SUPPORT Mansfield Hosier striker
RACE PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION exists in Britain and on a very serious scale. Only people who go around and whose ears stuffed up will deny it. Black people have to live with it daily.

This is common knowledge and will come as no surprise to most people. But that there has long been a system in a Loughborough factory akin to South Africa’s Apartheid — that will surprise many.

At Mansfield Hosier, near Loughborough, 600 Asian workers have been on strike against this system. Their strike has brought to the attention of the labour movement a factory whose labour force has been rigidly divided according to race of the workers. The higher paid knitting jobs are exclusively reserved for whites (wage £20 plus). Indian workers are restricted to lower paid work (wage £20 plus).

This has been a long, deliberate company policy and disguised and known to the National Union of Hosiers and allied workers, while allegedly — defends the interests of all its workers. In fact it has collaborated closely with the employers to maintain this system.

The strikers are demanding a 25p per week rise for bar loaders, and equal opportunity for the Asian workers to progress to the higher paid jobs now reserved for whites only. After weeks on strike in defiance of a no-strike, strike-breakers, and trade union leadership, which was heavily contaminated by racism, the men occupied the union office.

But after the strike was hastily made official, on December 5th, then the union led the men back to work, having agreed a wage increase and, it appeared, agreement that the factory’s “Apartheid” system would remain.

Far from equal opportunity now being theirs, the Asian workers were immediately put on short time — while all the whites, including the 41 trainees, were to continue working full time! So, once again men walked out.

The strikers now demand that the 41 be transferred or suspended. Already there have been fights on the picket line between the white workers and the strikers. And the Government has set up an inquiry into the affair.

An inquiry — yes! But what is this rotten Government to do up an inquiry — this Government whose recent anti-immigration laws set the tone for the billy-baller and the monger; this government which protects the interests of skin-head racists such as the Mansfield Hosiers bosses.

No. The working class, whose militi is white, black and brown, are demanding this disgusting Government, let the inquiry — and inquire...

PREPARE NATIONAL STRIKE NOW

NOW ITS £50,000! THAT'S THE AMOUNT OF THE FINE IMPOSED on the A.U.E.W. by the National Industrial Relations Court on 6th December. Mr. James Goad, a Tory and a former Baptist preacher, presently a quality controller at CAV Radiator, went to the NIRC demanding his “rights” under the Act that even boys called, from the start, a “scab’s charter”.

And how that title suits this man Goad! He has not only more than once fallen into sufficient errors to be lapsed by this branch, he has scabbed on a strike.

This is the kind of “trade unionist” the Tories’ law was designed to protect — the scab and the crawler.

After their principled refusal to recognize the NIRC under any circumstances, the A.U.E.W. is continuing its intransigence. Every trade unionist must give them complete support so long as this is the case.

Union branches have also taken a stand. Chatam and Erith district committee have called for industrial action if more than the initial fine (of £5000 and £1000 costs) is imposed. The same resolution was passed at the mid-Lanark shop stewards’ quarterly, and at the Guildford and Pambourgh shop stewards’ quarterly. Calls on the TUC for support have come from many workers’ organizations including the Heathrow Airport shop stewards’ consultative committee.

On Teesside the Redcar no. 2 branch of the A.U.E.W. resolved that “This branch fully supports the Executive Council in their stand against the NIRC. We are, therefore, withdraw our branch funds in preparation for a fight against further sequestration of national funds by the government.”

This branch is providing the union with protection; it is aiming itself for the fight against the Tory manumissions; it places a firm weight of rank-and-file pressure behind an intransigent stand.

CONTINUED p.2, col.1
LACKENBY: WHY THEY WENT BACK

On Wednesday 6 December a mass meeting of strikers from the giant Teeside steelworks at Lackenby, the Cosham Hotel, Redcar, and decided by two to one to return to work.

1200 men went on strike when one shift was taken off pay after they had blocked a section of the works because of a dispute arising out of the lockout of the miners.

This action had been imposed to support a claim for parity with miners in South Wales whose pay is £8 per week more for jobs of a similar nature. The Lackenby men were understood to be the only group of steel workers who are at present in the newly organised nationalised industry are still divided by wages, conditions, and parity claims.

The return to work decided on Wednesday is a real setback. The Lackenby men are going back with no meaningful change in the situation and a new form of service. They are not going back with any understanding that the party claim should be taken up by all steel workers if it is to become the new so-called nationalised industry are still divided by wages, conditions, and parity claims.

The claim must have been made on a lack of support from other sections of the steel industry in the Teeside area. Or on the right-wing trade union officials who want a better service for the men working on the lines and typical of quite a revolutionary thinking—blaming the masters of the workers without looking to see how the Marxist revolutionaries have actually made the situation and why they didn't.

Incidentally, the reason I can say this with some fear that the mass from p.1

AUEW FINES

by the Executive. It is calling on other branches to follow it.

The establishment press tirelessly points out that "justice" is on the side of the AUEW and that is why they should go to the court and proceed with their action. This is Absolute refusal to go before the NIRC to accept its judgments as well as commitment to fight back is the only correct course.

Meanwhile the workers at CAV Huddersfield have taken the first step to their own hands and, on the threat of industrial action, demanded that CAV get rid of Chad. CAV has put him on leave without pay at present—a situation which seems

HEALTH WORKERS DECIDE FOR NATIONAL ALLIANCE

A tremendous boost for QMED in the service was given on 3 December when a full day's strike by a national conference of rank and file nurses, doctors, and members of the National Health Service decided to join the National Alliance.

The meeting of the All ranks, in the presence of the first secretary, was attended by representatives from all parts of the country. The National Secretary, who was present, called for a positive fight for a decent standard of living and a really militant union. On the 3rd December the LASH (London Alliance of Strikers in Health Services) was formed to press for a national conference of rank and file nurses, doctors, and members of the National Health Service decided to join the National Alliance.
Military aid

Aid for being "morose" as Moscow asserts, the military aid Moscow provides Hanoi is insufficient to prevent Vietcong attacks on Washington's bombing. It is not that Mos-
cow lacks the will; it is just that it has no desire to do so.

