reported in the Daily Telegraph, that the £1.95 second stage of the recent pay package will under the government’s plans—now be deducted from next year’s claim.

And so the wage cut for NUR members is likely to be even worse than for other workers. Yet Mr Weighell said not a word of this—and conference, unaware of the trick pulled on them, voted to accept the £6 pay freeze.

But sitting at Mr Weighell’s elbow was a man who might have been expected to have spoken out: Mr Dave Brown, the NUR’s left-wing president.

Mr Bowman, whose progressive credentials read like the Morning Star’s version of the ideal trade union leader, did not sit, however.

Only the previous day, he had burst into tears of rhetoric at a conference about certain “working-class principles” that must be conceded by the Labour government, about “the charades of Royal Ascot” and the “gambling of the West End”, groaning with ships worth hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Break

He added, however, that the government’s plans should be given one year.

But it was all good copy for the Morning Star. All good conference hall rhetoric. And all quite useless. In the crucial debate the next day, Bowman was silent—and Weighell got his “way with only 18 votes against.”

Absurdly, conference later voted for a “substantial” pay demand next year. Of course, conference over

whelmingly carried resolutions on Chile, nationalisation, Northern Ireland, arms spending and the CIA, all of them a joy for revolutionary socialists. But, meanwhile, the NUR will not lift a finger to fight the devastating attack to come on its members’ living standards.

It was yet another example of the hopelessness of the strategy of the Communist Party, which Bowman left five years ago.

He had been a member of the CP’s national executive, contesting general elections and by-elections for the CP’s Party in Dundee on five occasions.

But his membership was a serious barrier to his rise in the NUR establishment. The logical thing was to resign and help strengthen the “left trends” in the Labour Party.

And so Bowman did just that, becoming a member of the Scottish Labour Party executive for two years and, last year, becoming president of the NUR.

With a nod and a wink from the CP, he, like many others before him, took the bureaucratic road to socialism only to find at Jersey last week that it is a blind alley.

Build

For the first week of strike action, the firm concerned got £5 for every man and £2.50 for every woman or apprentice out on strike. The sums rose to £10 and £5 each for every week that followed. By the end of the dispute the EEF Indemnity Fund had a deficit of £2.3 million pounds.

The Tory government gave back nearly £350,000 in tax relief.

This massive operation, aimed at bankrupting the AUEW strike funds, is minor compared with what is now being discussed.

Colne Valley and General Sir Walter Walker planned to set up private armies of scab to break strikes. But soldiers’ can’t move as fast as apprentices.

Why the railmen said ‘yes’
End of the American night

Dream

In a phrase, the American dream has come undone. The millions of workers who feel the effects of the car workers. They got laid off before Christmas. But they tended to feel the layoffs would be short. And their layoffs were cut short. They crumbled away into nothing.

On 26 April, 60,000 marched on Washington demanding jobs in the largest demonstration of American workers since the 1930s. The 1930s bring to mind a long, droning cry in the form of 'Voice for the Democrats in '90. The only thing the trade union bureaucrats had to say. At a rally afterwards, one place-carrying worker spontaneously ran out on the field in protest. Such militancy—the militancy of one man—was too much for the bureaucracy. Clearly it had to be stopped.

They sent security guards after him. The audience began booing the guards. In protest, other workers began running out on the baseball field. The one became ten. The ten became hundreds. Then there were several thousand workers out on the field. Neither Robert Humphrey, the former Democratic Vice-President who had been laid off nor to propitiate the top union bureaucrats could stop them. The rally was cancelled.

Where has this militancy come from? And why now?

The most immediate and desperate reason is the crisis. What they said could never happen again has happened. The bus cycles have returned—capitalism's boom has turned to bust.

Defence

But it is not the economic crisis alone. The dream began to shatter more than ten years ago. The civil rights movement. Black Power, the massive black protests at Watts and Harlem exploded the myth of 'equality and justice for all.' The shooting down of prisoners at Attica buried it. The war in Vietnam showed exactly what the US government was defending—its interests of the capitalist system. The defender of the free world used its might to prop up a brutal dictatorship and decapitate the whole country, and its people. Marianne brought the politics of the war home.

The protest movements brought back the idea of mass struggle. Mobilizations and sit-ins were again on the agenda.

As one group rose, protesting against oppression, its successors showed others the way. Blacks sitting-in at Selma gave black workers the confidence to fight on the shop floor. The struggle for black liberation—and the tactics used—gave birth to the student movement.

The war in Vietnam taught an entire generation that America was imperialist. Many in the student movement went from protesting against the war to protesting against the system it served.

Crisis

Blacks questioning their position in society enabled women to do the same. A new women's movement grew up rapidly in the late 1960s. Some of the ideas of women's liberation—equal access to jobs, equal pay for equal work, the right to be treated with respect—gained a large following among workers.

