

Workers Press

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ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY
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BUDGET SPURNS JOBLESS



LAWSON . . . keeping the unemployed out of work

THE plight of Britain's 4 million unemployed was pointedly ignored by Chancellor Nigel Lawson whose budget last Tuesday did nothing to improve their chances of finding work.

The changes Lawson did bring in were only minor, designed to continue the Tory strategy of mass unemployment and tax cuts for the rich. The main measures were:

- A reduction of 1p in the standard rate of income tax from 30p to 29p in the pound, together with a rise in thresholds in line with inflation.
- No increase in duty on drink
- An increase of 11p in duty on a packet of cigarettes and hand-rolling tobacco, but no increase in duty on cigars or pipe tobacco.
- An increase in duty of 7½p on a gallon of petrol and 6½p on a gallon of diesel oil.

BY OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

Behind the budget has been a dramatic fall in the world price of oil over the past year from around \$27½ a barrel to \$15 a barrel. The government's revenue from North Sea oil is expected to fall from £11.5 million last year to £6 billion this year.

Another factor has been an unprecedented level of unemployment of around five million.

Discussing unemployment, Lawson said:

'It is a problem that can be solved — and there is no secret about how. The solution to unemployment — and it is the only solution — requires progress on two key fronts.

'The first is a sustained improvement in the performance of business and industry, and thus of the

economy as a whole. That is what every aspect of the Government's economic policy has been designed to assist, and it is already achieving impressive results.

'The second is a level of pay which enables workers to be priced into jobs instead of pricing them out of jobs, and which in particular ensures that British industry can hold its own against our major industrial competitors.'

In other words, the Tory answer to the economic slump is to drive down wages, particularly by forcing youth to accept subsistence level wages through Youth Training Schemes and now New Workers Schemes which bribe employers into paying less than £55 a week to 18- and 19-year-

olds and £65 to 20-year-olds.

The Labour leader Neil Kinnock had no answer to the Tory proposals: he called for major increases in spending on job creating schemes in the public sector and for measures to develop and redevelop modern manufacturing industry 'to provide a basis for future earnings for the nation.'

Murdoch, Maxwell, are you listening? Surely the main cause of unemployment is the development and redevelopment of modern industry under the historically bankrupt capitalist mode of production?

The budget provided subdued cheers from the Tory press for a small reduction in taxation which might have been smaller, and cries of 'Oh!' from the Healy rump's News Line which said that the spending in-

come of the low paid, unemployed, youth and pensioners would be 'decimated'.

A glimpse at the back numbers of News Line will show that exactly the same things were said about every budget since Thatcher first came to power.

In short, it was a budget that changed very little. But it is a reflection of the state of class relations in Britain.

Pressure of the economic crisis leaves the Chancellor unable to offer the middle class any of the much-vaunted tax cuts that have been a central plank of Tory vote catching for years.

At the same time, while the government cannot decisively set out to smash the working class, neither can the labour and trade union leaders offer an effective alternative to its policies

France: Reformism opens door to fascists

FRANCE once again has a right-wing, openly capitalist government under Gaullist Jacques Chirac. This follows five years of a Socialist Party government that broke every one of its reformist promises on jobs, living standards and peace policies.

The right-wing parties failed to get the big majority they wanted. They are struggling to get their act together under Socialist Party president Mitterrand.

But the reformists have been defeated. And the most ominous sign is the arrival of 33 National Front racists in the French National Assembly.

The Communist Party could neither offer a convincing alternative to workers hit by unemployment nor inspire the youth with its 'Popular Front' coalition politics. It has remained throughout the life of the Socialist Party government indistinguishable from all other opportunist politicians.

Far from combatting the spread of racist poison in the working class areas, the Stalinists actually tried to exploit it. In one Paris suburb, the Communist Party mayor led the campaign against

immigrant workers and ceremoniously bulldozed their hostel.

They are now paying the price for this rotten opportunism. Some of their voters even deserted to the racist National Front, which promises to do this wholesale.

The Socialist Party reformists have allowed the conditions to develop where a fascist party is now a force in French politics. Socialist Party youth are vigorously campaigning against the racists behind such slogans as 'Touche pas mon pote!' (Don't touch my mate) which has caught the imagination of school youth.

But an anti-racist campaign of rock concerts, moral appeals and catchy

slogans does not touch the real issues and will not stop the fascists.

For that, a real socialist alternative is needed. It will not come from the Communist Party or from Socialist Party leaders. These would not even attack National Front leader Le Pen, because they cynically gambled that the National Front could steal votes from

other right-wing parties.

We are confident that French workers and youth will find their way to building a revolutionary alternative. But, above all, we have to warn the labour movement in Britain too.

The French experience shows us what we have to avoid if we are not to face even more serious dangers.

Next week

NEXT week's Workers Press will carry a full length feature on the history of the Mitterrand government and of the important lessons to be drawn from the experience by the working class both in Britain and France.



MITTERRAND . . . fruits of reformist treachery

Dundee workers fight steward's sacking

BY SIMON PIRANI

'THERE'S YOUR money. Now get to f . . . out of this place or I'll get the police to you.'

With these charming words, a Scottish Electric manager sent shop steward Sid Campbell down the road and started a strike at the Dundee firm which is now over four months old.

It wasn't that Sid had split tea on his boss's foot. His crime was to submit the first ever wage claim in the firm's 16-year history.

Ronnie McKenzie, one of the nine AUEW strikers at Scottish Electric, explained to Workers Press:

Issues

'We asked for union recognition in April last year. Sid had been a shop steward at Timex and we asked him to do the job again.

'Everything went fine until November when we submitted a wage claim. The manager blew his top. Sid took the claim in and the manager

sat there saying "No! no! no! no!"

'It was the first time anyone had asked him for anything; before that he had always told people what they were getting.

'All we had asked for was a 7½ per cent pay rise over three years to get in line with the electricians at our firm. And we were quite willing to negotiate.

Employer

'The following Monday the boss came out and said that, due to ill health and no work, he couldn't afford to keep everybody. Sid and two other men were told they were sacked.

'We all walked out and went down to the district AUEW office. The full-time officer conducted a secret ballot and it was unanimous. We have been out ever since.'

Typically, the EETPU told its employees at Scottish Electric that, if they came out in sympathy, it would be illegal.

Support has come from factories supplying work to Scottish Electric: Rolls

Royce and Fry's Metals of Glasgow have now refused to give the firm any more contracts.

Ronnie McKenzie said: 'We are determined to fight this, it's victimisation. The things these employers can get away with under the Tory legislation is amazing. These laws have been brought in to break the workers.'

'Thatcher is bringing in every conceivable move to make it impossible to go on strike.'

Ronnie stressed the importance of the Scottish Electric fight for all trades unionists in Dundee. Certainly this is recognised by the Timex management, who warned workers that they would be sacked if they joined a lunch-time demonstration for the Scottish Electric men.

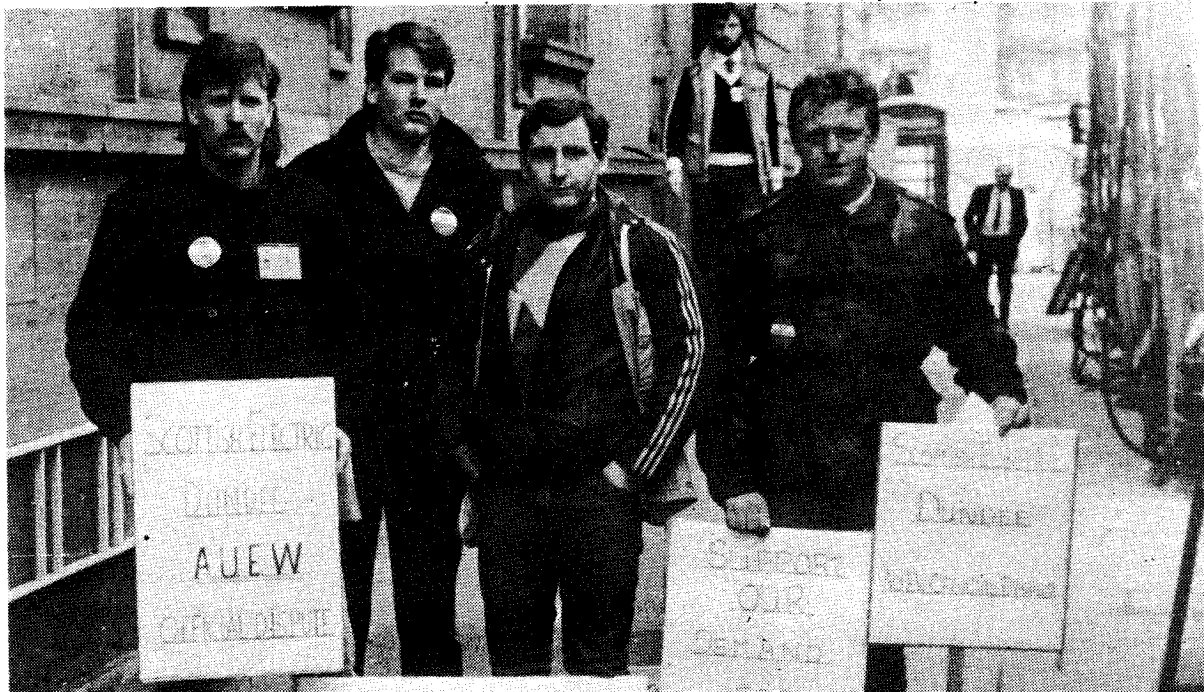
'Dundee's industry is now being broken down into

small units. Why have 5,000 people you can't control when you can have smaller places with 50 or 100 people? A new multinational which has recently moved in, Gore, has stated categorically that they won't have unions.

Future

'If we lose this fight, the trade union movement in Dundee is in trouble. No wonder every manager in town is sticking up for our manager.'

● The Scottish Electric workers have a demonstration every Wednesday at 12.00 midday at the factory in Brown Street, Dundee. Donations should be sent to John Kydd, AUEW Dundee district secretary, 26 South Ward Road, Dundee, DD1 1TR. The strikers are prepared to travel anywhere to explain their case.



Four of the Scottish Electric strikers photographed on picket duty last week

3,000 at print union rally

'IF THERE'S any justice we will win this dispute', Brenda Dean, SOGAT General Secretary, told a South East Regional TUC (SERTUC) rally in Wembley on March 13.

'Justice demands we must do all we can to stop Murdoch and operate as a free union.'

Three thousand attended the rally, called in support of the print unions involved in the dispute at Murdoch's News International plant in Wapping.

First to speak was TUC General Secretary Norman Willis. Brenda Dean sought a pledge from another speaker, Labour leader Neil Kinnock, that 'as the next Prime Minister of this country he would scrap the anti-trade

union laws.' But the nearest Kinnock would go to even mentioning Labour's policy on unions — past, present or future — was to say that there 'should perhaps be a different system of Industrial Relations Laws.'

'This government has been at war with the people of its own country for six years,' Kinnock said, 'and the only way it can be stopped is to ensure that Labour is voted in at the next election.'

Tributes were paid to the sacked printers by speakers such as Les Elliott, AUEW, Tony Dubbins, NGA leader, and Jimmy Knapp, NUR general secretary.

Condemning his own members who were scabbing at Wapping, Ron Todd, T&GWU leader, offered sympathy to Keith Gebbett, one of the injured SOGAT members hit by a lorry on Wednesday night.

A standing ovation was given to an international delegation of print trade unionists representing Norway, Canada, USA, Sweden and Finland where an indefinite paper-making strike had begun the previous evening.

Ken Gill, as chairman, summed up the meeting by repeating calls for a boycott of the Sun, News of the World, Times and Sunday Times.

No proposals were put forward by trade union leaders to step up industrial action or to take the issues posed by the dispute deeper into the labour movement.

Although secret talks are taking place between Murdoch and the unions involved, only fleeting reference was made to these by Brenda Dean. She reaffirmed that the talks were secret and could not be commented on at this stage.

Journalists resist Maxwell

JOURNALISTS, supported by SOGAT printers, went on strike against threats of redundancies and dictatorial working practices at the Scottish 'Daily Record' and 'Sunday Mail' last week.

They fear that owner Robert Maxwell wants to destroy the two titles, Scotland's largest-circulation daily and Sunday papers respectively.

National Union of Journalists assistant Father of Chapel Jack Foley explained to Workers Press: 'An employer comes along, tears up existing agreements, and then says: "Do what I say". He is prepared to use the law to get his way.

'Even if he imposed new conditions on us, there is nothing to stop him tearing that up as well and making up something new.

'I am convinced that the issue in this dispute is that employers want to go back to the days of the mill owners, the old 19th century norm of workers slaving away and never seeing the benefits of what we create.'

Most 'Daily Record'

LABOUR leader Neil Kinnock's deafening silence about Robert Maxwell's anti-union tactics has disgusted printers and journalists.

Kinnock's speech at last Thursday's print workers' rally at Wembley was full of denunciations of Murdoch; but millionaire Labour Party member Maxwell did not rate a mention.

'Mr Kinnock was quick to stand up and condemn Rupert Murdoch for Fortress Wapping, but he has not been prepared to condemn Robert Maxwell for what he has done in Scotland,' said NUJ executive member David Sinclair last week.

'Since then, while others have criticised Mr Maxwell, we have been flabbergasted and astonished that the Labour Party has kept its silence. We are disgusted.

'It has been made clear to me by senior figures in the Labour Party that they would find it difficult to give any more support,' Sinclair told a 'Glasgow Herald' interviewer.

Many print workers believe that Maxwell struck a deal with Kinnock at last September's TUC: editorials would be supplied defending right-wing policies and attacking 'Militant'; and there would be no interference in union-bashing at the 'Mirror' and 'Record'.

trades unionists believe that Maxwell was panicked into action against them by competition from Rupert Murdoch and Eddie Shah.

On February 19, after statements from Maxwell about Irish or north of England editions of the 'Daily Mirror' being printed at the Glasgow plant, journalists learned that facsimile transmission equipment had been

installed secretly.

The 'Record' tradition, gradual introduction of new technology with full co-operation, was junked.

In a front-page 'Sunday Mail' article on February 23, Maxwell demanded redundancies and new working practices. Failure to submit would mean the creation of two separate companies, a publishing firm and a con-

tract printers handling not only the 'Record' and 'Mail' but other titles too.