By DICK ROBERTS

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cow lacks the will; it is just that it has no desire to do so.
BARBARIC TEN YEAR SENTENCE IN S. NEWTON TRIAL

AT THE GOING RATE

The going rate for workers' lives in the construction industry is (if the bosses plead guilty) £100. This is the most they are fined for negligence. If the worker only breaks his back, then they are only fined an average of £30.

"They're not interested in our safety, it's all production, production," said one construction worker to the "World in Action" television team. But the "World in Action" programme now shows that the "Anchor Project" at Southerham is the most appalling site in the country. That is not so.

Most of the sites up and down the country are cluttered with the bones of workers.

It is one industry where even the society inspectors have accidents. The big sites are riddled with small firms who are making huge profits out of the lives of these workers.

On one occasion why the sites are cluttered with steel, making them unsafe, is the "hurry up", "make a name for yourself" type of construction foreman. Instead of bringing the BS88, standards, etc., from abroad or abroad, he has ordered them on the site. If he is needed, he has torn plied systemsteel on the floor. This is not being done on the site. This saves the crane movement, and therefore money for the firm. But, under these conditions, when a worker needs to move quickly to avoid injury, he finds it impossible.

Workers such as industrial painters have a particularly high death and accident rate. Some of them labour under the most hazardous conditions - on the ladders and splintered scaffolding planks. All ladders and planks should be

lashed securely. Painters very rarely lash either. Usually they have a choice of working in the unsafe conditions or finishing another job.

One area was cleared up by four

thieves a few months back - in honour of a visit from Lord McKinnon. It is now known to the workers as "McKinnon Road".

ORGANISATION

There are a few very organised sites. Generally speaking, site-makers, fitters, steel electricians, mechanised fitters and other sections of organised workers are reasonably safe. But still the mortality rate is alarming.

The only way for the workers to get safe working conditions is to organise the site with safety rank and file safety committees. Permanent safety inspectors should be elected by the workers and must be fully trained in safety conditions.

Until this is done the death rate will not decline. It hasn't declined over the last twenty years. Workers' lives will be lost, like the life of 17-year old Larry Leman, who worked on the "Anchor Project". (There is some compensation for the profit-hungry bosses, in that he honestly didn't go to the dependents, and so they won't have to pay out compensation). The "World in Action" team said that "BBS have laid down the challenge that it is the safest site in the country". The workers have taken up this challenge with their fists and proven the profit-hungry murderers to be liars.

FRAN BROOKE

MAOISTS AND MIDDLE CLASS VOTE FOR U.S. PLAN

Last Saturday, Conway Hall echoed with handclapping to the chant of "Victory to the PRG!" as Ly Viet Nham of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, concluded his speech to the 400-strong Indochina Solidarity Conference.

But this note of militancy and determination, which was to run through the rest of the conference, was tempered by the International Marxist Group, Workers' Fight, a number of Maoist groups and assorted middle-class liberals.

During meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee before the conference, the IMG and Workers' Fight had argued for a position of "Victory to the NLF with a line rejected by the majority of the committee, in the interest of a peaceful support for the peace negotiations.

At the conference both positions were put forward, and after debate

the committee majority line was carried by 124 to 104 votes.

Whereas the Vietnamese may have been reduced to a conscripted, a compromise which they more than any other liberation force in the world still have the right to make, we in Britain have no right to make the same compromise. There are no bombs left on Conway Hall, or on the wealthy North London homes of some of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Marvin Kavamsah.

WHILE IN VIETNAM...

Meanwhile, the American B52s are continuing to bomb the North with greater intensity than ever be

Before. Luke is reported to be softening his position on the PRG in the NLF, as will as well he can afford to. This is the same group that, it now seems to be

that the PRG has to insist on the withdrawal, of the armed forces, North and South Vietnam. He has yet to lay his previous illusion on complete withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops to the North.

On 25 November, the Paris paper "Monde" reported a speech of a delegation to the National Liberation Front, occurring on 20 November, in which they had promised to negotiate with the Provisional Revolutionary Government, but "Le Monde" reported the futility of the talks and the possibilities of a settlement if it's not possible to strike it off.

The story is that 1000 fighters are to be occupied by the leadership of the PRG and the NLF with the aim of eliminating the "counter-insurgents". The leaders

escaped, however, and on the 18th November the rebel army was put down by troops headed by Tran Van Trang, Minister of Defence in the PRG, and a man whom the rebels had hoped for support. The rebellion is reported to be of the by the military wing of the South Vietnamese Communist Party to the other (bourgeois) political parties in the NLF, and those in the CP who ally with them, opposition which had been brewing for some time.

The rebellion was followed by a resolute in the PRG, to the disadvantage of the majority of the South Vietnamese CP. The North Vietnamese government is reported to have supported the PRG minority.

Published by Workers Fight at 98 Gifford St London N1 Printed by voluntary labour
Just like the British working class in the case of the war in Ireland, for 20 years the American people were informed that the only solution to the war in Vietnam was "war in defense of democracy." Now the series of attacks both by our enemies and terror made on the Republican Party by presenting蓝图 Paul Full of the South, they are ample evidence of the kind of "free" Britain in backing up.

WORKERS' FIGHT stands firmly and unconditionally in support of the Republican's campaign for a united Ireland and hopes that this criticism will help bring that goal nearer.

Three separate, but related, assaults have made up the most recent offensive by the Lynch government against the Provisional Republican movement. These are the sackings by the Government of the radio station Eireannach Annochta, the imprisonment of Sean MacStiofain, the leader of the IRA, the ...By the time which he had been on hunger strike, MacStiofin was carried in court and sentenced to six months imprisonment.