To contact the US International Socialists, write to USIS, 14131 Avenue, Highland Park, Michigan 48203, USA. A subscription to Power costs £5.75 by surface mail, £7.75 by airmail a year. For a reduced rate to IS Books, 3217 S. Souto Road, London, N4.

And it is in action there too

'IT doesn't take that great deal of education to know this country is screwed up and we've got to do something about it.' Those were the words of a young worker from West Virginia who joined the American International Socialists at the end of their 1975 conference last week.

A black carworker, a chief steward (convenor) at a Chrysler plant, said: 'It's not what IS has to do for me, it's what I have to do for IS. He joined too.

The conference was held in Detroit, in the country that is hundreds of times bigger than Britain. IS comrades and the left are far to the right to come true. But our comrades around the world are on the front lines with the.National Fire Fighters Association Local 788.

STEVE J.
QUESTIONS ON THE CRISIS

FIGHT LABOUR'S FREEZE!

Why the £6 limit means more unemployment

Whitehall forecasts 1.3m job losses

to 1.5m next year

Here it is, from the horses' (or rather bosses') mouths! Financial Times (6.5.79)

DUNCAN HALLAS

What happened to black power?

We reject entirely the policy put forward by some Tories of fighting inflation by throwing millions of people out of work. So said the Labour Party's Manifesto last October.

Even now, after having been driven to admit that this 'anti-inflation' policy does mean cuts in real take-home pay, government spokesmen are still pretending that these policies will save jobs. This is going to be a big argument in the election over the next few months. The government's new propaganda unit, set up to sell the freeze, will be working overtime to hide the truth about the effect of government policy on jobs. The truth is this: In these 'anti-inflation' packages is going to destroy jobs. It is going to destroy them in a very big scale. And the Labour Manifesto was aware of the fact. They have fudged the policy on which they were elected on this front too, and are now 'fighting inflation by throwing millions of people out of work.'

First the £6 limit by cutting average real earnings. In 1977, prices fell by 2.3%. Output in 1978 may be 2.5% lower. But the pay limit means that unemployment will rise. And this, in turn, will cut the purchasing power of the working class, who are still further and produce still more redundancies and short-time. The process feeds on itself as long as the government is able to enforce its policies.

Real

Of course, if there was a big upturn in exports, and investment the downward slide could be checked. But, as we shall see, there is no such upturn in prospect. And any upturn in profits will be kept off by the disappearance of more and more jobs.

This is bad enough in itself, but it is going to destroy the present policy will make it very much worse.

At a special meeting of the Labour Party last Monday Mr. Denis Healey flogged his colleagues with a Treasury medium-term economic strategy which indicated the need to cut public expenditure to £30 billion by 1981. The public sector must reduce its share of national income. The leaders of this union uncorked, exorcising and a new policy which was designed to maintain.

Solid

But they did not last for ever. They were swept aside two years ago and since then the American miners have staged their first nationwide strike for weeks. A tribunal meeting following the rally organised by the April 26 Rank and File Coalition, a coalition of rank and file groups in cars, steel, transport, telephone, teaching, as well as asbestos miners from various industries, 6 April was the confirmation of a changed mood in the American working class.

There are other signs. In every major industry rank and file opposition groups are forming, many of them organised with the assistance of revolutionary socialists, mainly members of the US International Socialists. But these groups involve many more. They include older militants who have been waiting years for this, blacks who were the first to fight, young workers who identified with the movements of the 1960s and Vietnam workers who know at first hand just how rotten this system is.

The movement is still small - but it is growing. And each victory, no matter how small, eats away at the sense of powerlessness.

All this opens up the situation for socialists as perhaps never before.

NORTH LONDON: Thursday 7 August, 8pm, Woodlands Hall, Crown Street, Finchley. Speaker: Fred Hooper.

FFERYS

Speaking tour by two US rank and file militants and members of the US International Socialists.
SPENDING CUTS: DIG OUT THE FACTS

THE IS PUBLIC Expenditure Cuts Committee has published its first pamphlet and is preparing a Socialist Worker pamphlet for the autumn.

It needs information for the pamphlet. Every District Committee must send in the following information by 8 August.

Examples of how industry in your locality is being affected by the cuts.

2. How far the local trade union movement, official and unofficial, is resisting.

The proposed activities of the district.

Please send the information to the Cuts Committee, Cottages Garden, London E2.

HOLIDAY JOBS

ATTI and NUT members of IS in North devon have decided to put two weeks of their holidays at the disposal of IS.

Some are to research the County Council's spending cuts campaign.

Other members have offered their services to the Socialist Worker Information Service. Branches interested in helping will also be undertaken.

The trade union would agree to pay the expenses of an employed member in the job. It can be done by the worker himself in the job, but this proved impossible because of the lack of proper facilities. The resolution has been sent to the NUT for distribution and to all union members to call on all union comrades to do similar work.