This convinced printers and journalists alike that Maxwell was bent on the destruction of the two papers, their replacement by a Scottish 'Daily Mirror' consisting largely of pages 'faxed' from London, and massive redundancies all round.

Emergency resolutions condemning Maxwell were passed at the Scottish Labour Party conference: his response was a vitriolic 'Sunday Mail' editorial.

SOGAT demanded the right of reply: Maxwell hit back with 600 sack notices, suspension of the 'Record' and a High Court injunction.

Journalists rejected an arm-twisting redundancy offer: Maxwell's management sabotaged talks, saying that NUJ national executive member David Sinclair was not welcome.

The NUJ struck, SOGAT men (wisely) maintained a presence inside the 'Record' building — and Maxwell answered by sacking all journalists.

Jack Foley emphasised



Our thanks to the 'Record' strikers for this cartoon

that the survival of the 'Record' is at stake: 'If Maxwell destroys the "Record" that talent will be dispersed. It would be very difficult to start up a similar Scottish paper.'

'The "Record" has waged campaigns on Gartcosh, the Scottish sacked miners etc. You wouldn't get that in a "Mirror" faxed up from London with two pages of Scottish sport.'

He added: 'The law leaves us no protection. All we have is ourselves and what hink we can kick up. We only have that strength that started the trade union movement, the strong helping the weak.'

Donations and messages of support should be sent to: The Secretary, NUJ 'Daily Record' Chapel, Alistair Brown, 16 Brookcliff, Newton Mearns, Glasgow.

CONTRACTS STRIKERS FORCED TO RETURN

THE six-month long strike of clothing workers at Contracts/French Connection factory in South Shields ended on Friday March 14.

On Wednesday, the vote was announced to a silent meeting which reflected the feelings and mood of those workers who had fought tenaciously for over six months to get trade union recognition into their factory.

Fighting on all fronts, against the management, the scabs and their own trade union leaders, they struggled on and won the hearts and admiration of the trade union movement on Tyneside.

The background to the decision to return is a warning to all workers in every trade union who engage in struggles today.

Faced with the anti-trade union laws of the Tory government and the possibility of confrontation with the state machine, the trade union bureaucracy is running scared.

After two votes in secret ballots, which decisively rejected a return to work, the NUTGW on Friday February 28 decided to pull out and ended official support after five months of the strike.

An intense campaign was launched by the strikers against the union leadership. Tens of thousands of leaflets were printed and circulated in almost every factory and ship-yard throughout Tyneside and the coal-fields.

This also included clothing factories with NUTGW membership. The fight was to mobilise the membership against the sell-out and betrayal of the union leaders.

BY HUGHIE NICHOL

This had an immediate effect as some factories began to withhold union dues in protest at the way in which the Contracts strikers were being treated.

Some factories felt so strongly that they declared their intention to drop out of the NUTGW and join another trade union.

Meanwhile the support from other trade union organisations for the strikers against the NUTGW leaders began to gather momentum.

Women and youth from the picket lines worked from six in the morning till ten at night leafleting and collecting and also lobbying trades councils.

South Shields TUC was the first to declare for the strikers. This was followed by the County Association of Trades Councils representing 14 trades councils in the area, which also declared for



ALEX SMITH back-stabbing role

the strikers against the union.

A delegation of 12 strikers was sent to London on the overnight bus to lobby the executive of the NUTGW. This meeting was cancelled by the general secretary, Alec Smith, at 10.30pm that same night when he heard of the women travelling.

Alec Smith then arrived unannounced at the mass meeting of strikers the following Friday, allegedly to clear up any misunderstandings. He was accompanied by regional officials Geoff



Tyneside Peoples' Choir singing 'The Red Flag' on the lobby of the County Association of Trades Councils in Newcastle

Bowen and Ron Bailes.

The strikers decided to allow him into the meeting to speak but as he launched into an attack on their shop stewards, he got such a shock from the stamping of feet and slow handclapping accompanied by the chants 'Out! Out! Out!' that he was forced to leave the meeting.

The strikers screamed their anger at Smith over the back-stabbing role of the NUTGW officials in withdrawing strike-pay and a whole series of dirty tricks played to try and force them to abandon their struggle.

these clothing workers in their epic struggle.

Blackmail and sell-out were the words used by some of the women as they left the meeting.

The silence that greeted the vote announcement was a sharp contrast to the usual cheers and claps in previous ballots.

'A lot of people thought the union was ready to pull out again,' said one woman as she commented on the ballot result.

Jane Kingsland, shop steward, told Workers Press:

'Since early this week, bridges have been built between the strikers and our union, the NUTGW. They are now to pay our strike pay backdated for three weeks to cover the time they pulled

out of our strike.

'At the meeting on Tuesday with the management, we were told that the proposals were just the same as before and would only be on the table till Monday.

'Then after that the situation might worsen as regards work for the factory, and we might have a longer lay off than the three months on offer.

Removed

'Amnesty was guaranteed for the 12 of us who occupied the factory in January. We had been threatened with disciplinary action but this has now been removed.

'We return united and the fight has just begun for trade union recognition'.

Offer

Still on Tyneside over that weekend, Smith made repeated phone calls to the shop stewards at their homes to try and persuade them to accept the offer.

On Monday, Smith met with the strike committee and announced that the union would pay strike pay after all and back-date it.

On Tuesday he returned to his London headquarters as the strikers met with ACAS and the management. On Wednesday, Smith returned to South Shields to address the meeting and call for a return to work. He presented a gloomy picture ahead if the strikers stayed out to fight.

The contradiction of fighting for trade union recognition for a union that was trying to break up their strike certainly did not help

Bailes off again!

RON BAILES, NUTGW official dealing with the Contracts strike, signed an agreement with the local education department allowing YTS trainees to work at Contracts factory in South Shields, it has been revealed.

This was signed on February 18, 1986, while the strike was still in progress, and was still official.

This is despite all the prob-

lems at the beginning of the strike last September — when YTS trainees were recruited as scabs to break picket lines.

No consultation was ever sought with the shop stewards or strike committee when this agreement was signed. The agreement only came to light after the return to work proposals were accepted by the strikers.



Brian Topping, secretary of North Tyneside Trades Council, talking to Contracts shop steward Jane Kingsland

Ship occupied

A GROUP of seamen aboard a Greek ship have occupied their vessel in an attempt to secure wages owed to them.

The 17 South Korean seamen refused to open the hatches on the Alma, a Greek-owned cargo ship loading grain at the new Tyneside grain terminal.

Before locking themselves in, they hung two banners over the side of the ship saying they were going on strike because they hadn't been paid for seven months.

Port of Tyne Authority officials are trying to contact the ship's owners in Greece but, because of a national holiday there, no-one could be contacted.

The agents for the ship, Gillie & Blair, of Newcastle, said the ship had come into the Tyne on Thursday last week and was due to go out this week.

The 17 crew members have sent a telex to the crewing agency which employs them, giving a month-by-month breakdown of exactly how much they are owed in back pay. From October last year until March 15 they are owed a massive total of 138,464 US dollars.

The men have asked the agency to contact the owners to get the wages paid or the strike will continue indefinitely, said the ship's captain Kim Sans Poum.

Swan's stewards lift ban

PAY TALKS between Swan Hunters' shipyard management and unions resumed this week as thousands of workers lifted an overtime ban. Senior shop stewards agreed to lift the ban on all three yards after meetings with full time officials lasting nearly all day.

This followed threats earlier in the week to close one of the yards. Swan Hunter

management said they were set to shut down their Hebburn shipyard for good with the loss of over 200 jobs. They blamed the workforce for causing the closure.

Industrial action at the yard by boilermakers had already cost the company millions of pounds in lost orders, they claimed.

The company faces penalties of up to £20,000 a day if the Sealink ferry Horsa is not finished by next Friday.

Dennis Shadbolt, industrial relations director, said

the unions were jeopardising the future of the whole company and it was pointless keeping Hebburn yard open if contracts couldn't be met.

'We will close it down. There is no point in keeping it open if we cannot perform properly. Our employees don't seem capable of grasping the fact that they need to be available 24-hours a day to meet customers' requirements.'

He then went on to criticise the shipyard workers' pay claim which is asking for a doubling of wages in return

for a long series of concessions sought by the company. He said, 'These unrealistic claims put the financial basis of the company in jeopardy.'

The Hebburn yard was reopened only recently after being mothballed for several months. The three yards, previously nationalised, were sold off to the former management of Swan Hunter in January this year. Trade union organisation at all three yards has continually been under attack.

ANGER AS LONDON BUS STRIKE IS PUT BACK

Court order against students

ON MONDAY, Bristol University was granted a High Court injunction against the Socialist Workers Student Society and 18 other students who have for the past three weeks been demonstrating against Professor John Vincent.

Vincent, who lectures at the University on history, is also a columnist at the Sun and Times newspapers owned by Rupert Murdoch.

Last week, between 60 and 70 students marched on Bristol police station after three arrests during the demonstration.

Throughout the lecture, there were cries of 'racist! sexist!' but the protests, which students claim are against the right-wing views held by John Vincent, have become a focal point for groups of workers against the attacks by Murdoch on the print workers at Wapping.

It is clearly worrying the authorities there. Although 18 students were named in the injunction, it was worded to cast its net wider.

Mr Don Carleton, the university's information officer, was quoted in the Guardian as saying:

'The real concern is with outsiders.'

Despite the threat of legal action, the protest looks set to continue.

MOVES to defer the strike of London bus crews caused an angry explosion from delegates to Tuesday's delegate conference.

Despite a three to two vote for strike action from next Monday (see Workers Press), details of draconian proposals from the management were used by the right-wing and anti-political delegates to rush through a two-week deferment of the strike.

A new ballot of bus garage members is planned for Thursday March 27 with strike action scheduled for Monday April 7.

The management 'proposals' includes a cut in wages by £43 per week; the introduction of three wage zones — lower wages and longer hours of work in outer London; management says they will no longer provide canteen facilities; bus drivers to clean and fuel their own buses and sweep the garage floor.

As if this were not enough, they also call for a cut in holidays and a reduction in overtime and rest day rates of pay.

The bus engineering membership of T&GWU together with AUEW, EETPU craftsmen and garage canteen staff will also meet to consider action on the same day.

London Bus management have gone over the heads of the union and held meetings with drivers and engineers — on top of double-decker buses at Potters Bar and Hounslow Garages!

They told them that, unless they accept the £43 a week wage cut, the garages will close and London Trans-

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

port will not honour the agreement with the union. They threaten to pay only two-thirds of the severance pay negotiated by the union.

When challenged on this clear breach of a signed agreement, they said it was 'no longer suitable or appropriate to the circumstances.'

The transport union's London Bus Committee was in talks with London Transport until late on Wednesday night and met management again next morning. A special mass meeting of Garage Branch Officers and shop stewards was held at Transport House on Thursday evening to get an up-to-date report on the talks.

Terry Allan, London District Secretary of T&GWU, told Workers Press:

'London Transport has told us there has to be some blood letting, but they mean

our blood not theirs.'

'London Transport has been deceitful in its methods. Our members no longer trust them.'

Peter Gibson, chairman of T&GWU London Bus Section, speaking at the end of Thursday's delegate conference, said to those South London delegates who felt betrayed by deferment of the strike:

'Go back and assist those who had failed to realise the full impact of the employers' offensive and build for a massive yes vote on March 27 and a united strike on April 7 of drivers, conductors, engineers and catering staff.'

'London Transport are seeking to blackmail us,' Gibson said.

'The blackmailer has come for the first payment. This is the crunch: if you make the first payment, you pay for ever more. See the blackmailer off! No first payment; no wage cuts!'



PETER GIBSON

Spartacus R in court this week



SPARTACUS R campaigning against the sale of South African goods

SPARTACUS R is head of a black cultural group which has, over the last few months, been leading a vigorous campaign against goods imported from the apartheid regime in South Africa.

He was arrested when campaigning outside the Brixton branch of the Tesco supermarket chain, handing out leaflets urging people to boycott the shop's South African goods.

He was convicted early in

March of assaulting a police officer and could now face a jail sentence.

In the scuffle of the arrest, R. says he was grabbed violently in a neck lock and that one of the policemen broke a finger.

This led to a charge of actual bodily harm. When Spartacus R indicated that he would seek a jury trial, the charge was lowered to assault which can be heard by a magistrate.

He was convicted both of assault and of obstruction. He has no previous convictions.

Despite the risk of a prison sentence, Spartacus R promised that he would continue protesting against the sale of South African goods. He claims the charges were trumped up in an attempt to stop the campaign.

Sentencing is due to take place on March 26 in the morning at Camberwell magistrates court. His supporters are calling for a picket of the court, starting at 10am.

Viraj loses his appeal

VIRAJ MENDIS has lost his appeal against deportation. The Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign will hold a public meeting in Manchester Town Hall on Wednesday March 26.

This will include a broad range of solidarity messages and will discuss a proposed march from Manchester to London in the Summer.

The Immigration Appeals Chief Adjudicator refused to acknowledge the seriousness of the situation in Sri Lanka

and the danger Viraj faces if deported.

Recent human rights reports from Sri Lanka show that over 2,000 people have been killed by the police and army in the last two months alone.

Aerial bombing of Tamil villages is now widespread and over 500 people have disappeared.

Despite this, the adjudicator ruled that 'Sri Lanka is inherently a democracy where the rule of law applies!'

The Home Office appear determined not only to deport Viraj but to step up their policy of deportations in general.

Contact: Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign, c/o North Hulme Centre, Jackson Crescent, Manchester, 15 5AL. Tel: 061-273 1162 (day).



Irish Solidarity Movement

Armagh - Brixton!

Stop Strip-Searches Now!

DEMONSTRATION and PRISON PICKET

Saturday 5 April, assemble 11.30am

Kennington Park (Oval Tube)
Demonstrate against strip-searches
Join the march to a picket of Brixton Prison (1pm onwards)
Speeches • Songs • Solidarity

<p>Monthly Fund £351.01 received this week, Total now £886.49 Our special fund received £154.60 and now totals £32,971.23.</p>	<p>Thanks for all your donations. Send to Workers Revolutionary Party, 21b Old Town, London, SW4 0JT</p>
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WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY
MERSEYSIDE AREA

MARX'S CAPITAL AND THE WORKING CLASS

1986 series of lectures

Wednesday March 26

'Capital' in the age of information technology

Family Lounge, Flying Picket
Hardman Street Unemployed Centre (MCTURC)
Liverpool 1

All lectures start at 7.30pm

LETTER FROM MARTINA ANDERSON

TORTURE ROUTINE AT BRIXTON JAIL

I SHALL give you a calendar-type list of strip searches for November.