Five days after his arrest, during which time he had been on hunger strike, MacStiofin was carried in court and sentenced to six months imprisonment.

CENSORSHIP

Later that day, the content, but not the actual interview, was broadcast.

The Government, which has powers of censorship over broadcasting, has for some time past been in the habit of sending its own representatives on the interviewing of the editions of its information to the interview with MacStiofin by Kevin O'Kelly, one of its RTÉ news leaders.

A week later the entire RTÉ Authority was sacked; as a result the station was shut down for 48 hours while journalists and technicians went on strike. A 12-hour strike was also held by some of the station's employees.

The Government had proceeded to use the transplant as the basis of the interview with MacStiofin in the Dublin Special Criminal Court, on a charge of being a member of the IRA. (The Lynch Government introduced Special Courts without articles and without the usual rules of evidence, earlier that year -- a move by the British Government is only now getting round to the North.)

Five days after his arrest, during which time he had been on hunger strike, MacStiofin was carried in court and sentenced to six months imprisonment.

The trial Berendit Devlin said, "in the confrontation between Sean MacStiofin and the murder of Chief Secretary, that's my side shoulder to shoulder with the Provisional's"

NEW LAWS

As the trial proceeded, "Union Jack" Lynch was dining at Downing Street with Britain and the House of Commons. His much speculation at the time over what place the Provisional Act, which already gave the Government powers equal to, if not greater, those of the Unionists gave themselves under the Special Powers Act in the north.

According to this Bill, which is now law:

a) "Any statement or conduct leading to a reasonable inference the President can be used in a Special Court of being in the IRA."

If the defendant refuses to recognise the court, that will be taken as an admission of guilt.

d) Those who are taking part in demonstrations or actions which have an intent and object, the "Offences Act" (though they may be otherwise legal) will be liable for a fine of £30 and 5 years in jail. (Recently 70 members of the Official republican movement were arrested for picketing the homes of Special Court judges, and if the amended Act had been in existence, they could have been liable to this penalty.)

d) the most important section of the new Bill states that "Where a police officer has come to the belief that he believes the accused was at a material time a member of an unlawful organisation, the statement shall be evidence that he was such a member."

Thus police officers are now, in the view of the Dublin government, the possession of that power so far only claimed for the Pope, of "unsealability" -- at all times being right or wrong.

Those brought before the Special courts are now accused to be "GUilty until Proven INNOCENT" -- not innocent until proven guilty, a principle on which the whole of Irish and British law is claimed to be based.

Inspiration for this latest legislation can be traced to the writing of the British Army's Brigadier

Kilston, already influential in the Army's operations in the North. He writes, for instance, that a "law should be used as just another weapon in the Government's arsenal and in this case it may be more than a propaganda cover for an operation aimed at the manipulation of the public".

WORKERS' ANGER

Meanwhile the Parliament building was continually besieged by demonstrators and journalists, protesting against the Provisional Act, the Impression of MacStiofin and the allience of RTÉ in the country workers unofficially owned tools and marched.

The ITGWU respended the ICTU (the Irish Congress of Trade Unions) "a strong stand", stating they would "oppose..." the Government's provision amendment all the way..." and "the Federation of Trades Union..." and obliged to retrace the insidious conditions of Nazi Germany."

The strong words, however, were not enough and the conditions of the trade union march in which 200 led a general strike which succeeded in the space of 3 days in winning the release of repub...prisoners on hunger strike."

The Official's文书 very briefly kept out of the line of fire, refusing even the most elementary action for being of being associated with the Provisional's, the long run of course would play into the hands of the Provisional leaders, by showing the Official's leadership as so much verbiage.

The organization remains of this demonstrations against the Government's offensive has fallen mainly to the Provisional Republicans, but their approach has been given rise to much criticism from their fellows and supporter...particularly those in the north who have been carrying the fight against imperialism for the past 3 years.

While calling for the defeat of the Lynch government and the release of MacStiofin the Provisional leadership has attempted to maintain a "responsible" image.

Speakers on their platforms have stated that they had nothing against the Irish police and army, only the politicians; yet it was the same staff sitting in the Curragh army camp... under the control of An Phoblacht, the Chief of police was actually asked to address the whole crowd from the Republican platform.

Generally, the Provisionals seem unfortunately more concerned with getting the reactionary former Archbishop of Dublin to speak in support of them than they are with organizing mass working-class action against the government -- the only sort of action which could possibly be effective.

The Anti Imperialist League has declared a campaign against the wave of repression which the Lynch Government has launched against our movement in the Irish Republic. Its plans for a co-ordinated campaign to start an immediate drive in Britain and solidar...regime in the South.

The campaign will be aimed especially at the 11 million Irish exiles in Britain, most of whom have not yet participated in the work of the A.I.L.

The resolution in favour of the campaign -- of which the main opposition to the police states powers not assumed by the Dublin Government had come from the Irish Labour Party and the trade unions. The plans for a co-ordinated campaign between the Irish Labour Party and the Conservative opposition party, Fine Gael, have been buried for now...leisure for the Provisional's task force, which is...appealing for specific solidarity with the South's movement against the Irish Government.

The question was also raised of the special resolution of the A.I.L.'s opposition to repression in the South. Having formerly had a purely liberal opposition to terrorism in Northern Ireland, it had then transformed itself particularly after the fusion with the Irish Solidarity Campaign) into a specifically anti-imperialist movement in open solidarity with those fighting imperialism.

The officials of the A.I.L. -- who are said to have been on a "rest on a reversal of a purely liberal dissatisfaction with blatant injustice" Or was it a "rest on opposition to the South, Britain's neo-colonialism under the same "root as direct British oppression in the North" -- that is, Britain's economic dependency on the whole of Ireland?

Thus what was posed as opposition to this system as a whole on the basis of a light for an Irish social...the person of the whole of Ireland?