1000 see tour film on South Africa

NEARLY 1000 people saw Last Grain of Daytime, the film about South Africa's migrant labour system, which was the latest IS Cuts Committee film tour. The film highlighted black workers into contact with IS.

In Leeds, the local district is followed by the IS with an international day school in the struggle against apartheid.

The tour was stopped in London E2 and E3, and Black workers were seen on the tour.

The film tour has enabled the IS to start building a network of contacts for trade union solidarity actions across South Africa.

The group is planning a campaign to expose the IS's new anti-apartheid policy and its economic and political isolation from South Africa. This is a major theme of the film tour, and will be a key part of the group's future work.

African and Caribbean IS members should contact the IS Cuts Committee, 86-88 Commercial Road, London E1.

In Johannesburg, South Africa, the IS is involved in the work of the International solidarity Movement, which is the IS's principal concern in South Africa. The IS has a strong network of contacts in South Africa and is able to mobilise support for its work.

District problems

MEMBERS OF IS District Committees in London have discussed the district's policy to organise and resist at all levels of the district committee itself. The district committee is in regular contact with its members.

One South West London delegate summed it up: "The test of a good district committee is how well people in the district are informed. The district committee is an important body in the district in taking responsibility and carrying out policy. The best district committees are those that have a high level of self-sufficiency and are able to take responsibility on the part of the district. It is up to us all to ensure the district committee is really effective." The district committee has already discussed further meetings to draw up district committees, in each region in the early autumn.

IS NATIONAL Women's sub-committee meeting, the 2nd Saturday, 11am, 8 Cotswold Garden, London E2. Every district and fraction must send one delegate.

A MEMBER of the International Socialist Society has been suspended for 30 days. On returning from abroad, the member was stopped by the Special Branch for 90 minutes, who took a statement and gave him 30 minutes on the probability of prosecution.

SPRING IS political meeting, 21 Old Compton Street, Soho, London W1, 7pm.

IS meetings in England

YORKSHIRE Regional IS summer school meeting, 1-6 July, Saltmarshe, Grimsby, South Humberside.

IS Industrial Committee meeting: Saturday 5 July, 11am, 25 Trafalgar Place, Southwark.

IS Summer School: Meeting: Thursday 3 July, 11am, 25 Trafalgar Place, Southwark.

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Nasty work— if you can get it

by Tony Barrow, Convenor, Ford Labour Council

"These books" are mainly for children between 11 and 16, but adults could do with reading them as well. They are abundantly illustrated and easy to understand. And they are not the usual rubbish normally printed under the guise of "industrial education books for children," which start off by telling you about the noble worker, who sets out every morning with a huge smile on his face, waving to an equally smiling wife, surrounded by unnatural children who, for some unknown reason, look like they have just been unboxed from a box of Turkish Delight.

These books do not try to gloss over the truth. The pictures do not show workers happy in their work, they show them as they are—the most miserable, dirty, underpaid, overworked, virtual slaves in an environment that they should own by right, but are robbed of because of ruling class oppression and propaganda.

In the book, the men are shown lining up in the morning for a job that they may or may not have, depending on the work consent and the whim of the boss. A clear indication that the system is manifestly wrong and changing rapidly.

In Carworker, it shows the insane system of speed and stupidity of more and more production for a shrinking market, and the appallingly bad conditions that carworkers have to suffer.

In Mineworker, it is horror incarnate, where miners work in conditions that have seemingly changed little in 100 years, apart from the advanced machinery that was designed to cut costs but not to worry about miners' lungs and bodies.

The right of all workers to strike in defence of their jobs, conditions, and fellow workers comes across clearly, and the importance of belonging to a union is stressed over and over again. In the case of Farnworker, it

is sadly stated that because of the system within which that industry—tired of the same old stuff—has managed to increase its output without any increase in production costs.

Because of the true representation in these books of how things actually are, and not how the ruling class can make them up to be, people must wonder what the hell workers are doing in those industries. A good point. However, for the time being, these industries must remain. It is how they remain that should concern the young reader, or even the adult for that matter.

The books clearly shows what has to be done. They are some of the finest examples of industrial education I have seen. There should be more of them.


REMENBER those pictures of parades indulging themselves at Ascot? Remember the scenes they showed when picketed by stable lads who earn less in a week than they spend on a single bottle of champagne. Remember how, between the quaffs and champagne, they preached to the rest of us about the need to sacrifice our small pleasures to keep the country on its feet.

Haven't you ever wanted to rain their little pleasures, and throw up to Ascot or Epsom with a few of your workmates and thrust their words about "hard work" right down their throats?

Parade

Yet it did happen once, exactly 120 years ago, in July 1855. At that time, Hyde Park, then a private Royal Park, was what Ascot or Epsom are today. Every Sunday the aristocracy would parade in their expensive carriages, exhibiting the wealth they stole from the workers all week.

Then, as now, they were demanding more sacrifices from workers. So they began to push through Parliament laws designed to close shops and to cut down on pub opening hours on Sunday. The aim was to prevent workers 'wastefully' expending energies that could be more productively used in the factories.