It began on Monday 4th. Ella had to endure three strip searches and one cell search; I was subjected to three strip searches and one cell search.

On Tuesday 5th we had two strip searches each. Wednesday 6th we had one strip search each. Thursday 7th I had two strip searches, one cell search and a cell change; Ella had two strip searches.

Friday 8th — on that day Ella had three strip searches (two in six minutes) and one cell search. I also had three strip searches (two in 25 minutes) and a cell search.

Saturday 9th we had one strip search each. Monday 11th we had two strip searches each.

Cell

Tuesday 12th we had two strip searches. Wednesday 13th we had two strip searches each. Thursday 14th we had two strip searches each. Saturday 16th we had one strip search each. Monday 18th we had one strip search. Tuesday 19th I had two strip searches and a cell search.

Wednesday 20th Ella and I had one strip search each. Thursday 21st Ella had one strip search; I had three strip searches, one cell search and a cell change. Friday 22nd I had two strip searches. Saturday 23rd we both had one strip search.

Monday 25th Ella had one cell search and a strip search. Tuesday 26th Ella had one strip search, a cell



search and a cell change. Wednesday 27th Ella had two strip searches and again a cell search. I also had two strip searches and a cell search. Thursday 28th Ella and I had two strip searches each.

Friday 29th we lodged complaints to a member of the board of governors. Saturday 30th Ella and I had one strip search each.

That should give you an idea of the daily harassment which we have to endure in this hell hole.

From December 2nd till the 27th, Ella had 21 strip searches, four cell searches and two cell changes. I had 23 strip searches, six cell searches and two cell changes.

On Wednesday 11th December, Ella had a strip search, a cell search and a cell change that morning.

After they had finished they sent for a medical officer as Ella wasn't feeling well. He gave her some medication and she went to bed at approximately 11.30.

We heard her ringing the bell from 1.10 — she wasn't feeling well and wanted out to vomit. They refused to answer her call and left her vomiting into a bucket.

At two o'clock her cell door was opened and they took her out of bed to perform another strip search and her second cell search of that day.

This happens regularly here when someone of us

would be sick. I, as you know, suffer from migraine headaches and there have been times when I've been very ill and hardly able to walk, but nevertheless they have taken me from my bed to strip me and search the cell.

At times they have taken one hour 15 minutes to carry out the search.

We would usually, on a good day, spend 18 hours alone in our cells and 19 at the weekend. Recently we have been spending up to 21 hours locked up.

As you can see, the few hours we get out is spent with strip searches, cell searches and cell changes.

On January 3rd we put in an application to see the gov-

ernor. At approximately 10.40 the head governor, Joy Kinsley, came to see us. I informed her that I wished to make a complaint about the lack of association.

I was amazed when she started telling me how lucky I was to be in this prison and not in any other one. (I hate to think what other prisoners are going through).

I asked her to try and solve the problem and not have us complaining to the public outside — we are only looking for basic human rights.

I asked did she enjoy us having to take such measures all the time before something gets done.

She replied that I was being insulting and guaranteed me that nothing would be done to solve the situation. Before, we have com-

plained about conditions here, but when enquiries were made they have said we didn't.

So I kept trying to ask her to write down what I had said and that I had made a complaint.

She said she would write down whatever she felt like and not what I asked her to. She wouldn't let me finish and kept saying: 'Be off with you, be off with you'.

I will sign off now since I have had a few more letters to write but we'll write again in a few weeks with an update on conditions. Everyone here is keeping the best under the circumstances and we would like to wish you all a happy New Year, so till next time, take care.

Slan, Martina

Pickets at the Hilton

BY CHARLIE WALSH

'STOP strip searching!' 'Stop the torture!'

These were the slogans which rang out loud and clear outside the Hilton Hotel in Park Lane, London, on Monday night (March 17).

The picket of nearly 40 people outside the plush hotel, organised by the Irish Prisoners Appeal, 'Women and Armagh' and the Troops Out movement, was to protest at the presence of Tom King, Secretary of State for the six counties of north-east Ireland occupied by British imperialism.

King was guest of honour of the Irish Club who were having a banquet to celebrate St Patrick's Day.

The picket was lively and



enthusiastic and for about an hour kept up a barrage of condemnation of the barbaric strip-searching of women prisoners in Brixton and Armagh prisons. Many leaflets were handed out.

One noted celebrity amongst the rich clientele was Lord Longford who made his way to the £27-a-

head banquet without so much as a nod at our presence.

That such an organisation as the Irish Club — the epitome of the Irish middle-class in Britain — will welcome a reactionary like Tom King speaks volumes about its attitude to the situation in the north of Ireland.

Their action is very much in line with Fitzgerald's open collaboration with British imperialism in Ireland.

Fitzgerald and his Quislings would be welcomed with open arms by the pro-establishment, pro-imperialist Irish Club.

Notwithstanding centuries of rape, murder, torture and pillage of the Irish people by British imperialism, which continues today in the six

counties, such organisations are not concerned about the strip searching of women in Brixton and Armagh.

Their true allies are the likes of Tom King.

The Irish ruling class, along with their British counterparts, have a common purpose in smashing the working class of both countries.

Thus, Fitzgerald's refusal to condemn the strip searching.

It is up to socialists to raise this question in the labour and trade union movement.

Strip searching of both men and women prisoners, which incidentally only happens to Irish prisoners, must be ended immediately. The campaign to secure this aim must be built up and intensified.

ADVERTISEMENT

Stop the strip-searches MASS PICKET

Saturday March 22
11.30am - 1.30pm
Brixton Prison
Jebb Avenue SW2

Against the strip-searching of Martina Anderson and Ella o'Dwyer, and also in support of the women in Armagh Jail who are undergoing similar treatment. Support this important campaign organised by the Irish Prisoners Appeal Women and Armagh and the Troops Out movement.

A picket is held every Saturday outside Brixton jail.

A street meeting will be held in Kilburn Square on Saturday in support of the campaign against the strip-searching of Irish women prisoners in Brixton and Armagh.

Organised by the Kilburn branch of the Workers Revolutionary Party.

Commencing at 11am

NURSES FACE EVICTION WHEN THEY PASS EXAMS

FIFTY THOUSAND nurses are to be thrown onto the streets in the latest Tory attack on the Health Service.

These evictions are highlighted in a report published in the latest issue of 'Roof', Shelter's housing magazine.

The Tories plan to sell nurses' homes, flats and houses to raise £750 million.

This follows the 1984 Rayner Scrutiny on NHS Residential Accommodation and a government health circular in 1985. They tell health authorities that only learner nurses and medical staff are to be accommodated.

All other property must be sold.

'Staff who no longer qualify for accommodation are to be evicted'. Of the present 112,800 homes all but 39,000 are to be sold.

Some authorities have already started evictions, as reported in the February issue of 'Health Services', the journal of the health workers' union, COHSE.

Just a few weeks after passing her exams and qualifying as a State Registered Nurse, Philippa Kelly has been told 'Congratulations — now get out!'

She lives with three friends in a flat at Ealing Hospital in West London. The District Health Authority has told her to get out-to make way for students.

Active

'This is my home', said Philippa, a COHSE steward.

'I feel quite bitter that I have to cope with this threat along with other pressures at work, but if I don't fight it, other people will suffer too.'

Her small room in a cosy flat costs Philippa £80.00 per month. She could never afford privately rented accommodation on her £380.00 monthly pay.

'I have looked outside and seen some horrible places', she explained.

'I just couldn't afford to pay those rents and bills and travelling expenses.'

BY MICK DALEY

'Other nurses have been to the council and have been offered only bed and breakfast accommodation. Some can't even get on the housing list', she said.

Not only are single people hit — thousands of families face eviction and homelessness.

In spite of this, local councils — who may have to house any family made homeless — have not been consulted about the new plans.

Ancillary workers will also suffer. Many are middle-aged and have 'lived in' for many years.

The Commission for Filipino Migrant Workers is particularly concerned about the likely fate of the many migrant workers.

Domestic workers earn less than most nurses and are even less likely to be able to afford private sector rents.

Health workers are offered no protection by the law.

'Crown Immunity' means that they have no security of tenure because it bypasses the 1977 Rent Act which protects from eviction anybody else living in rented accommodation.

The Tories' plans have been widely condemned.

Sandra Mills of the Royal College of Nursing's Association of Nursing Students says:

'No one has any obligation to house single nurses if they are made homeless.'

'On the wages they get, the chances of finding a place in London in particular are minimal. The result of all this will be that no one will come to London to train.'

COHSE General Secretary, David Williams has said:

'This eviction policy is disastrous for health staff and disastrous for the NHS.'

'COHSE warned a year ago, when the Rayner Scrutiny was first published, that NHS homes are vital to attract and keep staff.'

'Low paid nurses can't afford to work at some hos-

pitals unless accommodation is provided. Other hospitals in remote areas need homes to offer to recruit staff,' she stressed.

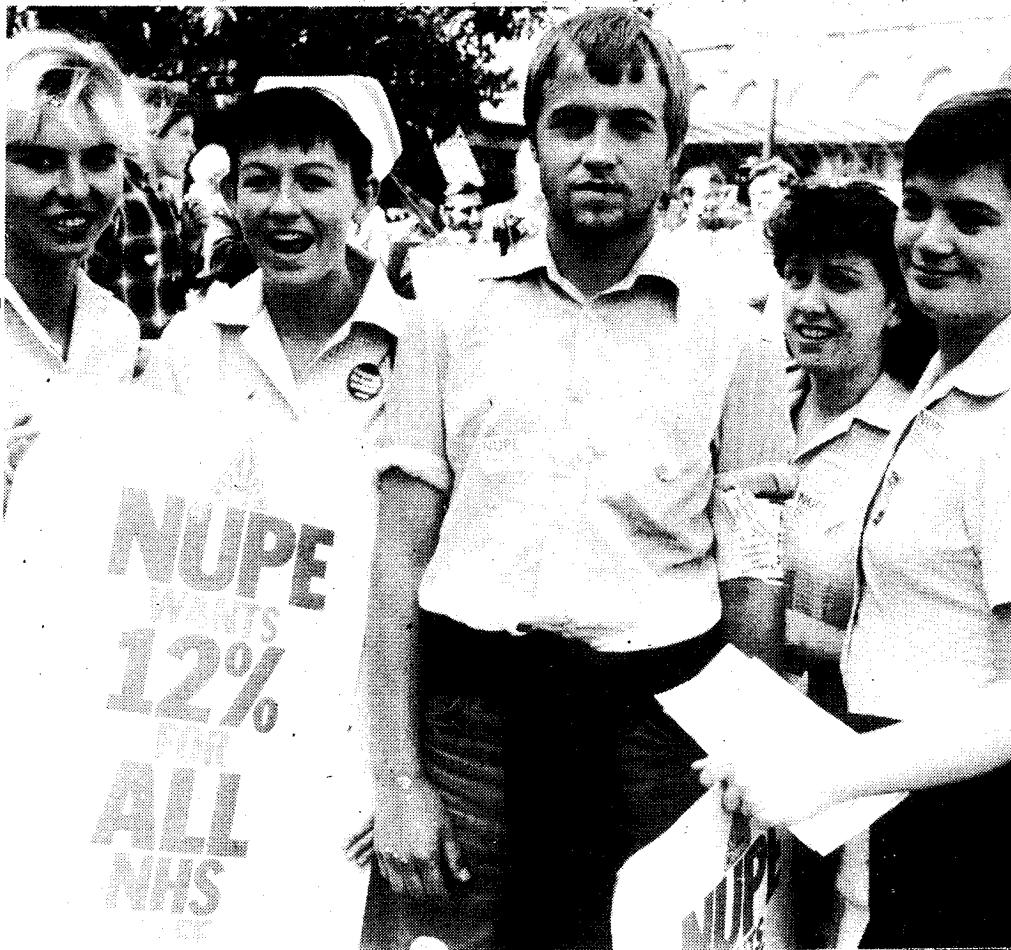
'This is a policy for misery, poverty and understaffing.'

Nick Fielding, author of the 'Roof' report, sums up:

'Thousands of nurses and ancillaries, already among the lowest paid workers in the country, will shortly be thrust onto the housing market'

In a recent branch circular, COHSE calls for a campaign against the evictions and sales and recommends the formation of Residents' Action Committees.

● These must be broad-based and prepared to become Occupation Committees to oppose any evictions.



Thousands of nurses and ancillaries, already among the lowest paid workers in the country, will shortly be thrown onto the housing market

Tory vetting condemned

DELEGATES to a London Health Emergency conference last weekend unanimously condemned the blatant role of the Tory Party's Central Office in 'vetting' new appointments of District Health Authority chairmen.

More than 80 representatives from over 50 trades unions, health campaigns, political and community groups from London, South Wales, Oxford, Newcastle and Cambridge pledged to campaign for democracy in the running of the NHS, especially the election of health authority members and representation of health workers.

Outgoing chairman of the West Lambeth District Health Authority (DHA), Nick Cowan, claimed in 'The Guardian' last week that two senior Tories had revealed that the Conservative Central Office was scrutinising candidates for DHA chairs in the South East — to secure a smooth ride for the government in the run-up to the next general election.



Jeremy Corbyn, MP for Islington North, captured the delegates' mood when he said that in his view all the sitting DHA chairmen should be thrown out.

'Every one of them has complied with Tory cash limits,' he declared. 'None of them can be trusted. I would sack the lot of them.'

LHE organiser Geoff Martin spoke of the 'steamroller effect of the continuing financial cuts which have smashed their way through health service provision in London'.

The conference expects wide support in campaigns against the NHS cuts in view of an increasing public outcry against London's growing waiting lists and closures not only of wards but whole hospitals.

Even influential consultants who have previously voted for cuts, such as those in Bloomsbury DHA, are now becoming more and

more vocal in their opposition.

'These people are worried about the consequences of the cuts for themselves: MPs fear the revenge of the electorate. But their worries and complaints can help us publicise the issues and build campaigns in the run-up to the borough elections in May and in the next General Election,' said Publicity Officer John Lister.