A special edition of the A.I.L.'s "Leithead" was thus o...
WHERE IS BRITAIN GOING

Roy Ratcliffe

Coventry Toolroom Workers at a mass meeting. After years of boom-time earnings and job security the workers suddenly face the threat of the dole queue.

To understand "where is Britain going" we must begin by briefly picking out the main essential points of the past period. This article will look at the underlying 'economic trends' which have gone almost unnoticed and which have led to the present severe economic crisis and through that to the severe political crisis which now faces the working class. Following on from the First World War (1914 - 18) the 1920 budget signalled a sharp drop in severance payments. In the year following the budget, industrial production fell by 25% and unemployment rose by 19% to a level of 12% and never fell below 10% throughout the 1920s. This economic crisis brought about a sharp political crisis as Capital and Labour, workers and bosses, fought each other to decide who should bear the brunt of the economic devastation.

The working class was beaten in the political struggle, and thus had to bear the brunt of the economic devastation. The political struggle had its high point in the General Strike of 1926, and the economic devastation lasted from the 1920s until the late '30s. This was a period of intense hardship for the working class and further relative decline for British capitalism.

The climb out of the slump of the 1920s was impeded by the speculation around the 1929 crisis and the extravagant loans which had been made during the build-up to crisis. The loans had been made in the short-sighted hope of preventing liquidations and thus a writing down of the assets of the capitalist class. As a result of this there was hardly any capital available to invest.

Thus the British capitalist class was unable to take immediate advantage of the defeat of the working class to solve their problems. The 1936 Coal Act, and the 1939 Industries Act, were hardly under way before the outbreak of the Second World War.

Thus the historical decline of British capitalism was interrupted by the advent of the Second World War. It is important that this is understood. The decline and crisis was interrupted.

The rise of the British working class can best be seen in the share of world output. In 1970 one third of the world's goods were made in Britain. By the outbreak of World War One this had shrunk to 14%, and by the outbreak of World War Two it was just over 8%. By 1960 it was down to 4%.

WAR AND BOOM

With the outbreak of war, the masses of unemployed were quickly absorbed into the Armed Forces and into the 'war effort'. During the war period the Trade Unions, instead of fighting, were used to regulate the demands of the working class. Union leaders were brought into the Government to prevent the workers from taking advantage of the war situation to press for higher wages. Thus nationally agreed wages were the only way (apart from piece work rates) to increase earnings.

After the war, and due to the enormous destruction of materials and manpower caused by the war, British capitalism was faced with an opportunity of taking part in the boom period of post-war reconstruction. The destruction had been so great that there was a terrific demand for goods and manpower.

And the technological innovations arising from the by-product of the wartime and post-war armaments development and arms race provided opportunities for capitalist investment, thus sustaining the post-war boom. In these conditions the British capitalist class shared in the fruits of expansion, while, after 1950, definitively continuing their relative decline on the world market.

The shop stewards' network inherited from World War II, with continuing full employment, was used to gain advances in pay and conditions at the point of production. Hence the gap between nationally negotiated minimum and actual wage rates in many industries, called "wage drift", throughout the '50s and '60s; and the number of short, sharp, effective, localised unofficial strikes, which comprised over 90% of strikes in this period. This development was not fiercely resisted by employers because they were making good profits and they were competing for scarce labour.

SHOP STEWARDS

This development away from nationally agreed rates to domestic rates in an important factor in the coming struggles, because it took the negotiating power away from the Trade Union leaders and brought it to the ship stewards who are "unpaid" elected rank and file workers. Disputes could often be won before the District Official knew about it. In 1950 there were 1300 strikes which took up just over a million working days lost, compared with the average of almost 35 million in the years following the First World War.

There was a large growth in the number of shop stewards. Today there are 1.1 million Trade Unionists and 170,000 shop stewards. This growth of shop floor strength
not only secured steady wage rises for millions of Trade Unionists but also prevented bosses from introducing new types of machinery and methods on disadvantageous terms to the workforce.

FALLING RATE OF PROFIT

But soon, with its relative decline and the end of the post-war boom-worldwide, British capitalism began to feel the hot blast of competition. And it is with this increasing international competition that the severe internal crisis begins to reappear.

Between the hammer of the British working class and the anvil of international competition, the profitability of British capitalism has been flattened. The workers share of what is produced has increased and the employers share has decreased.

One result of this decrease in the profitability has been a move to investments abroad. In the early 1980s British capital investment abroad averaged around £100 million. By the 1980s it had increased to over 250 million per year, and by 1989 to over £500 million.

The new investment has been predominantly in the European markets and the United States, on the grounds of the economic expansion to be found there. Thus the haste to formalise this development, through the creation of the Common Market. But this cannot be a long term solution. Since the capitalist class cannot back the other capitalistic classes without going to war, the solution to profitability lies through dictating to its own working class.

To increase the profitability the workers' share of production must be reduced. The ruling class must somehow hold the level of wages, and this is what they have been trying to do in one form or another since the 1960s. Voluntary Income Policy, Productivity Deals, Devaluation, In Place of Strike, Unemployment Industrial Relations Act, Pay Freeze.

All have been attempts to hold down the level of wages in order to restore profitability. The stress has been on attacking the shop floor strength. This is where resistance is hardest and most successful.

And, in fact, these attempts at profitability are even worse with a cut in working class living standards, likely to come without a big expansion in capitalist markets, an expansion which is not likely to materialise in the coming period.

STRIKES

Employers are mounting firmer resistance to the level of wage rises. This resistance is clearly demonstrated in the statistics on strikes. Strikes are becoming more intense, of longer duration, and are charging their nature. Can you remember at this stage is not to dispute? Disputes over new wage schedules.

In 1960 16% of stoppages were about pay. In 1970 over half were about pay! It is not accidental there were 2,949 stoppages with 3 million working days lost. In 1971 there were 2,232 strikes (600 less than 1960) but 13 million working days lost (10 million more). And in the first 8 months of 1972 there were 1610 stoppages with an enormous 15 million days lost!