For the workers, however, the measures meant disaster. In those days it was normal to work 16 hours, six days a week. Sunday was the only day the workers could either tend to their families or sleep.

And so there was a huge outburst of anger. The working class Chartist movement plastered London with posters:

'New Sunday Bill, prohibiting newspapers, shaving, smoking, eating, and drinking and all kinds of recreation and nourishment, both corporeal and spiritual, which the poor people still enjoy at the present time.'

"An open air meeting of artisans, workers, and the lower orders will take place in Hyde Park on Sunday afternoon to see how religiously the aristocracy is observing the Sabbath... Come and bring your wives and children in order that they may profit by the example your betters set them.'

Some 300,000 people turned up the next Sunday, among them Karl Marx. He wrote:

'Suddenly there could be heard on all sides: Let's go to the road, to the carriages! The baying of insults upon horse riders and occupants of carriages had meanwhile already begun.

The provocation of elegant ladies and gentlemen, "commodores and Lords", in their high-carbouned, four with powdered laces in front and behind, joined, to be sure, by a few mounted warehouses slightly under the weather from the effects of wine, did not this time pass by in review but played the role of involuntary actors who were made to run the gauntlet.

When the horses started to shyn, rear, back and finally run away, jeopardizing the lives of their gilded passengers, the contemporary din grew louder, more menacing, more ruthless. Noble lords and ladies, among them Lady Granville, the wife of a minister who presided over the Privy Council, were forced to alight and use their own legs.

The next weekend, the police issued posters throughout London 'prohibiting the holding of any public meeting in Hyde Park. Nevertheless, 150,000 people assembled— but the aristocracy were not to be seen.

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On the line

The ruling class fled

Instead, there were 800 strategically-placed policemen, with reinforcements nearby.

When they waited until the crowd began to thin out and then, according to Marx:

"The constabulary rushed from ambushed, whipped their truncheons out of their pockets, began to beat up people's heads until the blood ran profusely, yanked individuals here and there out of the mass (a total of 104 were thus arrested) and dragged them to the improvised blockhouses.

The background of the old gents with the friendly grin, of the stylish fops, the genial super-annuated widows, the beauties arrayed in cashmere, ostrich feathers and diamonds and frightful with garlands of flowers, but the, the cons in their waterproof jacket, great-looking hat and truncheon."

Yet, even this display of force could not by itself ensure the continued safety of the ruling classes. A few weeks later they made a strategic retreat, withdrawing the Sunday Bills.

The workers of London had won a small, but important victory.

The workers of London had won a small, but important victory.

The farmworker, the dockworker (top) and the miner (above): stores in an environment they should own and control.

The farmworker, the dockworker (top) and the miner (above): stores in an environment they should own and control.
The economic sabotage of Portugal begins

The economy is geared towards producing cheap goods for export. This remains the case even after 25 April revolution.

While living standards and working conditions improved, Portuguese goods became more competitive on the European market, and the workers lived better than their British and EEC counterparts.

Why then is the Portuguese economy in such a bad way?

Because of the West’s failure to revitalize a truly revolutionary Marxist society emerging in the ‘old underdeveloped Europe’.

Without a plant army, as in Chile, the West is using less direct methods to derail the Portuguese Revolution.

It would be a pity if they go away with it, because they can be stopped if forceful action takes now to publicise their economic vandalism.

Portuguese Defence League would be an excellent idea. If there is only one well and good. If not, the time has come to organise it - TOM GALLAGHER, Glasgow.

The Socialist Workers Portuguese Section has set up a ‘people’s council’ to raise money for the Portuguese working class. Full details on the new socialist party are coming.

The Socialist Workers Party has launched a campaign in support of the popular movement.

The Sanders are using the new Portuguese Working Class, which is winning support.

A Portugal Defence Council was set up.

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Mrs Chandhi against the Indian right

I HAVE read with interest the article about the colonialisation of State of Emergency in India.

I agree with most of the observations about the regime’s inability to solve the problems of poverty of the masses in rural areas and the corruption in the administration. But it would be proper to add the following:

Mrs Gandhi declared the State of Emergency in 1975. She was among the leaders of the Opposition Parties threatened to launch civil disobedience and a mass movement on the lines started by Mahatma Gandhi. The Congress Party had already lost its right-wing opposition when the Congress and the Left-wing opposition chose the democratic route that was open to them after the successful Jayaprakash Narayan’s campaign.

The Congress Party has been in power for a long time and has always been opposed to the socialist policies of Pandit Nehru, the late Prime Minister of India. Indian nationalism was defeated by the socialist racism of the Indian Congress in the 1950s and 1960s, which was supported by the Congress of the British ratification of the Indian Constitution.

The Congress Party has always been in power in India and has never been a party of the Indian people. It has always been a party of the rich and powerful landowners of the Indian people. It has always been a party of the rich and powerful landowners of the Indian people.