A speaker from the

marathon 18-month strike of domestics at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, received a standing ovation for her account of the strike in defence of standards of hygiene and patient care.

This is now continuing unofficially since 'withdrawal of support' by health unions NUPE and COHSE.

The conference adopted an 11-point programme of priorities for campaign work in the next 12 months

Horror of cold deaths

A RIGHT to Fuel Campaign Group, set up to ensure that people get the full assistance they are entitled to from the DHSS, especially pensioners, has released some horrific figures on cold-related deaths.

The group is based in Liverpool but has been going

to areas of high unemployment to help people fight red tape and get extra allowances to cope with the exceptionally high heating bills.

During the recent cold spell, several local pensioners died of hypothermia. Their houses were cold because they were frightened of being unable to pay their

heating bills.

At a meeting last week in Halewood, Liverpool, the group explained that in the winter of 1984-1985, 46,000 people died of cold related illnesses. During winter the death rate of babies under one year old rises by 40 per cent.

On Merseyside 50 householders have gas or electric

ity cut off every day. This figure rises during the winter.

Last year, the government scrapped central heating payments for claimants on supplementary benefit.

Between now and 1987, social security payments for help with bills, draught-proofing and heating appliances will be phased out.

WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

Public Meetings LONDON The Tasks of the Fourth International

Tuesday March 25.
7.30pm

Conway Hall
Red Lion Square
London WC1

Speakers: Cliff Slaughter (WRP Central Committee)
Geoff Pilling (Acton WRP)
Chris Bailey (Cambridge WRP)
Chair: Richard Goldstein
(WRP London Area Committee)

Tickets 50p

CARDIFF

Why we expelled Healy

The Split in the WRP and the ICFI

The task of building revolutionary leadership

Wednesday March 26th

Brownhills Hotel
Saunders Road

Near Cardiff Central Station

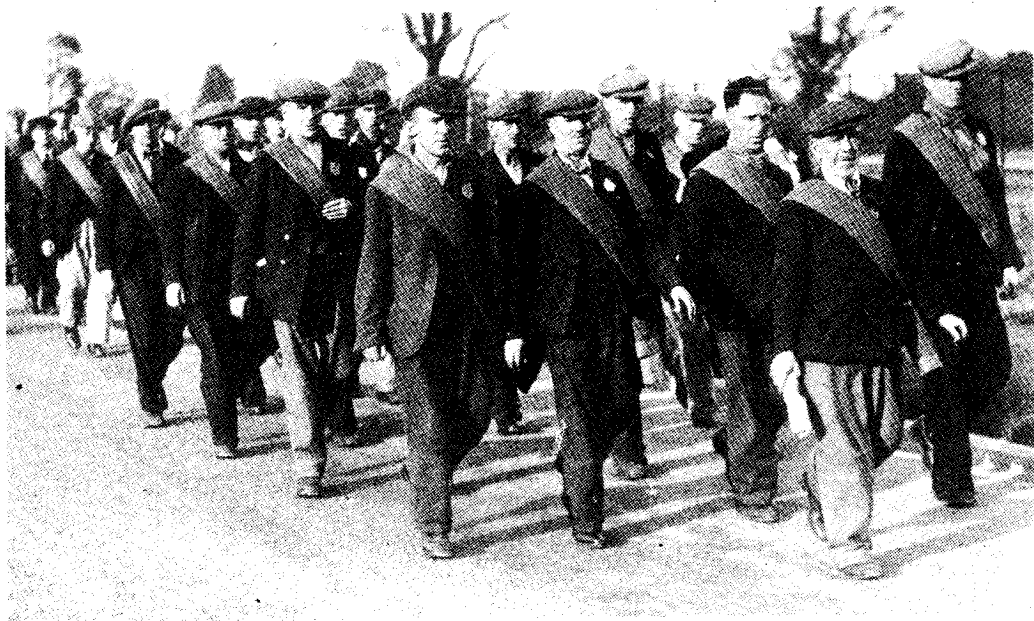
Speaker: Bill Hunter (Liverpool WRP)

YOUTH NEWS

The history of the Young Socialists

PART ONE

The first Labour League of Youth



SOON after the first World War, many youth joined the Labour Party and soon formed many separate Youth Leagues. These were only local groupings because the Labour Party leadership was not prepared to let it have a national or even regional organisation.

They only allowed youth sections at all (in 1924) because of the growth in the Young Communist League.

In 1926 the Labour Party national executive commit-

THE YOUNG Socialists split from the Labour Party in 1964 but to examine completely our history we have to go way back to the 1920s and the Labour Party youth movements. This article is the first of a series by Jolyon Ralph

tee was alarmed at the growth of the Independent Labour Party and especially its youth movement, the ILP Guild of Youth. (The ILP aimed at securing parliamentary and local government representation for the workers by reformist political aims).

After 1918 it put forward policies within the Labour Party opposed to the right wing and eventually broke with it altogether in 1931 (see Trotsky's 'Where is Britain Going' for more on the ILP).

The Labour Party reorganised the remaining 150 youth sections into the Labour League of Youth.

After one year it had over 200 branches. There was no elected national committee (the ILP Guild of Youth had one), or regional committees, and a request for these in 1928 was turned down by the NEC for 'financial reasons', though the next year at a conference a National Advisory Committee was elected to co-operate with the NEC in regards to the youth movement.

In 1931 an official pamphlet said: 'As it is an integral part of the Labour Party, the League does not concern itself with questions of policy.'

Due to the economic collapse of the 1930s and the rise of fascism in much of Europe there was a strong anti-fascism/anti-capitalism feeling among the youth.

The NEC grew worried that more youth were being attracted to the ILP Guild of Youth, so they appointed a full-time national youth officer and produced a youth paper for the first time, the monthly 'New Nation'.

The 'New Nation' was a very dull paper, strictly under NEC control, when the Labour Party was desperately trying to fight the 'menace of Marxism'.

As a result of the struggle inside the LLY for real socialist policies, an unofficial paper, the 'Youth Forum', appeared, edited and supported by left-wingers from the London branches, including Ted Willis.

Backed

Several of its supporters, including Willis, became undercover members of the Stalinist YCL later.

At this time the Stalinists were still opposed to imperialist war, and their 'faction', together with the Trotskyists and other left-wingers, swung the 1934 conference against the NEC policy statement supporting capitalist governments in a war if the League of Nations (the predecessor to the United Nations) backed them.

A resolution rejecting this policy and calling for anti-war committees based on trade unions, co-ops and local Labour Parties was passed by 90 votes to 17. Counter actions were organised against Mosley's blackshirt fascists, and help was given to unemployed hunger-marchers.

● **NEXT WEEK:** Part Two, 1935-1937. Stalinist infiltration and the beginning of the end of the LLY.

SCIENCE NEWS

Debunking pseudo-science

THE attractions of pseudo-science and the paranormal are not hard to find. For most people science is hidden behind a barrage of obscure words and the cult of the infallibility of the expert.

So it is only natural, if not entirely excusable, that when someone comes along who can baffle the experts and tell the audience that they don't have to worry about understanding or explaining what has happened because it is inexplicable by the laws of science, that person will get a sympathetic hearing.

Cults

The explosion of charismatic cults based on pseudo-science rather than

'straight' religion is a phenomenon which can be dated back to the table-rapping spiritualists of the last century.

Their equivalents today believe in virtually anything from ESP (extra-sensory perception) to the Jupiter effect, and claim to base their beliefs on science.

An organisation formed in the United States to expose the non-scientific nature of such claims has had some major successes over the past few years.

One of the major contributing factors to the success is that the organisation, the Committee for the Investigation of Claims to the Paranormal (CSICOP for short) is composed of professional magicians as well as scientists.

As was explained by the

magician The Amazing Randi at a CSICOP meeting held last year in London the tricks used by such charlatans as Uri Geller are more easily exposed by those looking for the trickery than those predisposed to look for the scientific explanations.

Geller has in fact been caught cheating several times, the best publicised being a 'psychic photograph' in which the 'fish-eye' lens picked out his thumb as he removed the lens cap.

Controls

Another test involved the reproduction of a folded drawing sealed in an envelope. In many cases the results produced by 'non-psychic' controls were as good as those produced by Geller.

In some cases drawings which took Geller from 11.5 minutes to nearly an hour and a half, were produced by the control subjects after only five seconds viewing under similar lighting conditions!

Invariably the drawings produced by both Geller and the controls represented only one portion of the originally folded drawing. Being able to view the envelope and contents in the correct lighting is the major factor involved in this type of ESP ability.

Skeptics in Southern California led by members of the physics faculty of the local university have even organised their own fire-walking demonstrations.

Due to the lack of conductance of charcoal it is possible for anyone to walk across

a bed of well-raked-out red-hot coals.

The coals should ideally be spread out evenly over a well watered lawn and the volunteers should walk briskly across them.

Due to the Leidenfrost effect, people with sweaty feet can perform this trick better than other subjects, as an insulating layer of water cuts down on the energy transfer.

The only injury at the above demonstration occurred when one of the more over-confident volunteers stopped in mid-fire-walk to take a photograph of his feet.

More serious however was an incident at a fire-walk organised by a well-healed Southern Californian fakir. He was claiming that participants who took his fire-walking course would gain confidence, stop bed-wetting, premature ejaculation, etc.

Damaged

The event took place on the lawn of a rich sponsor who did not want his pristine lawn damaged. So metal sheets were brought in and the red-hot coals spread over them.

Unfortunately for the participants the laws of physics proved stronger than the mantra they were given to chant by their guru. The conductivity of metal being several orders of magnitude higher than that of charcoal severely burned feet ensued.

Biblical revisionism

IN THE light of the deliberations of leading biblical scholars, Jimmy Reid and other advocates of the 'Sermon on the Mount' will have to do some substantial rethinking.

The so-called Jesus Seminar, meeting in Los Angeles, has decided that Jesus never said 'Blessed are the peacemakers' nor 'the meek shall inherit the earth'.

These basic revisions of

the Christian Holy Book are bound to cause consternation amongst more literal adherents to biblical holy writ as well as those involved in the so-called Christian-Communist dialogue.

Saint Luke is particularly singled out for introducing anything that 'suited his purpose'. Other texts supposedly attributed to the Jewish mystic are subject to an unusual voting system.

Coloured beads are cast as votes representing various degrees of confidence in the

accounts of miracles and the attribution of the various homilies (parables) to Jesus.

A red bead means the voter considers the passage authentic; pink, doubtful but probable; grey, doubtful but unlikely; and black, introduced from another source.

The raising of Lazarus, for instance, was defeated by 11 black to 5 red.

If they are really taking this seriously then the current all-black edition should prove quite good enough.



JAMES REID: Rethinking the sermon on the mount

COMMENT

By Keith Scotcher

IN HIS analysis of the Healy rump's 'Manifesto' last week, Comj Beveridge made a number of errors that I would like to comment on.

Referring to the legal curbs on trade unions, he says, 'This has brought to the fore the weak side of the working class: the grip of the reformist labour bureaucracy.'

Further on, he writes, 'The definite and serious problem of this trade union bureaucracy . . . can only be overcome by the class itself — not by any amount of words and propaganda, as the experience of the miners' strike proved beyond all doubt.'

Formulated in this way, the 'grip' of the bureaucracy is emphasised, even stressed. In fact, the bureaucracy is able to dominate only because of the predominance of bourgeois reformist ideology.

During the miners' strike and especially towards the end, the Workers Revolutionary Party under Healy consistently adapted to the 'left' bureaucracy of the National Union of Mineworkers and made no criticism of it. Party propaganda became a cover for it.

Cde Beveridge's conclusion is to reject 'propaganda' and say that only 'the class itself' can overcome bureaucracy. He quotes Lenin's 'Letters on Tactics' (Collected Works, vol 24 p.43) but failed to heed Lenin's warning later in the same letter:

'It seems to me that these words betray a completely erroneous estimate of the situation. Comrade Kamenev counterposes to a "party of the masses" a "group of propagandists". But the masses have now succumbed to the craze of "revolutionary" defencism . . . Have we not seen how in all the belligerent countries the chauvinists have tried to justify themselves on the grounds that they wished to "remain with the masses" . . .

'Is it not the work of the propagandists at the present moment that forms the key point for disentangling the proletarian line from the defencist and petty-bourgeois "mass" intoxication?' (ibid p54)

What the Workers Revolutionary Party did not do was to develop the method of the Transitional Programme and base its propaganda on it to expose the nature of the leadership.

Cde Beveridge is drawn to the conclusion that workers cannot combine in practice, that 'they have many experiences to go through before they do — including the break-up of the traditional forms of organisation which held them apart on craft and sectional lines,' when in fact the defence of the trade unions and the fight for their independence from the state are key questions in the working class right now. Thousands of workers are forced to struggle on these questions.

The Healy rump does not 'ignore' the bureaucratic union leadership. They opportunistically adapt to it, as we can see from their paper with its building up of Brenda Dean, Tony Dubbins and the rest.

Their 'United Front' with these leaders, creating illusions in them while at the same time demanding a General Strike, is comparable to the role of the Communist Party in the 1926 General Strike.

They cover their nakedness with a fig-leaf of ultra-left rhetoric.

If we counter this position simply by being the super critics of the bureaucracy, along the lines of the Socialist Workers Party, we could not break the working class from this bureaucracy but merely convince ourselves of its 'grip'.

If our most important task is 'to assess accurately the nature and extent of the spontaneous movement of the working class in relation to the employers and the state attacks in each industry', and 'to assist the spontaneous movement of the class to express itself in opposition to the bureaucratic grip of its reformist leadership', we would be in danger of adapting to the spontaneous movement through one-sided empirical impressions.

'Marxism requires of us a strictly exact and objectively verifiable analysis of the relations of classes and of the concrete features peculiar to each historical situation.' (Ibid p42).

These two factors together will determine the forms of practice, transitional demands etc., that we make in order to break the working class from the bureaucracy and raise its political consciousness by overcoming the straitjacket of bourgeois reformism.

By the relations of classes Lenin did not just mean the spontaneous movement. The 'historic concrete features' include economic factors, politics, state forces and so on. We must approach the particular from the general if we are to avoid falling back into the old empirical trap.