The attacks by the employers have cut across localised interests in a large area, and workers are fighting back on a national basis, often dragging their official Labour Party leaders in their wake. This is the bigger role of trade union officials, with all the dangers inherent in this as they seek means for containing the rank and file.

Successive governments have injected large doses of Government money into "the Economy", as they put it. What this really means is that they have given large amounts of taxpayers' money to private industry. This has been done in an attempt to boost up sinking businesses, but of course it is only a short term device for boosting up the economy. Because the fundamental crisis is not in the economy.

Profitability is fundamental to capitalism because under capitalism profits provide an inducement for the use of the goods produced, but for the profit which can be made by selling them.

British industry needs to attract more capital investment in order to keep up with the competition (new machinery etc), but capital is attracted only to those areas where it is most profitable.

So we are back to the same dilemma. British capitalism needs to increase its profitability. It cannot do so by continually raising the prices of its products. A true solution to international competition. It must therefore try to cut back the concessions which workers won during the boom.

But they do not appear as conscious yet, they seem to believe the workers. They act as "natural" rights. The standards of living attained by workers are felt to "belong" to them. They are not anxious to give them back easily. Therefore we are to be compelled to give up our "high" standard of living. We have the stick effort to divide the working class among "consumer vs. producer" lines they have dressed the crisis as an "inflation and law and order". But in all of this the question of law and order are secondary symptoms of the crisis. The real primary symptom is one of the profitability of British capitalism.

The starting point of the coming political battles which flow from the collapse of capitalism is the question of power will be clearly posed. Essentially there will be only two ways to go:

1) Either a further defeat for the working class and the consequent end for every year for the working class.

2) The conquest of power by the working class in Britain and a new number of other capitalist countries, and the transformation of society along socialist lines.

The most conscious sections of the ruling class already see this very clearly and are rapidly trying to sort out the TUC recognises that there is a long haul to solve the country's underlying problems. You see? Feather is at one with the ruling class. They too recognise "that there is a long haul to solve the underlying problems". The underlying problems are the profitability of British capitalism and the "long haul" is the defeat of the working class.

The Labour Party is no better. They still talk as if the Tory party were just bad managers, and that all that is necessary to put the house in order is to install better managers. At the recent Labour Party conference no mention was even made of the crisis.

UNDERSTANDING

What is now necessary for the working class in order that it is no longer possible to think of capitalism is a conscious understanding of the class divisions taking place in society, and how they flow from the economic base. This understanding must begin within the most conscious sections—the vanguard of the working class—the militants and revolutionaries.

In the daily struggles we carry out we must constantly develop this understanding amongst our fellow workers and militants and amongst ourselves. We must not only follow workers in their day to day struggles but we must also point out the general political line to fight against the system. We must constantly fight against the general contradictory nature of their fight, and argue for a socialistic alternative.

The working class are in a fighting mood. They have the strength to defeat capitalism. They have the will to fight for their expectations. We must have a consciousness of purpose. We can only gain that consciousness by sale of our own day-to-day experience, by understanding Marxism theory. In this way the conscious application of theory of this theory takes place within the ranks of the working class and carries a political relationship to the class of which they are part. This consciousness will prevent a period lapses upon those who "side" with the working class.
THE PETERLOO MASACRE

The Peterloo Massacre was a piece of history which the capitalist class would like us workers to forget, lest it reminds us of the real hatred our accursed bosses have for the working class. Even recently, the "business community" of Manchester successfully prevented a plan for commemorating this savage event in working class history.

Four years after the battle of Waterloo, "Peterloo" was a contemptuous reference to that battle. This battle was, in the words of a 22-year-old worker, John Lees, "downright murder". Before his death, the wounds inflicted by the swords of the cavalry were, in the words of John Lees, who said that at that battle "he had never been in such danger!" "For there it had been men to men!"

HENRY HUNT

On the 18th August 1819 at a mass meeting on St Peters Field, Manchester, over 60,000 men, women, and children assembled to listen to Henry Hunt, a popular Radical speaker. The reason why 60,000 Lancashire folk had come to Manchester was because of the "abolition of the Combination Law".

The cotton boom days of the 1800s had come to an end, wages were falling, and unemployment was rising, as were prices. Factory wages had dropped from 40 shillings per week to 24 shillings, whilst the handloom weavers were down to an average of 12 shillings by 1819. The "Dennis Bill" was passed, which prevented foreign cotton being imported until the price of home grown wheat had risen to 30 shillings a quarter. This meant that in a period of declining wages the working man's mainstay, bread, was rising in price.

One man, one vote was never to be made on that fateful day in Manchester.

PREPARATIONS

The plans for the meeting were made for a "dignified" procession and meeting. Evidence of the peaceful intentions were the hundreds of children and wives who accompanied the marchers. In fact the whole day took on a carnival nature as the weather grew hot and the musicians or weapons were to be carried, and the leaders had slips of laurel in their hair as a "token of unity and peace".

However peaceful the marchers' intentions, the authorities preferred their actions with warlike determination. They had at their disposal 600 special policemen, 600 mounted hussars, and 500 other soldiers. The request of Lord Castlereagh, Lord Derby, and the Lord Lieutenant, requested his officers to put their horses in a state of readiness. The Manchester Yeomen immediately sent their sabres to be sharpened. This action was an early warning of the impending tragedy.

BLOODBED

In the meantime the Manchester Magistrates had employed 'scavengers' to remove every brick, stone, or possible missile from St Peters Field, "so that the Reformers might be destitute of every means to resist" (page 135), even to the removal of nearby lamp posts!

The Liberal and Radical thinkers, under whose leadership the masses fell, accused the government for beginning to limit the masses' struggle to a reform of Parliament. Thus, in a letter to Hunt, a Joseph Johnson of the Patriotic Union Society of Manchester wrote:

"Trade here is not worth the following. Everything is at a standstill, nothing but ruin and starvation stare one in the face. The state of the district is truly dreadful. I believe nothing but the greatest exertion can prevent an insurrection" (May 1819, SLP).