DEAR Mr. DUNLOP (12 July) misunderstands the nature of social change. He says we should demand ‘socialism’ of industry, not nationalisation. While he is right in demanding something positive for the workers, he is wrong in his attempts to define the problem. I think he is confusing the concept of socialism with the concept of nationalisation. I think the problem he is trying to solve for is the lack of a strong, powerful social organisations in the UK.

Yes, socialism does mean socialising the whole of industry but we can’t achieve it through abstract demands but through practical measures, and we haven’t seen our case for socialism in the papers - ALAN GIBBS, Crewe.

SACRIFICE? IT MEANS BETRAYAL!

WORKING people built the trade union movement. They worked, they sacrificed, they won the freedoms and rights, such as unemployment benefits and so on.

Today we are the people the employers tried to trick and cheat off these benefits. We have fought for the same thing.

The people owned the factories were forced to obey the demands of the big business, who have caused many of the jobs.

People, in fact, like, Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson, who the employers tried to cheat off these benefits, have fought for a fair share and the things.

Even if they are going to look for in for pay rises and you’ll be better off. Because in that way, they kept

New IS bookshop open on Merseyside!

The International Socialists have now opened their seventh bookshop, stocking an extensive range of books on trade unionism, socialism, Labour history, women’s struggles, black struggles, The Third World, novels and science fiction.

IS BOOKS, 28 Berry Street, Liverpool 1.
We can't all open shops!

says printer

THE management of the Financial Times want to reduce the workforce by a third. Sara Carver, a member of the paper's editorial board, has interviewed press worker Barista Bhatti, chief spokesperson for the strike committee at London's Heathrow Airport's overseas catering unit.

Barista Bhatti explained: "We ordered the papers so that as many as our members could possibly look at the truth of our work. In the end, we didn't even have the chance. The workers have toiled on a 12-hour meal service since 1975.

Free safety done will be supplied in the kitchen and dining areas.

Catering unit workers will have access to equipment in the boarded store, the warehouse for daily free goods.

They are not considered small gains. But they have been won through struggle and have spent a long, long struggle between British Aircraft management and the National Union of Railway and Transport General Workers' Union.

Pay parity with other ground services

WHY WE ORDERED TWO HUNDRED COPIES OF LAST WEEK'S SOCIALIST WORKER

Last week, the strike committee at British Airways catering unit ordered 200 copies of Socialist Worker. Barista Bhatti explained: "We ordered the papers so that as many as our members could possibly look at the truth of our work. In the end, we didn't even have the chance.

The only pity is that your Asian language papers were not available to carry the same story.'

Staff have been protested 'when the White Paper legislation has been lifted.' But the White Paper, opposition up to 50, being paid now no more than what is.

It is plain that Transport Union officials lied when they told workers that everybody's claim would have to wait because of the White Paper.

This is not surprising. Ever since the workers took on employment at the airport's overseas catering unit, the full-time officials of the TGWU have collaborated enthusiastically with every method of getting costs and divesting the workforce.

Jobs currently done by whites were

graded downwards when black workers threatened. A worker told us, 'The papers from the planes used to be a stopman's job. Now we’re picking up newspapers, but we’re paid less.'

The weapon of using temping staff has been a cruel one but they know how to be regular practice that temporary staff are given an end of the day, and that they are made to employ 30 hours a week. That was the scenario. In a week when a Palestinian was already identified as a militant, the bosses engaged in a few more of the sort of exploiting feelings about the Anglo-Israeli conflict. But the workers, in their turn, were deliberately employing Palestinians as a way of appeasing Bangladesh’s Indian supporter.

STRENGTH

Barattic recalls: 'I say a year ago with my Moslem brothers that they were not looking for a battle. The Union played its part in preventing the battle. As a result, the Palestinian people have finally been, workers realised they had been working extra hours for no payment for compensation for the meal break. This has created a better working environment.

When a second stewards was elected Collier offered him three times their wages. The workers then voted to kick out Arora. A new stewards' committee is forming, and the Southall TGWU officer responded by demanding that all workers be placed with another, including Arora'

STUGGLE

The union's troubles knows no bounds. A new contract and conditions agreement was kept from the workers for months. When it finally was, workers realised they had been working extra hours for no payment for compensation for the meal break. This has created a better working environment.

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The new stewards' committee is forming, and the Southall TGWU officer responded by demanding that all workers be placed with another, including Arora'

Stewards: A chance lost

EVEN if the London Airport catering strikers had challenged the White Paper and stayed out for a pay rise there is little chance that the shop stewards' action was ever going to be successful.

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Workers strike at the Argentinian-owned Senlisnes meat storage plant at Semleyk, Kent, penning the home of the Argentine Ambassador to Britain last week.