Resolution of the 8th Congress of the Workers Revolutionary Party



Defeat British imperialism in north of Ireland

1. This 8th Congress of the Workers Revolutionary Party declares its unqualified commitment to the military defeat of British imperialism in the north of Ireland, its solidarity with the heroic fighters of the IRA who oppose the occupation forces, and the republican prisoners in British and Irish jails.

We commit ourselves to assist in every way the building of a Trotskyist party in Ireland which alone can get over the impasse faced by the Irish working class of bourgeois nationalism on the one hand and reformist treachery on the other.

2. What Lenin wrote in 1916 still holds true:

'A blow delivered against the power of the English imperialist bourgeoisie by a rebellion in Ireland is a hundred times more significant politically than a blow of equal force delivered in Asia or Africa.' (from 'The Discussion on Self-determination Summed Up', collected works vol. 22, p. 357).

We recognise the vital importance of the Irish question from the point of view of the revolutionary struggle of the British working class and for the revolutionary party in Britain. Lenin wrote that Marx fought for Irish freedom.

'not from the standpoint of the petty-bourgeois Utopia of a peaceful capitalism, or from consideration of "justice for Ireland", but

from the standpoint of the interests of the revolutionary struggle of the proletariat of the oppressor i.e., British, nation against capitalism. The freedom of that nation has been cramped and mutilated by the fact that it has oppressed another nation. The British proletariat's internationalism would remain a hypocritical phrase if they did not demand the separation of Ireland.' Collected Works vol. 21, p. 411.)

3. The expulsion of the reactionary Healy clique created the conditions for the WRP to correct its past practices on Ireland. Under Healy the principled stand of many comrades on Ireland was trampled on. Cowardice, opportunism and social chauvinism were encouraged by Healy and others. Congress resolutions which sometimes contained correct phrases were used to cover for inactivity and disinterestedness on the Irish question which reflected the most corrupted arrogance of the British labour aristocracy.

Arrogance

We pledge to wage unremitting warfare against any trace of British imperial arrogance within our ranks. We challenge the wretched spineless Healyites, who are now using the courts to try to smash the WRP's assets; to come clean on Ireland. We condemn the despicable Vanessa Redgrave, who having had the privilege of representing our party at the funeral of the martyr Bobby Sands, now turns in her efforts to attack the WRP, to the same British state which he died fighting against.



The writing on the wall for British imperialism

4. We call for a thorough criticism of the limitations of the section of our 7th Congress perspectives on Ireland. However we stand by the opening points:

'An inseparable part of the British socialist revolution is the united struggle of British and Irish workers to end the British military occupation of the north of Ireland and to reunite Ireland on a secular and socialist basis.'

'The WRP supports unconditionally the 15-year-old political and military struggle of the IRA and Sinn Fein for the national liberation of the north of Ireland and the defeat and eviction of the imperialist armed forces.' (p. 56-7).

courageous individuals who planted the bomb.

6. We fully support the Provisional IRA's military struggle against the British army; furthermore we salute the defiant heroes expressed in the Brighton bombing. Our attitude to such acts of individual terrorism, however, the same as Trotsky's: while we have every sympathy for the valiant individuals involved, we consider this method 'inexpedient in the tasks of the liberating struggle of the proletariat as well as oppressed nationalities', because it denies the role of the working class and the masses.

7. We salute the turn away from individual terror within the Republican movement over the last five years, and the recognition by the leadership that the struggle against the British state is furthered neither by the bombing of civilians nor the futility of hunger strikes. We congratulate the Republican leaders who, by fighting 'with an Armalite in one hand and ballot box in the other have succeeded in uniting the nationalist communities in the north of Ireland behind the armed struggle.

We recognise, however, that only a socialist programme, for the expropriation of capital and the big landowners, north and south, can overcome the deep divisions between Protestant and Catholic workers which present such a barrier to the national and social struggles, and take the working class forward. Such a programme can only be forged in the struggle to build a Trotskyist movement in Ireland.



A central task for the WRP is to constantly expose and condemn the treachery of the British labour and trade union leadership. When in government they organised the state terror machine sending troops into the north in 1969

Under the impact of the economic crisis, and the heavy damage to the northern Irish economy, the material basis for loyalism among Protestant workers is being broken, and conditions exist better than at any time since the struggles led by Jim Larkin to reunite Protestant and Catholic workers.

8. We recognise that the WRP can only develop a fully-worked-out perspective towards Ireland in connection with agitation on the Irish question in Britain, and a turn towards building a section in Ireland.

9. We recognise that Ireland reflects the profound contradictions of the imperialist epoch, expressed theoretically by Trotsky in his work on permanent revolution and Lenin in his writings on the national question.

Future

Both Lenin and Trotsky praised the heroism of the predominantly petty-bourgeois nationalist rebels of 1916. They regarded the future of Ireland as lying fundamentally in the hands of the young working-class movement, represented at that time by James Connolly and the Irish Citizens Army. Lenin wrote:

'The socialist revolution in Europe cannot be anything other than an outburst of mass struggle on the part of all and sundry oppressed and discontented elements. Inevitably, sections of the petty bourgeoisie and of the backward workers will participate in it — without

such participation, mass struggle is impossible, without it no revolution is possible — and just as inevitably will they bring into the movement their prejudices, their reactionary fantasies, their weaknesses and errors. But objectively they will attack capital, and the class-conscious vanguard of the revolution, the advanced proletariat, expressing this objective truth of a variegated and discordant, motley and outwardly fragmented mass struggle, will be able to

unite and direct it, capture power, seize the banks, expropriate the trusts which all hate (although for different reasons!), and introduce other dictatorial measures which in their totality will amount to the overthrow of the bourgeoisie and the victory of socialism.' (Collected Works vol. 22, p. 357).

10. The reactionary role of the Irish bourgeoisie, its complete incapacity to carry through the national struggle, was expressed in the 1922 treaty and de

Valera's capitulation to it. The subservience of Irish premier Garret Fitzgerald supported by the tame opposition of Charles Haughey's Fianna Fail party and the SDLP in the north is a continuation of this rotten tradition. We stand totally on the side of the IRA and Sinn Fein who have rejected the treaty as a means of intensifying repression against the Republican movement.

As the 7th Congress perspectives point out (p. 57) Provisional Sinn Fein

has come into the leadership of the national struggle in opposition to the treachery of the Irish bourgeoisie on the one hand, and the impotence of the Irish labour and trade union leaderships and capitulation by the Stalinists on the other.

11. A central task for the WRP is to constantly expose and condemn the treachery of the British labour and trade union leaders in relation to Ireland. When in government they have enthusiastically organised the

state terror machine (they sent the troops in to the north in 1969, they stripped republican prisoners of their political rights in 1976, they passed the Prevention of Terrorism Act in 1975); while in opposition they continue their nauseating support for the military occupation, for strip-searches, plastic bullets, frame-up trials and every expression of imperialist barbarity, and continue their denunciation of the republican movement.

12. The Prevention of Terrorism Act is used to intimidate thousands of people travelling between Britain and Ireland.

People are held, sometimes for lengthy periods, without trial.

In some cases, detainees have been framed with 'confessions' extracted during that time.

The treachery of the labour and trade union leaders in supporting the PTA is entirely in line with their treachery to British workers fighting to defend jobs and basic rights.

We are resolved to campaign together with all other organisations fighting for the repeal of the PTA.

Commission

13. This conference resolves

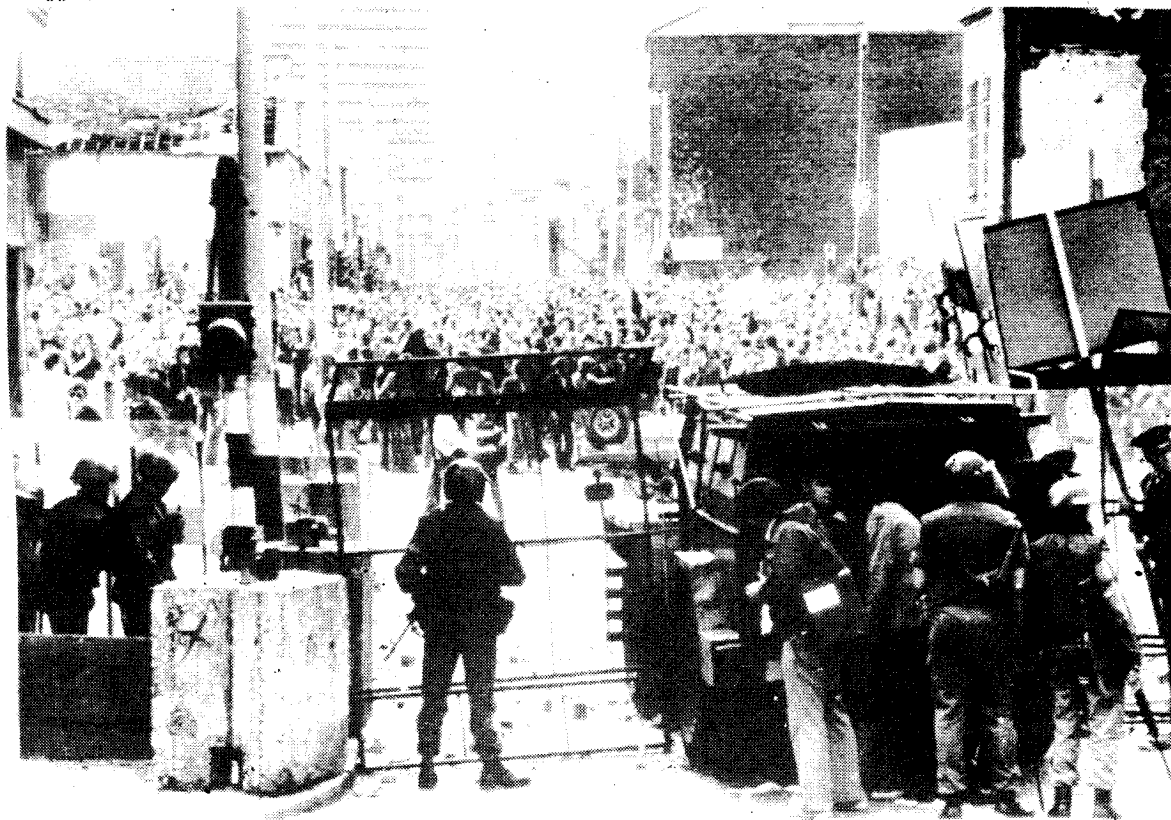
(a) that the CC immediately set up an Irish commission to take charge of work as follows;

(b) to give the maximum possible practical assistance to the building of the Trotskyist movement in

Ireland; (c) to campaign against the Hillsborough agreement and for the defeat of British imperialism; to campaign for the release of all Irish political prisoners and to support the campaign against the strip-searching of women prisoners; to support all actions by genuinely pro-Republican organisations in Britain on the question of prisoners and other issues; to take every opportunity to raise the Irish question in a principled way inside the trade unions and the Labour Party; to conduct relations with the Republican movement within the guidelines laid down by the 2nd Congress of the Comintern;

(d) to encourage publication of material in the party press on Ireland including (i) party statements including specific expressions of support for the military struggle against the British troops when appropriate; (ii) statements by groups sympathetic to the Trotskyism in Ireland; (iii) statements by the Republican movement and its leaders from their press; (iv) news about Irish prisoners and a list of Irish prisoners to be placed alongside the list of jailed miners with an article explaining the relationship; (v) to ensure that party members are educated on the Irish question; that lecture series are organised; articles written; our bookshops stock a full selection of material on Ireland.

14. This Conference resolves that this resolution immediately be published in the party press.



'The socialist revolution in Europe cannot be anything other than an outburst of mass struggle on the part of all and sundry oppressed and discontented elements'. LENIN

Lynn Beaton looks at the Blidworth experience

Women's place in the revolutionary struggle

IN THE LAST two issues of Workers Press we have shown the importance of the role of women in revolutionary struggles around the world.

This week we come home, as it were, and pay tribute to the work of women in the 1984-1985 Miners' Strike.

In closing this series of articles we open a discussion about the relationship between women and the revolutionary party.

BY AND LARGE the lessons of the strike have still to be drawn. It very quickly became something quite different from anything any of us had seen in our lifetimes.

This was not only because it went on for so long, or because it challenged many of the myths which still survive and are the rationale for British excesses, such as the objective fairness of 'British justice'.

It was because the strike was recognised as the essence of a new challenge to British capitalism itself.

Just when it had seemed that the working class had lost its ability to fight in the face of constant attacks from the Tory government, the mining communities took up the cudgels to defend themselves and, in doing so, gave hope and inspiration to the rest of the labour movement.

But the sudden and frustrating end of the strike left us all open-mouthed and gaping. Only one thing was clear.

None of the traditional working class organisations had been able to meet the challenge for leadership made by the mining communities who, in the end, were forced back to work by a demoralising isolation which prevented the struggle being taken any further.

Even so, the strike cannot be seen overall as a total defeat for the miners or the working class. Gains were made — of which one stands head and shoulders above the others:

The political metamorphosis of thousands of working class women who rose to meet the demands put on them and in that process changed from self-professed housewives to dedicated and conscious fighters against capitalism.

I lived for the last six months of the strike in the Nottinghamshire pit village of Blidworth. Because of my own involvement with the situation in Notts and be-

cause that situation was different from most other coalfields I want to make it clear that I am talking specifically about Notts.

Although the rise of women in other coalfields was no less significant, it took a slightly different form.

There were two main reasons why the Notts experience differed from most others. Firstly, the strikers were in a minority and the refusal of the Notts area of the NUM to support the strike meant that the strikers and their families had almost no resources at all except those that they fought for.



In no time at all the women were demanding full participation in the strike itself

Secondly, Notts was seen as the most vulnerable area of the strike; it became the frontline of the battle between the state and the national NUM for the first half of the strike at least.

By the time I arrived there in August 1984, the striking communities were very well organised. At the forefront of this organisation were the women. We are all now familiar with the support groups which were formed in each village.

At first they were seen by the women themselves and the country as a whole as quite traditional, providing food and clothing.

But in no time at all the women in the groups demanded full participation in the strike itself. The support groups had become defence committees which dealt with all aspects of the strike and rapidly took on many separate but related political struggles.

In Blidworth, the first activities of the women were to join the men on the picket lines. From there they started to raise money to provide food and then they realised that they needed a centre in which to cook and serve the food.

Their efforts to secure such a place were frustrated by right-wing Labour Party officials, so they occupied the building they wanted.