This statement clearly shows the prospects facing the working people on the one hand, and on the other hand the fear of the Radicals that things might get out of hand. When Hunt issued an address to the employers of the ill-fated meeting, he said:

"Your steady...rhythm, temperate demeanor...our enemies will seek every opportunity to molest you...to breed...so they may spill our blood...to come armed with no other weapon but that of...self-applying conscience...not to be excited, irritated...not to commit any breach of the public peace..."

Thus the Radical orator disarm ed the masses whilst his rivals prepared their armed bodies of men for bloodshed.

The 60,000 men, women, and children waited patiently in the stifling heat for Hunt to arrive. Meanwhile the Manchester Yeomen who were doing their best to stop the march and arrest people.

They then drew their newly sharpened sabres and charged off in a drunken gallop, tremping to death a two-year-old child and injuring his mother, on the way.

BERSERK

They were ordered to assist in the arrest of Hunt and the others on the platform of the meeting, and they did so by cutting a path through the peaceful crowd with their swords. In their wild rage, they and injured men and women, either crushed by the horses' hooves or slashed by the sabres.

Thus the Manchester Yeomen Cavalry achieved with savage ruthlessness their objective and the arrest of the leaders was accomplished.

But this taste of blood was too much for them, and they, as Joyce Marlow's excellent book puts it, "went berserk". At one point of the field the riot act was being read by magistrates while the Manchester Cavalry began cutting and hacking about them at defended men, women, and children. The Magistrates, seeing this action, considered that their "brave yeomen" were being attacked by the crowd, and they ordered the 15th Hussars to disperse the crowd.

This August body of "brave men" swept into the crowd. Women who cried out to the cavalry not to hurt them, had their heads cleaved in by the sabres. The fleeing workers were pursued through the streets of Manchester, all the time being mercilessly barred, hacked, and slashed. They were treated in this way because they had the audacity to complain about their unhealthy living conditions.

Joyce Marlow, a Manchester woman herself, is another author who does the working class a great service by fully documenting this savage piece of history and reminding us of the underlying hatred which the ruling class has for workers who feel they offer a threat to "their established order". From Peterloo to Lincolnl from Sidney S to Liverpool 1911, the ruling classes show the same merciless savagery to workers whether they fight in Britain, Vietnam, Ireland, or anywhere else in the world.
FIANNA FAILS
REPRESSION OF I.R.A.
NOT THE FIRST TIME

The British Press often depicts the Irish Fianna Fail government as "soft on the IRA," and would have us believe that the vicious clampdown of the past two weeks, in which democratic rights went down the drain, was some dramatic new departure.

CHRIS GRAY here describes Fianna Fail's past repressive record and also the fine record of struggle of IRA militants who fought back even from jails and internment camps.

SEAN MCAUGHEY: kept for three and a half years in solitary confinement with no outdoor exercise. He refused to wear prison clothes and was forced to spend several years in his cell, covered only by a blanket.

The Twenty-six-counties governing party, Fianna Fail, was founded in 1926 from among those who supported De Valera's withdrawal from Sinn Fein – the official party of that section of the Republican movement which had opposed the self-out treaty between the Irish middle class and British imperialism which established "modern" Ireland.

De Valera believed it was necessary for Sinn Fein, which had refused to enter Parliament, to take its seats and argue the case in the Free State Dail. He soon proved his point in electoral terms when in 1927 his party won power. But the real point behind the electoral campaign was that De Valera represented a section of the Irish middle class and, though the institutions of the Free State became partly the property of the people, particularly the working class, a real fight for freedom, they served the whole middle class, De Valera's section included, very well indeed.

THE THREAT

At this time the traditional Republicans were still active in the old Sinn Fein party and the IRA. De Valera needed their support against the fascist Blue-shirt movement, organised by the Smith section of the middle class, which threatened a coup d'etat.

But Sinn Fein and the IRA

were themselves a threat to De Valera's policy of developing S. Britain in coexistence, while allowing partition to stand, and the fundamental Irish economic self-sufficiency on which it was based. De Valera's policy challenge caused a variety of responses in the republican movement. Some were for a turn toward social and the creation of an alliance of workers and small farmers - this was the so-called "Republican Congress" group. Some others favoured a new constitutional Republican party (Cumann Poblachtach na hEireann), an idea revived after World War 2 by Sean MacBride.

None of these alternatives proved viable however, and De Valera was able to steal the show by a piece of political showmanship when he eliminated the crown and the Governor-General as elements of Irish political life; he wrote the constitution; stabilised Anglo-Irish economic relations; won back the British naval bases at Cobh and Lough Swilly in 1938, and boosted industrial production.

EMERGENCY

In 1936 De Valera felt strong enough to turn on the IRA. He had his own "special branch" of ex-IRA men led by Colonel Boyce (known as the "McCrae" or "Bogside") on hand to round up the suspects.

In desperation the IRA formally declared war on Britain and launched a bombing campaign in England. The British government responded to the IRA's 1939 declaration of war by emergencies legislation, the Prevention of Violence Act, introduced that summer.

De Valera supported them by stepping up action against the movement in the 26 Counties: the Offences against the State Act (amended last week with new draconian features; see p.5) became law on June 14th 1939 - actually in advance of British legislation, which only reached the Commons four days later.

A military tribunal was established in Dublin on August 25th.

Repression against the IRA continued throughout the Second World War - known in the 26 Counties as the "Emergency" - to ensure that they could not apply the old maxim "England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity."

Throughout this time De Valera managed to retain mass support by declaring neutrality - much to Churchill's annoyance. A raid on the Maclay无线 station in Phoenix Park, Dublin, in December 1938, which resulted in the arrest by the IRA of most of the Free State Army's reserve supply of ammunition, led to stricter repression in the form of the Emergency Powers Act, 1940. From this point on the net began to draw tighter and tighter.