The management have justified their actions in removing the cheap meat concession and offering the workers by saying that they are socialist and accept the Peace Agreement in Argentina—a government which has just attempted to impose massive wage cuts on the workers. PICTURE: Michael Tomlinson (JFL1).
GKN: Suddenly it's no deal

DARLASTON: The government’s wage freeze for white-collar workers is unfair to all workers. The freeze is a political move by the government to maintain its hold on power. The freeze is seen as a direct attack on the workers’ standard of living.

MANCHESTER

WOMEN STRIKE

SONY: The female workers at Sony are striking for better wages and working conditions. They are demanding a fairer share of the company’s profits.

ORPINGTON FITTERS

PLAT SGAC LOWELL workers in disputes across the country. The disputes are related to pay, working conditions, and job security. The workers are demanding better terms and conditions.

LANCASHIRE LOOK

THE bosses at Nelsons, jointly owned by Courtaulds and American company AMERICAN, have locked out 1,135 engineering workers. This action has been taken after talks between the union and the company failed to produce any agreement.

NATIONAL STRIKE

The Engineering Workers’ Union has called a national strike over pension reform. The workers are demanding better pension benefits.

Another Communist Party member and official of the Working Engineers’ Union has followed close on the heels of Leonard Pantek’s careerist dash to accept an appointed official’s job.

Pat Farley, AEW Southern divisional officer, was defeated by a light-fingered in the recent postal ballot, was also, like Pantek, a leading light in the Communist Party’s new crumblㄧBroad Left organisation within the AUEW.

Tyneside: 10,000 out for more than £6

FOUR THOUSAND manual workers at CARL PARRAS are still on strike after two weeks. They are holding out for a full claim of £10 across the board. There have been no offers of pay rises from management since the shop floor worker union was unilaterally rejected by management.

FEDEX’s new contract has ended the strike by employees. The union says it has now agreed to go back to work after accepting a new contract.

Stop

AT ALONG GREAT LAKES 494 members of the Construction, Transport, and Allied Workers’ Union have been on strike for two weeks in support of a £10 claim. The strike has been well-organized and the workers have received support from other unions.

WOODALLS: Still out

MANCHESTER: ‘It can’t be made official. Some bosses have not even closed the site. If there’s no site then there’s no strike. Strike to be made official’.

Leatherhead workers have now closed the site. The Recruiting and Employment Union (REU) have decided that the site is closed.

The government must act to ensure the workers’ rights are protected.

GLASGOW: Ike’s working-shops strike – week five

THE 280 Transport and General Workers’ Union members at the workshops have struck over lower rates. They are demanding higher pay and better conditions.

NORTH EAST JESSEYES: We stay out

LARGEST of the white collar union APEX voted to continue their strike. They are demanding better pay, better conditions, and security.

NORTHERN NAGLO

THEY are the first of what could become a series of strikes by workers fighting back against government cuts in the New Year. The workers are demanding better pay and conditions.

NORTH LONDON NAGLO

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BIRMINGHAM JOURNAL

LISTS ‘FILTHY policy’. That’s how the company chairman describes the £1 a week offer to 2,900 Birmingham Post and Sunday Mercury journalists. They are demanding a real living wage and better conditions.

The Social Services Joint Shop Stewards Committee is calling for a national day of action to demand better terms and conditions for social workers.

SAFETY OUT OF THE PLAN

The Iron and Steel Workers’ Union has called a national strike over safety issues.

THE Need for an Engineering Charter

by Willi Lee

Senior Chasfield

Cottonworks

A Socialist Worker

pamphlet

THE CASE AGAINST THE POSTAL BATTLE

Vital reading for every AUEW

1p each: Bulk orders for shop stewards committees, branches etc. 75p

FROM Sue Bayliss & Cottons, Gardens, London, E2 8DN
The fight against closures has tested many tacit arrangements throughout the country. Two that stand out are the Imperial Typewriters occupation which has just ended in Hull and the workers' co-operative at Triumph Meriden, near Coventry.

Workers can start a factory more efficiently than management. But that factory is still in the same economic world, it still has to find a market for its products, it still has to compete with other businesses. It isn't stupidity or greed that makes employers attack working conditions and wages, but the need to survive in a system of competition. A workers' co-operative can't escape from this system. Add the hostility of the bosses it has to deal with and its chances are slight indeed.

Likewise, any occupation is actually isolated unless the workers involved win support from as wide a section of the trade union movement as possible, particularly from other local factories. Union officials will only be forced to do their job by a campaign of rank and file trade unionists throughout their area.

To sit in a factory and wait for help from outside is to court failure. The government will nationalise a factory only if forced to do so. The slogan 'We'll stay in Bees' won't work if Bees is outside the occupied Imperial Typewriters for three months. He never said when because no amount of thousands of trade unionists forced him to do so.

These are the lessons. With predictions of two million unemployed by next year, we need to remember them.

NVT: GET RID OF POORE AND NATIONALISE!

Two weeks ago workers at the NVT motorcycle company marched through Birmingham denouncing the Labour Government's false pledges on job security.