Eight women set off to take over the village youth club. None of them had ever been involved in any political activity except voting before.

One of the women told me: 'We couldn't believe they wouldn't let us have it. We felt that it was ours and that our cause was desperate enough so we decided to take it. It was our idea, we didn't even tell the men we were going to do it for fear they might try to stop us.'

As soon as a Centre was established it was understood by everyone that it was to be much more than a soup kitchen.

'We wanted a strike headquarters, somewhere we could all feel at home, hold meetings, organise, plan and administer the strike on a village level.'

Each village had its women's group as well as its NUM branch. A Notts Women's Support Group was set up as an umbrella for the village-based groups.

Every Monday night delegates from the villages

attended a Central Group meeting to discuss the distribution of food, money and clothes and to plan campaigns, rallies, meetings and women's pickets.

In Blidworth, the Blidworth Action Group was led and dominated by the work of the women. Every Friday morning there was an open meeting. Before long the women all participated fully in that, often taking leadership positions, particularly where morale was concerned.

The work involved in running the Centre was full-time work for thirty women. A maximum of 300 families were provided with three meals, seven days a week.

Each woman took on a special responsibility: welfare rights, legal advice and support for those arrested, looking after the money, arranging the menus, shopping, speaking around the country to raise money, cooking and political liaison with a number of different organisations who were supporting the strike or involved in struggle themselves.

As the strike progressed, the capabilities and the confidence of the women grew. They knew instinctively that they were engaged in one of the most important struggles seen in capitalist Britain and they began to develop an awareness of the importance of their role in that struggle.

It was clear that the strength, courage and resourcefulness of the women were vital to the strike's continuation and the women began to earn the men's respect.

To a large extent the men saw the strike in traditional terms. They were committed members of a powerful

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Miners wives in Blidworth, Notts: At first they saw their role as the traditional one of providers of food and clothing

union and were fighting to defend that union in the same way they had always fought attacks on their own organisation. They went picketing, they went to union meetings and rallies.

But the women moved out into the broader labour movement. They travelled up and down the country speaking at meetings, conferences, rallies and demonstrations.

They made links with other organisations fighting against the Tory government and developed a broad political understanding of the class nature of their battle.

Housework

Back in the villages, things were changing. The women were away a lot of the time and men had to take care of the children and take responsibility for the housework.

In the Centre, the men were put onto a roster to peel potatoes and wash dishes.

Outside the mining communities the whole country was rallying with support. Union branches, Labour Party branches, community groups of all sorts and specially set up support groups were working hard to raise money and give moral support.

In all of these organisations, women came forward. The miners' wives were not only bringing inspiration to the men of the pit communities but also inspired women all over the country who flocked to pit villages offering support.

Many of these women also brought with them the ideology of the women's movement and the miners' wives adopted much of it eagerly.

In practice, things had already started to change. Now ideas were coming which gave those changes a meaning beyond the strike.

I don't think there is very much danger that the women from the pit villages will adopt bourgeois feminism. The strike developed a class consciousness of which a bond between the men and women was an integral part.

That bond is one of equality. The women asserted themselves, not in spite of the men or against the men as so many middle class feminists have done.

They asserted themselves to take an equal place alongside the men and they did it in their own way, on their own terms and with the respect of the men.

Perhaps most important of all is that they did it in struggle.

But the main lesson is that women must never be underestimated.

Socialists have tended to treat women in the past as a backward reactionary group within the working class who somehow need some special education on the need for revolutionary change which is not needed by men. Yet there are no historical examples which show this to be true.

At the end of the Second International, it was the women of the German Democratic Party who led the fight for opposition to the war in that party.

Most of those women were won to the Third International and their ideas were instrumental in the formulation of early Soviet policy on women.

But the Stalinist reaction in the Third International rapidly relegated the women activists to a secondary role.

As far as I can determine, the Fourth International and all its claimant sections have done little to change that situation.

Many claimant sections paid some tokenistic heed to the demands of the women's movement which arose in the late 1960s but none of them undertook any real Marxist analysis of them.

The Healy-led International Committee ignored the question altogether, allowing the most backward of bourgeois male-chauvinist practices to become rampant throughout its Sections.

Strike

This whole attitude towards women as a backward and somehow insignificant part of the working class is bourgeois through and through.

At the beginning of the miners' strike it was commonly believed that the women would drive the men back to work.

This view was held not only by the labour movement but was acted on by the government when it tried to starve the women and their children by cutting their Social Security allowances.

Reactionaries everywhere called on the women to 'get

their men back to work'.

In fact, if anything, the reverse was the case. The women of the strike came to understand more quickly and more deeply beyond the need for victory for the NUM to the need for complete social change.

This is hardly surprising. The women had nothing much to gain from a return to their old roles. After all, women are doubly oppressed and so have twice as much to gain.

The revolutionary party must learn to understand and develop work on the special needs of women. Any appeals to the supposed backwardness of women or empty promises of 'a better life after the revolution' will be a waste of time.

Unless women can see a party that is seriously working towards relieving their oppression and treating them with the respect of an equal, why should they be attracted to revolutionary politics?

And unless the party learns to appreciate that often it is women who are the most conscious section of struggles, thousands of opportunities to advance socialist change will be lost.

Any party which can achieve these two necessities will not only be relieving itself of the burden of bourgeois ideology towards women.

It will find itself strengthened and enriched by the enormous capabilities of women as organisers, by their massive resourcefulness, by their intellectual sensitivity and by their unceasing courage.

ST. HELENS
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LETTERS

A socialist development plan for the third world

I WOULD like to join in the discussion initiated by your correspondent Phyllis Maginnis.

She discussed the need for a workers' plan to combat the destitution, hunger and poverty that is the lot of the masses in large sections of the 'free' world.

As I understand it she is suggesting that such plan would also help to solve unemployment in this country as well.

I write as a Labour Party member who has participated recently in informal discussions with fellow Labour Party members along very similar lines to those of Maginnis.

As we see it such a plan should be an integral part of the next Labour government's strategy for creating jobs, a **Jobs for Development** programme as it were.

Approaches should be made to those impoverished third world countries whose leaders are not corrupt stooges of western imperialist powers, and, in collaboration with their own workers' organisations, engineers and economists, a plan for economic development drawn up.

We imagine this plan would heavily emphasise the need for 'appropriate' or 'intermediate' technology, the use of renewable energy sources and so on. Already there exists in this country considerable expertise in this type of technology within certain university and polytechnic departments as well as within the Intermediate Technology Group itself.

This is partly a spin-off from another workers' plan, the Lucas shop stewards' alternative plan, but mainly from the work of people inspired by the ideas of Fritz 'small is beautiful' Schumacher.

This expertise has been

developed largely on shoe-string budgets but we imagine that a massive research and development programme into this type of technology could be commenced which would rapidly generate a wide range of new products in development technology.

This could be funded and the engineering and scientific personnel obtained from the cancelled nuclear weapons programme.

In fact it would be politically sensible to link the cancellation of Trident directly to the funding of this programme.

Parallel and linked to this R&D effort, publicly owned and controlled enterprises should be set up to mass produce development technology products of already proven worth and that are to be part of development plans.

Important

It is of course vital that these enterprises must be under workers' control both to prevent the programme being aborted by state bureaucrats in the interests of their friends in the multinationals, as well as to develop international links of understanding and solidarity within the working class.

Of course, as Maginnis implies, many of these countries will not be able to pay for the 'true' cost of such products, and well have to be given credit.

On the other hand in many cases we already owe these third world countries an enormous



Destitution, hunger and poverty is the lot of the masses in large sections of the free world

debt, particularly in Africa, for the slave trade and the plundering of their natural resources.

Most people would accept this arrangement especially if a public awareness campaign was launched to acquaint people with background history of the imperialist rape of whole continents such as Africa.

The alternative could also be spelled out, namely pouring money down the black hole of a nuclear weapons programme.

One scheme that would allow some countries to 'pay' would be to give us access to their sunlight.

This possibility would be linked to a R&D programme of solar energy which would be necessary if the present highly dangerous nuclear (fission) power programme is to be phased out.

Anyway solar power

is the only long-term solution to the energy problem.

In addition to providing pure energy, solar power can in principle be used to photocatalyse chemical reactions to produce the chemical precursors of fertilisers such as ammonia.

Pilot plants for solar energy projects could be built in the desert areas of Africa, for instance.

A socialist-inspired Jobs for Development

programme would seek to transfer the means of producing this appropriate technology for development to the countries themselves as their technical level rises, but by then more advanced products would also be required as well, and so on.

It would also be essential to avoid the normal mechanisms of international trade and go for direct exchange wherever possible, cutting out the middle-men and other parasitic layers.

Finally your correspondent may be interested to know that the Methodist Church have already made a start in linking unemployment in Liverpool 8 with the need for appropriate technology for development.

Last I heard they were converting a church in Toxteth into a small production plant for making 1 kilowatt Stirling engines designed by the Intermediate Technology Group for export to Upper Volta (Stirling Engines

are external combustion engines which can burn any fuel, e.g. straw).

This is intended to create real training and jobs for local youth. It is a poignant fact that a Church can be more practically internationalist than the official labour movement.

David Hookes,
Political education officer,
Coventry SW Constituency Labour Party

Karl Marx on the national question

MARX'S creative life started from the highest development of Germanic Christian nationalism.

However, his philosophy differed from those originating from the contemporary (c. 1836) Hegelian controversies in two major respects:

1. From the history of science it was shown how the dialectic answered first to the nature of things, not to the nature of thought. Hence, motive matter preceded Spirit and not vice versa;

2. Contrary to the determining 'national spirit' of Hegel, the unity and movement between the political, economic, cultural and all other domains of human life was primarily a dialectical reflection of the organic changes in relationships between economic classes.

Hegel portrayed history as a dialectical progress towards the realisation

of ultimate freedom. However, Marx involved himself in history as part of a dialectical process towards a morally necessary goal, the classless communist society.

In his unfinished biography 'Stalin', Trotsky comments as follows on Stalin's 'Marxism and the National Problem'.

'The author set out by counterposing the historical-materialistic definition of nation to the abstracto-psychological, in the spirit of the Austrian (utopian/reactionary; N.B.) school.

'The nation', he wrote, 'is a historically-formed enduring community of language, territory, economic life and psychological composition asserting itself in the community of culture'.

'This combined definition, compounding the psychological attributes of a nation with the geographic and economic conditions of its development, is not only correct theoretically but also practically fruitful, for then the solution to the problem of each nation's fate must perforce be sought along the lines of changing the material conditions of its existence, beginning with territory'.

However, after counterposing the territorial self-administration of regions in all spheres of social life to the extra-territorial (i.e. the platonic) self-administration of nationalities in matters of 'culture' only, he adds a proviso.

'Segregating the various nationalistic portions of mankind was never our concern. True, Bolshevism insisted that each nation should have the right to secede — the right, but not the duty — as the ultimate, most effective guarantee against oppression.

'But the thought of artificially preserving national idiosyncrasies was profoundly alien to Bolshevism.

'The removal of any, even disguised, even the most refined and practically 'imponderable' national oppression or indignity, must be used for the revolutionary unification rather than the segregation of the workers of various nationalities.

'Wherever national privileges and injuries exist, nations must have the possibility to separate from each other, that thus they may facilitate the free unification of the workers in the name of a close rapprochement of nations, with the distant perspective of the eventual complete fusion of all'.

In the wake of the disorientation following the degeneration and fragmentation of the ICFI, the re-assessment of international relations with the many and diverse revolutionary movements has now become a crucial, urgent and vital task.

Nick Bishop
London

Greetings from Stockport

THE importance of developing the Workers Press along the lines advocated by the Third Congress of the Communist International and Zinoviev's letter is illustrated by a series of articles written by Lenin about the party press.

The Bolshevik Party published Pravda as a daily paper from April 1912 to July 1914. Lenin, writing in August 1912 had this to say about it.

The chronicle of Workers' life is only just beginning to develop into a permanent feature of Pravda. There can be no doubt that subsequently, in addition to letters about abuses in factories, about the awakening of a new section of the pro-

letariat, about collections for one or another field of the workers' cause, the workers' newspaper will receive reports about the views and sentiments of the workers election campaigns, the election of workers' delegates, what the workers read, the questions of particular interest to them, and so on.

The workers' newspaper forum. Before the whole of Russia the workers should raise here, one after another, the various questions of workers life in general and working-class democracy in particular.

Workers Press will not be a newspaper where workers letters and contributions will fill space in some bottom drawer as happened with News Line a la Mitchell. Pravda was a mass workers paper, financed mainly by workers. It had an average daily circulation of 40,000 and in one year it published over 11,000 items supplied by its worker correspondents. This is one aspect of the Workers Press. I am sure it will go from strength to strength and will be as successful as Lenin's Pravda was. Martin Ralph, Stockport

LETTERS

Thatcher's government is not Bonapartism



NAPOLEON III



THATCHER

THE HISTORICAL crisis of capitalism has thrown up yet another crop of revisionists from among those who claim to be Marxists and fighters for the working class.

To the roll of dishonour (which includes such renegades as Bernstein, Kautsky, Stalin and Pablo) we must now add these ex-Trotskyists: G. Healy, M. Banda, C. Slaughter, P. Jones, S. Torrance.

In fact the entire leadership of the WRP must be added to the list, that is until they publicly repudiate the article 'Thatcher's Bonapartism Explained' in the August edition of the monthly journal 'Labour Review'.

The aim of this article is to 'prove' that the present Thatcher govern-

ment in Britain is a Bonapartist dictatorship.

The article claims Thatcher's dictatorial attitude to parliament and attacks on workers' rights is evidence supporting this 'analysis'.

But the main burden of 'proof' rests on two quotations — or to be exact distortions — from the 'Writings of Leon Trotsky, 1934-1935' and 'Whither France' by Trotsky.

The article claims that: 'The Ponting trial, jailing of Tisdall and the threat to witch-hunt civil servants for their politics corroborates what Trotsky said about the Bonapartist Doumergue regime in France in 1934.'

'His government holds itself above parliament. It bases itself not

on the 'democratically' elected majority but directly and immediately upon the bureaucratic apparatus, the police and the army.

'This is precisely why Doumergue can permit no liberty for the civil servants or in general for employees of the state.