Leaders of the movement in the North became convinced that treachery was responsible, and the blame was fastened on the then Chief of Staff Stephen Hayes (a Wexford man). In reality the Special Branch had most of the information they needed anyway.

Hayes was forced to sign a "confession" but succeeded in escaping and throwing himself on the mercy of the police. This episode drove in one more nail, and despite manifold attempts to reorganise the movement arrests continued, culminating in the capture of Charlie Kerins, last of a line of Chief of Staffs. In June 1944.

MOUNTJOY

Prison trial was harsh, but the IRA prisoners fought back against the regime by a number of means - hunger strikes, refusal to wear prison clothes and escape attempts. On October 22nd 1939 Republican prisoners in Mountjoy attempted to blow their way out of jail. Patrick McGrath went on hunger strike for 43 days until the Government announced they were prepared to release him; the authorities moved McGrath to hospital but planned to bring him before the Military Court later on, a plan which McGrath courageously escaped from by escaping from hospital.

In February 1940 six prominent Republicans at Mountjoy, including Jack McNeele and Tony D'Arcy, went on hunger strike in an attempt to force an improvement in prison conditions: after both D'Arcy and McNeele had died in April the Government promised political status for IRA prisoners in Mountjoy. But this still left the situation at Portlaoise Prison unchanged.

Sean McColagh, who had acted as prosecutor in the IRA trial of Stephen Hayes, was captured after Hayes' escape and died on Hunger and Thirst in Portlaoise. Others experienced the privation of being confined to their cells without clothing for long periods when they refused to wear prison uniform, in an attempt to keep their status as political prisoners.

Others perished at the hands of the state's agents. Patrick and Tommy Hart were executed on September 6th 1938 for shooting a detective who was trying to run them in. George Plant was shot on March 9th 1942 for killing a suspected informer. And Charlie Kerins was hanged by an imported English hangman in December 1st 1944.

GERY Boland, Fianna Fail Minister of Justice, rejoiced. He announced that the IRA was dead. But this particular bird displayed unexpected phoenix-like qualities. By the mid-fifties the IRA was once more capable of offensive operations, despite its recent severe defeat. And then again, after a further defeat in 1962, it mushroomed after 1969.

Republicanism is irresponsible English government it is the unsatisfied drive of the Irish people for freedom. It will only become unimportant when the situation is won. That is the lesson from its repeated revivals after even the most catastrophic defeats.

And in turn, the lesson of those defeats is that the general Republican movement struck the very air of Ireland for so long is not itself adequate to attain that freedom, either against the British or their neo-colonial overlords such as Lynch.

The Republicanism that will fully do that is the revolutionary socialist Republicanism of the Irish working class, given its best expression so far in the writings of James Connolly.
WHERE WE STAND

CAPITALISM is inseparable from the exploitation by the bourgeoisie (the «pro-market» and «pro-business») and the «capitalist democracy», based on «bourgeois representative democracy», of the workers and peasants in the colonies and former colonies. This is the only way to explain the world crisis of capitalism. Younger generations need to be convinced about this. It is time that the left and the left-wing forces, in order to be more than ever a possible alternative to capitalism, begin to work on the basis of the historical experience of the working class and the peasantry, of all those who struggle against capitalism.

THE ONLY WAY OUT is for the working class to take power and to build socialism under a democratic and non-capitalist society. This is the only way to end the exploitation and discrimination of the working class. The working class has the potential to fight against capitalism and to build a socialist society.

The working class must organise and build political parties for this purpose. The «pro-market» and «pro-business» must be replaced by socialist and communist parties. Only the working class can build a socialist and communist party. Only the working class can build a socialist and communist society.

The basis of our activity is the scientific theory of Marxism, the only one that can explain the history of the working class and the process of capitalist development. The Marxists and the communists are the vanguard of the working class. The Marxists and the communists are the vanguard of the working class.

The principles of Marxism are the basis of our activity. They are the basis of our struggle. They are the basis of our fight against capitalism.

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THE GREAT DEBATE

The «Great Debate» is an exercise in national-novel-scaling, just because there would be no great debate: things could be relied on not to get out of hand. The spectacle would simply not substitute for the reality. The game is played for the sake of playing.

As Tom Nairn argues in the Common Market special number of "NEW LEFT REVIEW", the Common Market has not played an important role over the last year or so in making the class struggle in Britain see for capitalism.

The industrial struggle surged forward, drawing in new groups, developing new tactics. Meanwhile, the presumptuous leadership of the working class, from the centre and left of the Labour Party right across to the various revolutionary socialist groupings, swept over calculations of Parliamentary votes and the political peril of the «current situation», out of the Tories with the aid of the Powlithe right. The Earl of Dagenham - and - the left obligingly took the heat off him by loudly berating "Jenkins the blackguard!" and then being left by the chauvinist "believing about the threat to his kippers, his beer and his parliament" was most fervent.

The attitude of the Labour Left was, as Nairn points out, motivated by their basic ideology. The Labour Left is the party that represents the interests of the working class, and of the Labour Party. The Labour Left is the party that represents the interests of the working class, and of the Labour Party.

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On November 28th, about 120 ten- 
ant and trade unionists attended 
what was described as a "people's meeting" 
called by the Greater Manchester 
Tenants' Rents Action Group. 

Tenants were from Middleton, 
Blackley, Oldham and Stockport, 
and strong support 
from local factories and building sites. 

As the delegation from Tower Hill 
rent strike began. Tenants who 
are being evicted from their homes 
are being moved out of the city. 

The Greater Manchester 
Tenants' Rents Action Group 
was formed in May to fight 
what tenants describe as 
"a war on housing". 

The meeting was called to discuss 
the problems facing tenants in the city, 
and to plan future actions. 

The meeting was addressed by 
Jim Smith, the secretary of the 
Greater Manchester Tenants' Rents Action Group, 
who said that tenants were being 
evicted from their homes 
without any notice or compensation. 