The march was the climax of years of frustration with management and the local Trades Council, who have let the motorcycle industry fall to pieces.

In the 1950s, the machinists of its predecessor, RBS, retained a union and challenged the local Bonnet factories, who sold plated Derners and reception sets, a tough fight.

In 1958, the company sold off the fat profit of the 4-6000 factory, and in 1961 the profitable USA market was increasingly taken over by high performance, lightweight Japanese models.

The crash came in 1971 when management failed to get yet another model into American showrooms in time for the peak springtime selling. The result: RBS made a £5 million loss, 3000 workers were sacked, investments in America and a quality standard were sold, quality standards diminished. Still the company made a £260,000 loss the following year.

In March 1973 the company asked the Towcester for £4 million but it was too late. The factory closed.

The Antitrust Act's plan for a streamlined motorcycle industry was blocked, plunging the industry into its present bankruptcy. NVT, with £15 million government grants and £48 million government funds, lost the 1970 workers at Meriden's having its factory and occupied factory.

By March this year Meriden was a workers' co-operative. It would concentrate on production of bikes but would not find any reason to lower costs, industrial anxiety being managed, and wages below the Coventry average.

Rise

The Financial Times of 7 March said: 'If there is a significance in the Meriden experiment it lies less in the principles of worker democracy than in the attempt to demonstrate that the 20-30 per cent overmanning which is so common throughout engineering can be overcome if the men on the shop floor are motivated properly.'

Now the new Industry Secretary, Dr. James Doherty, announces to Woodford Thornes, has told NVT stewards that if production continues at present the number of machines stockpiling in the USA will double from 10,000 to 20,000. At the same time Export Credit Guarantees for £5 million have been withdrawn and the request for £400-500 million government money to nationalise NVT will fall on stony ground.

To the point! One worker at NVT told The Times, 'Meriden was a failure because it was too small. The market is for small bikes but we aren't producing any either for hire or sale. We don't control the factory or think what kind of bikes are produced, that's what management say they are for and they've failed miserably.'

Gap

Two dangerous 'solutions' are being handed around:

One is that Meriden should be picked by NVT workers demanding its closure. Denis Poore, NVT chairman, is fostering the idea that the co-operative is partly responsible for the NVT jobs in jeopardy.

But as Dennis Johnson, formerly convenor at Meriden, has said, none of the machinery built since the co-operative started have been sent to the States. NVT sells the Meriden machines direct to dealers, with no marketing agreement. Anyway the twin-cylinder Meriden motorcycle is sold with the three-cylinder NVT type.

The reason why NVT bikes aren't selling in the USA is due to the collapse of the large bikes and car markets. And workers are not responsible for that.

The other solution, also advocated by the employer, is for the government to have import duties on foreign motorcycles.

SUCH a policy was tried in the 1930s. From 1932 a network of tariff walls were built up to prevent the free entry of goods, goods or labour from other countries. World trade shrunk as a result and the British economy worsened still further during the depression of the 1930s.

Behind the import controls business and politicians adopted simple and easy weapons. They cut wages and created industrial joblessness by closing down factories. Unemployment just became worse and worse.

If the NVT management can neither plan or produce the right models which can guarantee work then they will never be sacked. The government must be forced to stand by its original commitments.

NVT should be nationalised without compensation, in a management that has squandered millions. Most important, workers should control key areas of planning, track speeds, safety and employment. Such policies unite all workers at the three Meriden, Small Heath and Wolverhampton plants.

If the government and NVT management are not prepared to safeguard jobs and instead try to close plants and sack workers then the only alternative is to occupy the factories.

Comrades organising linking the three plants in joint action has to be built up if the fight that developed during the Occupation could then be used as the base from which further work and the plants be mobilised. Such a campaign could force the government to nationalise the whole motorcycle industry and thereby guarantee five days work at five days pay, not to compensate incompetent employers.

Tired Back to Labour

FIVE HUNDRED trade unionists and academics attend the tenth annual conference of the Institute for Workers' Control in Sheffield on Saturday, the largest since the IWC went into hibernation in 1972.

In spite of its name, much of the conference was taken with discussion about working with the Labour Government to persuade the Labour government to follow its election manifesto. There was no item on the agenda about a workers strategy. The failure of the Imperial Typewriter occupation in Hull was one of the many problems not discussed.

By contrast, a shop steward from Portugal, Marcelino Abravanel, vice-president of the Portuguese textile workers' union, went to the heart of the question:

"Workers control in the nationalised and private companies goes beyond the purely economic struggle. It puts clearly the question of power, not only within the competition, but between the nation and the multinational companies. The conference voted overwhelmingly to build a solidarity movement with the Portuguese working class. But for the working class in Britain at Imperial, at NVT Meriden, and the hundreds of thousands of others now faced with the dole, the conference offered little but the tired road back into the wards of the Labour Party.