'He needs a docile and disciplined bureaucratic apparatus on whose summit he can maintain himself without danger of falling.' ('Whither France', page 5)

This statement constitutes an unprincipled falsification of what Trotsky was actually saying, because the beginning and the end of the quoted paragraph are deliberately omitted.

What Trotsky said in

the omitted sentences was this: 'In France the movement from democracy toward fascism is only in its first stage. Parliament exists, but it no longer has the powers it once had and it will never retrieve them.

'The parliamentary majority, mortally frightened after February 6, called to power Doumergue, the saviour, the arbiter.'

But in the last and most important sentence of the paragraph, Trotsky says:

'The parliamentary majority, scared of the fascists and the "common front", is forced to bow before Doumergue.' (Emphasis added.)

When we read the omitted sentences a completely different picture of a Bonapartist government

emerges, with Doumergue 'called to power' by a 'mortally frightened' parliament in order to save bourgeois democracy from the fascist gangs and the working class upsurge which opposed them.

This description of a Bonapartist government does not reflect the political situation in Britain.

Where are the fascist gangs attempting to dominate the streets, and the workers' organisations opposing them?

Also, it must be said immediately, that it is not a question of whether Trotsky's analysis needs any 'corroboration', but a question of the accuracy of the article in 'Labour Review'.

The article continues with a quotation from the 'Writings of Leon Trotsky 1934-35'. It states: 'And again: A supra-paramilitary government of the big bourgeoisie that creates an equilibrium between the two warring sides, basing itself on the police and the army, is precisely a government of the Bonapartist type.' ('Labour Review', August 1985, emphasis added).

The question immediately raised here is which 'two warring sides'.

There can be no doubt of the forces Trotsky is referring to: the 'fascist gangs' and the workers' 'common front'.

Whereas the two opposing forces the article describes are the struggle

between Thatcher's government, supported by the institutions of the capitalist state such as the courts and the media, on one side, and the workers' organisations on the other.

From a Marxist standpoint, the difference between the two situations described is crucial, because the question of whether or not we have a Bonapartist government in Britain rests on a correct analysis of 'what is'.

The perversion of what Trotsky said by the article in Labour Review is an attempt to show that the analysis by the leadership of the WRP is correct; that Britain has a Bonapartist government, and that a revolutionary situation exists.

To justify their perspective, they are prepared to distort, not only what Trotsky said, but also the real relationship of class forces in Britain.

This falsification is not accidental, it is the logical product of an ultra-left perspective, it is a betrayal of Marxism and the workers' movement.

Because the bourgeoisie is socially and ideologically bankrupt, they depend on this kind of distortion of Marxism to create confusion within the workers' movement. All politically conscious fighters for the workers' movement should oppose it as traitor.

W.A. Peace
Scunthorpe

Leon Trotsky and 'What is to be Done'

A footnote

ON MARCH 6, with an audible sigh of relief, the Healy 'News Line' carried the sixth and last installment of a series by Savas Michael.

It was sad to read these articles, written by someone who used to have some knowledge of Marxism.

To end his series on a high note, no doubt, Michael chose to bring me into his story. I am accused of coming out 'in an attack on Lenin's "What is to be done?"'

Quoting the arguments used by the OCI in the past, he brandishes as the OCI did, the same quotation from Trotsky's biography of Stalin against 'What is to be Done?' (The OCI now named the PCI by the way, is an organisation of French Trotskyists.)

Michael then proceeds, over three columns, to 'disprove' my remark about Trotsky's critique of Lenin's book, using details of a 1946 lawsuit.

Trotsky's widow, together with James P. Cannon, had tried to prevent the publication of the English translation of Trotsky's unfinished last book because the text had been severely distorted by the translator, Charles Malamuth.

Michael says that

Malamuth had 'himself added deliberately the quotation which shows Trotsky to seemingly disagree with Bolshevik centralism and Lenin's "What is to be done?"'

He then quotes at length the statement by the American Trotskyists about the distortions perpetrated by Malamuth of the unfinished portions of Trotsky's 'Stalin', 'from page 239 on'.

A few comments on all this. First of all, I was not talking about 'Bolshevik centralism' which did not exist in 1902, when Lenin's book came out.

Secondly, I did not quote from Trotsky's book at all, but merely referred to his attitude to Lenin's 1902 conception about the origin of revolutionary consciousness.

And third, if I had given the relevant quotation, it would have been as follows:

'According to Lenin's representations, the labour movement when left to its own devices, was inclined irrevocably towards opportunism: revolutionary class consciousness was brought to the proletariat from the outside by Marxist intellectuals.

'This is not the place for a criticism of that concept, which in its entirety belongs in a biography of Lenin rather than of Stalin.

'The author of "What to do?" himself subsequently acknowledged the biased nature, and therefore the erroneousness, of his theory, which he had parenthetically interjected as a battery in his battle against "Economicism" and its deference to the elemental nature of the labour movement.'

This is taken from page 58 of the US edition, published in 1946 and occurs in Chapter 3.

Michael knows as well as I do that Trotsky himself checked the English translation of the first six chapters, and no-one ever challenged their authenticity.

But then, we must remember that Healy had given Michael a job to do, and he had to do his best.

In relation to Lenin's later attitude to his earlier writings, a reminiscence of Karl Radek's written in 1923, might be interesting:

'Like everything else in nature, Lenin was born, has developed, has grown. When Vladimir



LENIN

Ilyich once observed me glancing through a collection of his articles written in the year 1903, which had just been published, a sly smile crossed his face, and he remarked with a laugh:

'It is very interesting to read what stupid fellows we were!'

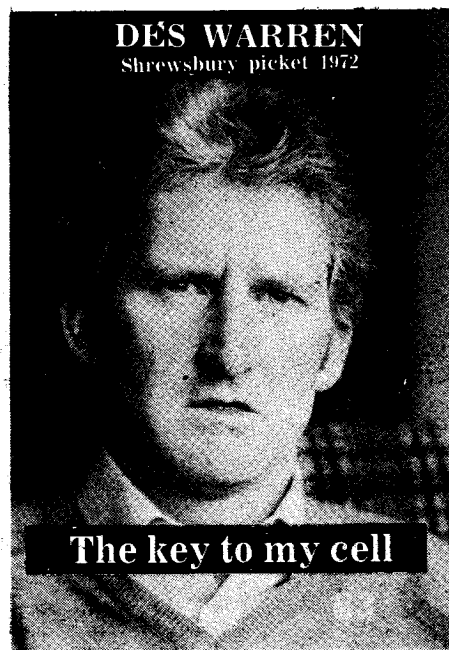
Finally, may I take this opportunity of complaining about the declining standard of invective to be seen in recent issues of the Healy paper.

In this article, for instance, I am called nothing worse than 'the Sancho Panza of the anti-Trotskyist clique'.

I strongly advise Michael to get a fresh supply of abusive epithets from Mitchell.

After all, Cervantes' Sancho is not a bad sort of chap, even if he is a bit simple. It is only his blind loyalty to his mad master Quixote that gets him into difficulties.

Cyril Smith



DES WARREN
Shrewsbury picket 1972

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BOOK REVIEWS

The struggle for the Comintern

SINCE this valuable book has been in print for nearly two years, a word of explanation is due.

It was policy in News Line not to acknowledge any publishing activities under the auspices of the American Socialist Workers Party.

That this 'nest of agents' has managed to produce some very fine books might therefore have escaped the attention of our readers.

'Lenin's Struggle for a Revolutionary International' is a case in point — we take this opportunity to set this on record and thank Pathfinder's London office for supplying a review copy at this late date.

Monad has embarked on an ambitious and timely project: the publication, often for the first time in English, of the principal documents, articles etc. of the Third International.

Except for articles by Lenin, material which has been published before has here been re-translated and annotated. 'Classic' works by Lenin, like 'Imperialism', 'The Collapse of the Second International' etc have been omitted so there is little chance of unnecessary duplication.

Although it is planned to produce a total of four

The Communist International in Lenin's Time, Vol 1, 'Lenin's Struggle for a Revolutionary International' (Documents 1906-1917, the Preparatory Years), Monad, £8.75

BY DAVID BRUCE

volumes covering the period up to the end of the Fourth Congress (1921), this first volume starts with the Stuttgart Congress of 1907 and continues up to the February revolution of 1917.

Many of us will be largely unfamiliar with this material and it makes fascinating and instructive reading. On the Stuttgart Congress, we can compare Lenin's contemporary report:

'On the whole, the Stuttgart Congress brought into sharp contrast the opportunist and revolutionary wings of the international Social-Democratic movement on a number of cardinal issues and decided these issues in

the spirit of revolutionary Marxism.

with Zinoviev's 1916 reappraisal, written with Lenin's approval:

'The revolution of 1905 did not triumph. But it did awaken the peoples of Asia and blew a fresh wind of freedom even into Europe

'By that time, (1907) however, opportunism had in essence already won the upper hand in the International

'The revolutionary Marxists, whose representative was Rosa Luxemburg, were only a small minority at Stuttgart. The opportunists and "Centre" indisputably made up the overwhelming majority.

'But the logic of the situation was on the side of the revolutionary Marxists. Only they consistently defended the interests of millions of workers of all countries.

'And the working masses, who were invisibly present at the congress, compelled the official leaders of the Second International to adopt much of what the revolutionary Marxists proposed through the words of Rosa Luxemburg.'

The second section is called 'Resisting the Threat of Imperialist War' and concentrates on the developments in German social-democracy (SPD) from 1907 to 1914.

Pressure on the SPD caused by German colonial expansion was highlighted by the notorious 'Hottentot' election which followed genocidal massacres of Herero and Khoikhoi tribes. They had rebelled against German rule in 1906 in what is now Namibia.

The opportunist wing argued that electoral safety lay in avoiding the contentious subject of foreign policy while the revolutionaries

sought to overcome bourgeois influence in the working class on the colonial and military questions.

The general history of sections three to nine will, perhaps, be better known as it covers the period from the collapse of the Second International through the formation of the 'Zimmerwald Left', its internal evolution and the months preceding the February revolution of 1917.

Nevertheless, this material is invaluable. Documents are reproduced from Kautsky and other of the chauvinist social-democrats in Germany.

We can read leaflets published by the Petrograd Bolsheviks in 1915 showing a clearly defeatist line (calling for the imperialist slaughter to be turned into a civil war against the Russian bourgeoisie).

Slogan

There is priceless material from the German Internationalists Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg and from the Russian Bolshevik Shlyapnikov as well as the debate on the 'United States of Europe' slogan, etc.

Particularly pertinent are three articles from Trotsky, Radek and Lenin on the Easter Rising of 1916, reproduced in the section, 'The Discussion in the Zimmerwald Left'.

Lenin and Trotsky appraise the significance of the Easter Rising somewhat differently. Trotsky says that:

'The historical basis for a national revolution has disappeared even in backward Ireland.'

But adds:

'Thus, the "national revolution" in Ireland too has amounted in practice to a workers' revolt ...'

He pours scorn on Plekhanov's 'praise' of the Irish peasantry's failure to support the Easter Rising.

Radek claims that:

'As something that could endanger Britain's international position, the Irish question is played out.'

Lenin replied with his customary precision and polemical skill:

'Many comrades, who were not aware of the morass they were sinking into by repudiating "self-determination" and by treating the national movements of small nations with disdain, will have their eyes opened by the "accidental" coincidence of opinion held by a Social-Democrat (the phrase here meaning a revolutionary) and a representative of the imperialist bourgeoisie!'

In view of the current discussion in the WRP on our position on the Irish national liberation struggle, which is more akin to Radek's than either Lenin's or Trotsky's, the discussion on self-deter-



Lenin

mination alone justifies buying this book.

Also relevant to this discussion is the record of the debate in the German party. A section of the Reichstag deputies (MPs), under pressure from the Spartacists (the communist wing of the Social-Democratic party) and of the movement of the working class against the hardships of the war, voted not to continue war credits.

Liebknecht's response was characteristically firm and swift:

'A policy that rejects principled internationalism ... adheres to the concept of national defence and makes supporting or opposing the government and the war dependent on the current military situation or on some kind of declaration of war aims differs from that of the party majority only by being less consistent.'

The book ends with a section called 'Toward the New International'. At the time, Zinoviev wrote:

'Every attempt to re-establish the (Second) International through a mutual amnesty by the discredited opportunist leaders is ... a plot against socialism.'

Position

Lenin and others explained 'that a split is inevitable' and appealed to the best elements of the old International to break from a vacillatory position. The slogan clearly was:

'For the Third International!'

This first volume in the series is more than welcome. John Riddell's editing is excellent and the translations are clear and accessible. The notes are short but comprehensive.

A selection of illustrations is included together with an index, glossary and a detailed chronology.

It is a pity that a few extra pence on the price was not allowed for thread-sewing — this book is an invaluable reference not only for historians but for revolutionaries studying a vital period in our history.

This copy, at least, will take a battering in the months to come.

Note:

Volume II is scheduled for June this year and will comprise relevant documents covering 1918 and 1919. Volume III, due in September, is to reproduce the entire proceedings of the First Congress.

Recommended to all readers of 'Workers Press'.



Rosa Luxemburg speaking at a mass meeting in 1907, flanked by portraits of Lassalle and Marx

Side by side, women organise

THE video, Side by Side Women Organise, was made in co-operation with Notts Women Against Pit Closures groups and documents the way in which they came into existence to defend their communities during the 1984-85 miners' strike.

The struggle is related by the women themselves in conversation, poetry and songs; many of the women describing how they became aware of class and sexual politics as a result.

Anger and bitterness at the betrayals of the TUC and Labour Party leaders is

mixed with the women's new-found confidence and determination to fight and win.

Whilst the media were portraying the Notts strikers as isolated and depressed, (when they reported their existence at all), 'Side by Side' shows a different picture.

A picture of newly-forged women's strength and community spirit, of links made with other mining communities from Scotland to Kent and with women trades unionists and other

socialists all over the world, reflecting the parallels many women drew between their struggle and the struggle of other oppressed peoples both here and internationally, from Britain to Ireland, Nicaragua and South Africa.

The formation of Women Against Pit Closures, a mass working class women's movement which understands that the struggle continues not just for the mining communities but for oppressed people worldwide, is arguably the most positive

development from the strike.

Women Against Pit Closures is in the forefront of the National Justice for Mineworkers Campaign and other solidarity work for the miners.