He said that the group had 
organised a series of protests 
outside the offices of housing 
authorities, and that they had 
also organised a series of 
estates occupations. 

He said that the group hoped 
to continue its work, and that 
they would continue to fight 
for tenants' rights. 

The meeting was attended by 
many tenants who had been 
evicted, and who were 
very angry about the situation. 

They said that they had 
no other choice but to 
resist eviction, and that they 
would continue to fight 
for their rights. 

The meeting was adjourned 
to a date to be 
announced. 

Public meetings are 
planned for the next few weeks. 

The Greater Manchester 
Tenants' Rents Action Group 
will continue to fight 
for tenants' rights.
The national conference of the National Union of Students voted to campaign, next term, for rent strikes for higher grants. Additionally, delegates called for:

- an end to discretionary grants
- an end to discrimination against minoritised students
- a new system of awarding grants.

This campaign follows on a number of rent strikes against increased fees in halls of residence. But one thing must be remembered: "economic" issues have never been more successful in sustaining really serious student struggle. Until we win some overall political direction and drive, rent strikes are likely to dwindle into isolated demoralisation. And students living in halls of residence are, after all, often the more conservative sections of the student body.

Militants in the conference clearly did not have much confidence in the Communist Party of Students voted to support Executive's ability to take a principle stand on actual struggles, let alone an actual political lead. Union president Dicky Jacks started the conference off in fine style, calling for support for those on disciplinary charges at Stirling University — and then concurring their demonstration as being "bad for publicity!" An emergency resolution on Scottish university cuts was passed for his opening remit, and Sterling's President herself offered no revolutionary excuse for "linking up with the Tories, the establishment press and big business" in attacking Stirling students.

"COMMUNITY INTERESTS!"

The Executive reports on the disputes at North London Poly, Swansea College of Education, and Magie college were "referred back," the Conference declaring that the executive had not given sufficient support.

"The political poverty of the Executive was further shown by their resolution on student representation. It is an attempt to accommodate academic community interests", including capitalist interests, to be represented in the University government, and said "there must be a degree of public accountability!" But "public accountability", in capitalist society, can only mean accountability to capitalism.

A great deal of support could have been won for an independent, revolutionary socialist alternative, but the left was fragmented. The International Socialist Alliance (previously in September) split the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Student Unions, which made a successful intervention earlier this year at the Birmingham conference. Now they walked out of the meeting called by the International Marxist Group on the basis that "no group had ever asked them to include in their statements" which the British Labour Party, the National Union of Students, the NUS and the League for SocialDemocracy in the “peripheral” line which reflected the interests of backward capitalists! Of programme of condemnation of the whole ‘great debate’, of fighting the effects of the GUS, of international working class unity being organisational and political, of the ‘anti-capitalist’ or ‘abandonist’ only from the point of view ofbourgeois politics. From the point of view of working class activity it is entirely concrete and positive!


green conference

The IS/IMG Internationalist propaganda is indeed "abstract" — precisely because it was disjoined from and even in opposition to their specific political situation. With one voice they cried: No to entry! The Treaty of Rome is a lie, we and the working class are against the Treaty of Rome; we must form a united front with the Tribunals and the Communist Party on this class issue, at least to the point of voting with them. And with another voice they lecture us, that staying out is no alternative, and that the "peripheral line" reflects only the interests of backward capitalists!

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John Stenig


testpage1

Common Market Debate

Thus support for Common Market entry is in no sense progressive. It cannot promote working class internationalism, only a blind, flaccid "anti-marxist, anti-revolutionary" Europe-centred cosmopolitanism! The weakness of Naim’s analysis is that it centres almost entirely on the ideological aspects of Common Market entry, dealing with the more basic economic factors only sketchily and in passing. (His general failure of politics also results in a complete misunderstanding of the Marxist analysis of the Labour Party.)

Naim criticises the internationalist propaganda of the IS and IMG as "the purely theoretical and ideological ‘third way’ of the European socialist movement, a spiritual transcendence, so to speak, whose prime feature and definition is polysemy and its failure to cut across the capitalist social and political reality creeping so dismayingly into existence at the hands of the leaders of the French, German, French, Italian, British, Spanish..." This is the point of view of bourgeois politics. From the point of view of working class activity it is entirely concrete and positive!

From p.1

ASIBUS STRIKE

into every factory, into every trade unionist’s mind, into every worker’s brain in the Labour Party, to eradicate this disease of the ruling class.

Where a section of bosses stands exposed for having set up a Northern Ireland ‘troop’ within the British Commonwealth in England (in which it is by no means a new development), the labour movement must react as to a mortal threat. A working class divided against itself, as in Northern Ireland, is fair game for the bosses.

Unions branch throughout the country must declare full solidarity with the strikers, and condemn the racist union officials. THIS IS NO ORDINARY STRIKE.

The strikers should not be allowed to stand there alone against the fascist and scabs. Joint multi-racial and multi-union pickets must be organised to attach the scabs and the fascist interlopers who are now converging on Loughborough and Leicester, organising demonstrations and racist provocations. A whole scale attack on the picketing workers is on strike it is necessary to protect the strikers. The whole union movement must declare that these Asian-born strikers are our people — the English bosses and their scabs.

Casual workers will take responsibility for defending and at the same time, assist the strikers, whose struggle is within the grand tradition of British and international labour unionism.

Financial aid and resolutions of support should be sent to the NUS, 31 Station Road, Loughborough.

The IS/IMG Internationalist propaganda is indeed "abstract" — precisely because it was disjoined from and even in opposition to their specific political situation. With one voice they cried: No to entry! The Treaty of Rome is a lie, we and the working class are against the Treaty of Rome; we must form a united front with the Tribunals and the Communist Party on this class issue, at least to the point of voting with them. And with another voice they lecture us, that staying out is no alternative, and that the "peripheral line" reflects only the interests of backward capitalists!

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