**Smash the Act!**

**Smash the Freeze!**

Under Phase 2, prices and rents are soaring. The rich have been given a £300 million tax handout. But ordinary people’s wages are pegged. The Freeze does not stop inflation. It does cut living standards and boost profits.

**UNIFIED ACTION**

Gas workers, hospital workers, and railmen have been defeated by Phase 2. Why? Because they were isolated. Because there was not a United Front of all unions with a clear declaration of demands and policy. The Freeze is a declaration of demands that we insist on and get. The strike is an attack on the Freeze. May Day must be a united action against the Freeze. Right now, some may think “I’m all right. I don’t see why I should have a day’s pay by striking.” But as rising prices and frozen wages hit us all, we will be looking for the support of other workers to defend our living standards. If we do not support the rest of the movement now, then we are cutting our own throats.

And after May Day we must go on to build Joint Action committees of trade unionists against the Freeze and against the Industrial Relations Act.

The chief weapon of the miners’ victory in 1972 was the flying picket. Recently, police tactics against pickets have become more and more vicious. Fly-in hospital worker pickets were arrested in London. 24 North Wales building workers are up on charges including conspiracy.

Already, the violence used by the British army against the people of Ireland is beginning to spill over into Britain. If there is not a big turn-out on May Day, the Tories (who give the orders to the police) will be encouraged to go further. The best reply is to organise flying pickets to get more out on May Day.

**Rip up the Act**

20 scab members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers tried to get the National Industrial Relations Court to declare the May Day strike illegal. Without doubt they had a legal case. The NIRC refused them. Why? Because the Tories remember the mass solidarity strike movement that freed the Pentonville Five.

But the Tories are only buying their time. A massive turn-out on May Day can show them that their next attempt to use the “big stick” will be smashed by a General Strike. And that General Strike will go on to rip up the whole Act penal clauses, fines, Industrial Relations Court, the lot.

**Asians:**

**Stop these deportations NOW!**

24 BLACK PEOPLE, ARRESTED AT THEIR HOMES OR WORKPLACES AND IMPRISONED, UNABLE TO CONTACT FAMILY OR LAWYER, TO AVOID EXPULSION, WITHOUT RIGHT OF APPEAL.

Where are we talking about? South Africa? Rhodesia? No, we are talking about England in 1972.

There are known to be 24 Asian men at present in Pentonville Prison. Their crime? They have broken a law that was not even in operation at the time the crime was committed!

Tarsen Singh is one of these men. He came to England in 1968. By the then existing Immigration Act if he managed to avoid detention for 28 days, he was allowed to remain in the country.

He began employment at once.

**North Wales 24**

The 24 North Wales building workers charged for official picketing are coming up in court again on May 16th, probably in Shrewsbury. WORKERS’ FIGHT calls on all readers to organise for a demonstration of solidarity with the 24. For a final check on demonstration date, contact M.R. Williams, 1 Friud Pendre Ocean View, Carmel, Flintshire.

More details, centre page.
The leaders of the T.U.C. intend the May Day general strike as the meat token, a small gesture, and little enough price to pay for "coming through" the crisis around Phase 2 without a head-on clash with the government.

They know very well that the employers and the government could learn to live with occasional well-orchestrated gestures. The "Economist", a frankly militant weekly of the employing class, not long ago referred contemptuously to the "continental habit" of one day "holidays" to let off steam.

The "shell" of the strike - the formula "inviting" unions to come out on May Day - was called by the TUC to avoid actually fighting Phase 2 with serious solidarity action. The TUC's fear to do so led to defeat.

We now have the "shell". The content that fills the shell will be determined by the rank and file militants.

Gormley, who proposed the general strike in order to evade action on the miners' claim, is blandly sabotaging the strike. Sir Sidney Greene of the NUR is scabbing - or rather, using his option under the vague TUC formula to "make up his own mind":

"BLOW"

Every pit that strikes, every train that doesn't run, will be a blow against the miserable stooges within the labour movement who let the viciously exploited hospital workers go down to defeat!

In the sober atmosphere following the successful action of the government in forcing through Phase 2, May Day will be a roll-call of the fighting strength of the working class. The attitude of groups like building workers and miners, in coming out and in organising mobile pickets to bring others out, will be a serious index of the real present level of class combative power.

The revolutionaries and the militants must exert every ounce of strength to make the strike as extensive as possible. We must act to bring other shops and sites out as well as our own, and appeal to the rank and file members of unions whose leaders have told them to scab.

Wherever possible, united, central demonstrations and rallies must be advocated, rather than a scattering of smaller protests.

DEFEATS

The Tories have won only a round. The battle continues, and we can fight more effectively, if we learn from our defeats.

The defeats involved weaker sections of workers - the victories of last year involved stronger decisive sections with real economic weight and aggressive traditions of militancy.