'Side by Side' is a valuable record of their struggle and should be useful in countering Coal Board propaganda and continuing solidarity.

It is available on VHS for sale (£10) or hire (£4) with all profits going to Women Against Pit Closures. All enquiries to: The Other Side Video Collective, 29 Lees Hill Street, Sneinton, Nottingham NG2 4JW, or phone Nottingham Video Project, Nottingham 470356.

BOOK REVIEWS

EPIC STORY OF GREEK WOMEN'S RESISTANCE

Greek Women in Resistance, by Eleni Fourtouni, Thelphini Press, distributed by Ailift Books, £5.95

IN 'Greek Women in Resistance' Eleni Fourtouni tells of the heroic struggle by the women in Greece, their participation in the resistance against the Nazis during the second world war and the civil war from 1944-49.

She allows the women to speak for themselves, linking their personal accounts, journals, poetry and drawings, with a brief narrative history and photographs.

The carefully selected material is the result of the tremendous effort by Fourtouni since 1974, to collect and make public the history and role of Greek women.

Until the right-wing military regime of the colonels fell in 1974, the official policy was to pretend that this whole episode of Greek history never happened.

The resistance against the Nazis and the civil war were omitted from the history textbooks, members of the resistance were called 'bandits' and their struggle 'the bandits war'.

In 1981 when the new Pasok government declared a general amnesty for those

WOMEN WARRIORS

Nuyen Ti Soy

She's walking all alone in the jungle
a machete in one hand
to cut down branches
and startle away poisonous snakes
in the other, her gun between her breasts grenades
She's come to set traps far away from her comrades
She's become a beast in the jungle
She's weaving traps with slender fingers
that also know how to embroider lotus flowers
and birds-of-paradise
Her slenderness, her frail strength know the fear
of formidable men armed to the teeth with the arts of war
she knows the whole jungle, step-by-step
her brothers had planned to make a farm there
She's stepping along the rice paddies
she's hiding she's stalking,
she's crawling in the mud of the rice paddies
her hands hold her gun up, dry
her white teeth hold her braid, clean
and deep in her heart
she holds her death.

Victoria Theodorou, from Picnic, Greek Women Poets p14

who had been exiled, there were still 100,000 ex-partisan Greeks living in Eastern Europe.

Most have now returned and the part they played in the resistance during that period is finally being recognised and debated.

The tremendous upheavals caused by the invasion of Mussolini's troops, the Nazi occupation during World War II and the following civil war were accompanied by

immense ferment for social change.

EAM, the National Resistance Front and its military wing ELAS, not only fought against the Germans but under the pressure of the Greek working class and peasants also aimed to carry out a social revolution.

In 1943, they controlled most of Greece apart from the large cities. An entire administration was set up in the unoccupied areas, bringing school, law courts, medical services and theatre performances to remote mountain villages which had never known such amenities.

During the war 'for the first time in the history of Greece, in the ranks of the Resistance movement women and young people were treated as the equals of adult men, at home, at work, in strategic planning, and in danger and sacrifice'.

Women's new role was recognised by the government of the mountains and they were granted extensive civil rights — the right to vote, the right to choose



The women warriors — one of the excellent photographs by Spiros Meletzis

where they lived, the right to equal child custody, the right to choose a profession and to divorce.

After the war all these gains were lost and members of EAM were harassed and persecuted. For although EAM-ELAS in 1944 controlled most of the country and possessed superior arms, manpower and popularity, it made no attempt to take over the government.

Instead the leadership made a series of concessions to the British on the treacherous advice of Stalin, and agreed to submit to the government in exile backed by the British.

Thus Britain ensured the restoration of the monarchy and the return to a form of government suitable to its imperialist interests.

Greece was needed both as a buffer zone against communist encroachment in the Middle East and to contain Soviet power in Eastern Europe.

The royalist government broke its promise to grant an amnesty for all political

crimes and to remove from the police force all Greeks who had collaborated with the Nazis during the occupation.

Instead, the ELAS supporters faced mass arrest and whole villages were terrorised by right-wing gangs.

The partisan fighters, men and women, were in no mood to surrender and they regrouped in the mountains determined to continue the fight.

Defeat

The result was a civil war in which 25,000 partisans fought an organised state army of 263,000 until final defeat in 1949.

Whole villages were 'relocated' to eliminate support for the guerilla forces and napalm was used on American instructions for the first time in any war.

Women were in the thick of the battle. Captured women partisans or suspected sympathisers were hanged or sent into concentration camps like the women-only

settlement on the island of Trikeri. Ages ranged from children to women in their seventies.

Although they lived under the most brutal conditions, their morale was high. They started to organise all aspects of their lives, holding musical evenings, lectures on art and history and literacy classes. These camps were in operation until the early fifties.

From the seven journals kept by women internees, Eleni Fourtouni has chosen three, the importance of which lies for her 'not so much in their description of torture, endurance, or submission, but in their account of the resistance behind the barbed wire — an experiment in social organisation under conditions of unmitigated oppression'.

A powerful book — and a proud tribute to the Greek women. Their courage and sacrifice will continue to inspire and strengthen revolutionary struggles not just in Greece but all over the world.



Woman with water — drawing by Katerina Harlani-Sismani

Memoirs of a Long Kesh internee

'An Interlude with Seagulls' by Bobby Devlin. 'Information on Ireland' £1.50

BOBBY DEVLIN was arrested in 1972 on suspicion of being a terrorist; he had committed the crime of carrying an alarm clock.

For this he spent the next two years in Long Kesh concentration camp (the Maze Prison). The significance of the title is explained on the first page of this 63-page booklet.

'Whenever I see the majestic movements of a seagull in

flight, my mind drifts back in time and conjures up a vivid image of an awful place called Long Kesh.'

To Bobby Devlin and the thousands of others interned in British jails the seagull represents the freedom that is denied them. They were subject to frequent army raids which were accompanied by brutality and humiliation.

There was the pain and grief of failed escape attempts, suicides and all

the other horrors that incarceration brings.

But here Devlin concentrates on the humour of the internees which 'helped us to do our time or, in other words, it prevented us from cracking up.'

Many of the incidents are amusing and entertaining, such as the fake priest who took confession from the new internees.

One day someone was set up to confess to sleeping with

the priest's daughter which nearly resulted in the newcomer being beaten up by the irate 'clergyman'.

'An Interlude with Seagulls' is an enjoyable insight into the lives of the internees. It is well written in a clear, straightforward style.

It is also a useful reminder that the British ruling classes and their agents have no respect for 'human rights'.

'Many of the ex-internees will never recover from a nervous disturbance which was caused by just being there.'

Neil Dempsey

Workers Press

The shooting of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme

Saturday March 22 1986. Newsdesk 01-720 6784

MURDER HUNT LEADS RIGHT

BY CHARLIE POTTINS

Police hunting the assassin of Swedish premier Olaf Palme last week arrested a 32-year old Swede involved in a far-Right-wing organisation, charging him with participation in the murder.

The arrest of Ake Lennart Viktor Gunnarson, said to have been behaving suspiciously near the scene just after Palme was killed, ran counter to earlier press speculation that the killing might be the work of Middle Eastern or other foreign radical groups exiled in Sweden.

Holmer is reported to have hosted meetings of a right-wing Swedish group in his flat. Police took away anti-Palme literature as evidence. A spokesman for the right-wing so-called Swedish Workers' Party — a branch of the 'European Workers Party' — acknowledged Gunnarson

AS SPECULATION mounts over the identity of the killer of Swedish premier Olaf Palme, our correspondent CHARLES POTTINS looks at the political background of the right-wing suspect Ake Gunnarson and investigates the international links of Swedish far-right groups, particularly with the USA.

had been a member, 'for several months at the beginning of 1985', but said he was no longer with them.

Tens of thousands of Swedish workers, with red banners, marched in the Social-Democrat leader's funeral procession last Saturday. The coffin was drawn through the Stockholm streets by twelve Young Socialists.

Palme's neutralist foreign policy was resented by United States cold-warriors and their European, including Swedish, cohorts.

Unlike British Labour premier Wilson, the Swedish Social-Democrat opposed the Vietnam war and Sweden became a refuge for many GI war-resisters. In recent years, Swedish neutrality has been put to the test by

several incidents with alleged Soviet submarines.

Despite its liberal and reformist traditions, the country also has several small but highly active neo-Nazi and far-Right groups, some with US connections.

The most obviously extreme is the Nordic Reich Party, one of whose members was charged two years ago with illegal purchase and stockpiling of guns and ammunition.

In a murder case, also in 1984, two Nordic Reich members confessed to having tortured a man from whom they wanted money, carving a swastika in his chest before strangling him to death.

Another far-Right organisation, combining 'respectable' racism and 'law and order' talk with

harassment of immigrants, provocations and Klan-style cross-burnings, calls itself 'Keep Sweden Swedish'. Both this group and the NRP also operate through several front-organisations.

However, perhaps the most bizarre outfit on Sweden's far-Right fringe, which some press reports have claimed may be under police investigation, is neither Nazi nor Swedish in its original inspiration. The Swedish Workers' Party has occasionally claimed credentials on 'the Left'.

Behind it is a strange American political adventurer called Lyndon H la Rouche, also known as Lyn Marcus, who emerged about 20 years ago from the radical Students for a Democratic

Society (SDS).

After a time in the Socialist Workers' Party (US), he broke with them to found a 'National Caucus of Labor Committees', later calling itself the US Labour Party.

The 'Marcusites', as la Rouche's followers used to be known in the States, were assumed to begin with to be just a rather zany brand of ultra-Left cult, until they started going around systematically breaking-up Left-wing meetings, and physically attacking members of the Communist Party and Trotskyist organisations.

The line taken by la Rouche was that 'these organisations are working against the genuine left and are controlled by the FBI.'

As the Left in America assembled its dossiers on the 'Marcusites', it also noted the revelations of Senate inquiries on how the FBI actually works to disrupt targeted organisations through infiltration and provocations.

Today, la Rouche runs an expensive subscription-only magazine called 'Executive Intelligence Review', mixing 'inside info.' tit-bits with grand 'Soviets and International Finance' variety.

In October last year, la Rouche's 'Executive Intelligence Review' held a launch meeting in London. This time there was no pretence at being of the Left.

According to a report in the anti-fascist journal 'Searchlight', guests included Ukrainian right-wing emigres, SAS-founder Colonel David Stirling, Hugh de wourcy of the World Anti-Communism League, and Lady Jane Birdwood, notorious racist anti-immigration campaigner.

An enthusiastic supporter of 'Executive Intelligence Review' in the US is said to be Norman Bailey, of the National Security Council. There has been talk of EIR people in the US getting firearms training.

We will be watching to see just how far the Swedish police investigations go, and how much of the tangle of right-wing intrigue and conspiracy in Europe is brought out into the light.



OLAF PALME

Waldheim's bid to hide Nazi past

KURT WALDHEIM who is standing for the Austrian presidency in May was accused last week of having concealed his membership of the SA (the Brownshirts) and the Nazi Students Union.

The allegations against Waldheim, who was United Nations Secretary General from 1972 to 1982, first came to light some four weeks ago.

Since then, the WJC (World Jewish Congress) has published documents and photographs from the Austrian government archives showing that, from 1942 to 1944, Waldheim served with the Nazi High Command, which committed the most atrocious war crimes in Greece and Yugoslavia.

Waldheim has admitted

that he had worked on the staff of General Alexander Lohr, who was executed after the war as a war criminal for murdering Yugoslav civilians.

However, he has denied that he had ever knowingly belonged to a Nazi organisation claiming that the 'documents showing his SA membership were probably a bureaucratic error made because he had ridden with a club later incorporated into the SA'.

His denials were backed up by the right-wing Austrian People's Party which sponsored his candidature.

In his autobiography, Waldheim omits all reference to his military service in Salonika, claiming he was studying law at the time, according to the Austrian magazine 'Profil'.



KURT WALDHEIM

Simon Weisenthal, the Austrian Nazi hunter, says that, contrary to published reports, he believes Waldheim is lying

about his past.

The WJC called Waldheim's hidden past 'one of the most elaborate deceptions of our time.'

RELEASE THE JAILED MINERS

NORTHUMBERLAND

WILLIAM SMITH: Whittle — 2½-year sentence from February 1985. E44975, Durham Jail, Old Elvet, Durham DH13HU.

DURHAM

JOHN MATTERSON: Murton — Two years and three months youth custody from December 1985.

JOHN HEMINGWAY: Murton — One year and three months from December 1985.

JOHN ROBSON: Murton — One year and three months from December 1985.

ROBERT HOWE, 22, miner, affray, attempted not guilty (judge refused to allow change of plea), 21 months

ANTHONY RUTHERFORD, 24, miner, affray attempted not guilty, 18 months

JOHN ROBINSON, 21, affray, attempted not guilty, 18 months jail

GARY BLACKMORE, 19, charge affray, attempted not guilty, 2 years youth custody

ANTHONY HOWE, 19, affray, attempted not guilty, two years youth custody

WILLIAM BELL, 20, affray, attempted not guilty, 18 months youth custody

YORKSHIRE

MARTIN HODGSON: Wakefield — Three-year sentence from November 1985. Armley Jail, Leeds.

NIGEL HODGSON: Wakefield — Three-year sentence from November 1985. Armley Jail, Leeds.

PAUL WRIGHT: Saville — 18-month sentence. G76424 Kirkham Jail, Freckleton road, Preston Lancs.

CLIVE THOMPSON: Frickley — Three-year sentence from April 1985. G79348, Ackington Jail, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 9XF.

N. DERBYSHIRE

PAUL BROTHWELL: 12-month sentence.

DAVID GAUNT: Shirebrook — 2½-year sentence from December 1984. E71037, A Wing, Millers Park Youth Custody Centre, Dodington Road, Wellingborough.

KENT

TERRY FRENCH: Betschanger — Four-year sentence from January 1985. B73383, Weald Wing, Maidstone jail, Kent

CHRIS TAZEY: Betschanger — Three-year sentence from January 1985. A29398 Youth Detention Centre, Springfield Road, Chelmsford

SOUTH WALES

DEAN HANCOCK: Oakdale — Eight-year sentence. Gartree maximum security prison, nr Market Harborough, Leicesters.

RUSSELL SHANKLAND: Taff Merthyr — Eight-year sentence. Gartree maximum security prison, Leicesters.