Imperials: The Price of Isolation

Between January, when the campaign started to save the Imperial Typewriters Hull factory, and July, when the 600 finishers had exhausted the final legal arguments, the campaign had lost badly. The workmen's committee, led by Tony Kaszuba, and the Transport and General Workers' Union, failed to build a strong public movement. The strategy for saving the jobs at Hull was wrong from the start. The idea of a workers' co-operative being run by the union officials and the company was a disaster.

The government, they said, or some other firm, should save the money for the venture designed by the staff. Dave Taylor, regional organiser for the TGWU, said his plan was in the Economic two weeks ago. The Labour Government's power will be in the hands of the workers' co-operative, and their lack of democracy to the nth degree. But we will have a strong link through the TGWU's procedural agreement which will stop any redundancies. And a group of workers dedicated to making its company successful.

Deals

Helen Chadwick explained why the rent the she had been against a workers co-operative was fighting for every job. Workers' co-operative would not protect all the jobs. The point is what would make workers agree with workers, workers working other workers.

There was never any real discussion about going for full nationalisation to save the jobs.

The failure of the campaign in Hull and Imperial is the final public rejection by the national trade union leadership to head a fight for jobs. As permanent negotiators they had no more to offer than an appeal to line for cash, finished striking days from athleticism in the Institute for Workers' Control, and negoti- ating with management in the same way they had been doing before the strike. The campaign, however, can still have a future if it continues to find ways to pull workers together.

Their strategy failed. When a capitalist economy operates on the basis of a rising price level of wages and profits, workers cannot simply take over the role of managers and wages and salaries to be set on the basis of the profits and the price level to the firms.

There is a deep-seated occupation which campaigns for support. A campaign to organise the workers, faced the government to guarantee jobs and pay by means of occupation. The support there was, to this day, there are still blocked-up entrances to the factory and the TGWU's and MP's and trade union officials were never prepared to even provide the skilled workers a rank and file pressure on the government.

Imperiels is a sorry lesson for us all.
JUST DAYS after surrendering to the government's pay freeze, the 'left-wing' leaders of Britain's firemen have viciously rounded on members less eager to accept wage cuts.

They have expelled the entire Strathclyde (Glasgow) District Committee from the union for refusing to betray its members.

The nine-man committee had refused to promise the union executive that it would not organise a local strike ballot if the members demanded one.

The nine were summoned to London for a special meeting and harranged by General Secretary Terry Farty and President Enoch Humphries.

They would not give any pledges about a ballot, and were asked to wait outside. After 15 minutes they were called back in, asked again and, when they refused, told they were expelled from the union for 'refusing to abide by Conference decision'.

The real reason for the Executive's panic lies in the pressure building up from the rank and file. Firemen all around the country want more effective action in support of a claim which includes demand for a substantial increase in fire prevention work and a 40-hour week.

At the union's special one-day Conference ten days ago, a resolution calling for reorganisation of the national work-to-rule was lost by 16,000 votes to 10,000 after passionate speeches from the leadership in support of the government's £6 freeze.

At that time, it seemed the firemen's might get as much as a 28 per cent rise now that they are being offered £6.

And so the executive fear Glasgow could again become a centre of opposition to a wages freeze, as it was in 1972.

Then, in the midst of strike-breaking by troops sent in by the Torens, the executive removed the Glasgow Area Committee for leading the strike and forced a resolution through an emergency conference ordering the men back to work.

Now the union's leaders, past masters at left-wing conference hall rhetoric, are again attacking the Glasgow firemen.

At a meeting of delegates from 40 of the area's 42 fire stations, the union's assistant general secretary, Dick Fergusson and Executive member William Haywood, told the men not to hold a strike ballot.

Enoch Humphries has warned: 'If there is a strike ballot it will not be under the auspices of the union. Anyone involved risks expulsion.' Nevertheless at a meeting immediately after Fergusson and Miller had spoken, the delegates agreed by 30 votes to 10 to organise a strike ballot. They also agreed without any opposition to continue the present work-to-rule until the District Committee is reinstated.

In Manchester 900 firemen have voted unanimously to escalate their work-to-rule. Jack Hayworth, secretary of the Greater Manchester PFA, held a behind the scenes meeting that the employees' answer on the 40-hour week was the same as the government's. The conclusion was any reduction in the working week must be done without additional cost and without increasing manpower. This was totally unacceptable.

The work-to-rule includes a ban on detached duties, fire prevention and staff duties, cancellation of the drill period and no watchmen's duties.

On Tyneside, a resolution of no confidence in the executive was passed by a huge majority at a mass meeting. The motion censured the executive for its performance at Conference and its failure over the pay claim.

The Strathclyde men should be supported by every fire station in the country.

It is outrageous for a union executive to take such action against an elected rank and file committee.

All firemen should fight for resolutions condemning the executive's action and demanding the committee's reinstatement.

**Union expels Glasgow leaders who refused to sell out**