The Tories won in round 2 because the fight was isolated. Amidst the euphoria of last year's victories it was often forgotten that not every industrial battle involves the heavy battalions, such as miners or dockers.

That's cold comfort for the defeated gasmen and hospital workers - but if the lessons are learnt, the sobering up can help advance the struggle.

The defeats must be used to drive home the lesson that the bosses are strong - as strong as our weakness. Their strength is measured in terms of our failure to act as a class - and normally we don't act as a class.

The employers can survive "crushing" victories like the mass strike wave which freed the Five Dockers last year - and watch and wait to come back. Why? Because they are more united and conscious as a class, because they control, administer and dominate society.

Last year's victories arose from aggressive militant action and mass working class solidarity. This year's defeats have come from lack of solidarity. The lesson is to organise for solidarity - on every level we can. The many local united front committees set up around the hospital workers' strike must not be allowed to fold.

POLICE

We are in the middle of a period of clashes. The Tories may use their success with Phase 2 and the slight economic up-turn to "cool it" - perhaps to deal with the union tops on the details of the Industrial Relations Act. Such a deal would mean that the Act would fill all the more closely.

At the same time they are stepping up repression. 24 North Wales building workers are charged with conspiracy in a blatant attempt to intimidate flying pickets. The special anti-picket police squads are in fact the necessary parallel to the Industrial Relations Act. It was mass picketing that defeated the Tories last year. Next time they hope to be ready. We must be ready too. The Tory victories, the repression and the police preparations are a warning. If the Tories' confidence rises further, they may even attempt to impose the "big stick" sections of the Industrial Relations Act once more.

May day must be used as a stepping stone in political and trade union work. To mobilise support for the 24 North Wales building workers. To help build united front committees. To spread the call for a general strike which could go on to smash the Industrial Relations Act - and the freeze and the Tory government with it.

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**Defence Committee campaigns for "Belfast 10"**

On March 8th, following the series of explosions in London, ten people were arrested at Heathrow Airport. On March 13th they were charged with conspiracy to cause explosions in London.

Those concerned - now known as the "Belfast 10" - are Roslin McMenamin, aged 18, 873 MacLaren (19), Robi Walsh (24), Gerald Kelly (19), Martin Brady (22) William Armstrong (20), Hugh Peets (21), Joseph Holmes (19), Dolores Price (22) and Marion Price (19).

The ten have been found guilty by the media. Between 8th March and 12th March nine of the ten were kept completely unclashed in Belvidere Police Station. During that time two solicitors, one contacted by relatives of the ten and one by the National Council for Civil Liberties, and the mother of Dolores and Marion Price, were prevented from meeting them.

The police had no legal power to do this. At present the three girls are held in a male prison, Brixton. This is entirely without precedent.

The treatment of the Ten involves further encroachments into civil liberties and legal rights.

We have already seen the increasing use of police intimidation, break-ups by police agents (as in the case of the 'Hackney 5' trial last year where charges were eventually withdrawn), and frequent use of quite illegal obstruction tactics with regard to access to lawyers, etc.

We urge the police to get away with this in relation to relatively unprotected "minority" groups - immigrants, students, Irish republicans, etc. - they then go on to extend it to British workers. They have done this already in the case of the 24 North Wales building workers.

Such moves to extend the powers of the capitalist state must be fought at every stage. It is not difficult to recognise and condemn repression in Vietnam or Greece or Rhodesia, or some faraway place. When it happens here, however, such condemnation is all the more necessary.

A DEFENCE COMMITTEE has been formed which plans to publicise their case and draw attention to the treatment of those arrested. It will also organise financial help and welfare.

The Belfast 10 Defence Committee also plans to hold a regular picket of the Home Office. The first of these is scheduled for Sunday April 4th from 2 to 4pm. Every effort should be made to ensure its success.

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_Donald Exceptions to Belfast Defence Committee, 63 Rathlin Rd., London W15. Meetings each Sunday 8pm at General Platoon, Cecilian Road, Kings Cross._
10,000 pledge support for Clay Cross

APRIL 15th SAW APPROXIMATELY 10,000 TELTASS to the Government's so-called Fair Rent Act, despite the collapse of many other councils up and down the country who said they would not implement it.

The demonstrators assembled by an estate on the outskirts of the town and then marched through the centre to a sports field for a rally. The speakers included Clay Cross councillors, trade unionists, and other tenants. Denis Skinner MP also spoke on behalf of Eric Heffer MP, who, for reasons unexplained, could not attend.

This was a great demonstration of solidarity not only from tenants up and down the country, but from the trade union movement. There were contributions from the NUT, the AUEW, and many other unions.

If the councillors of Clay Cross are going to be successful in their fight, then this support must continue. They must be backed up with industrial action when the Tory government starts wielding the big stick.

JOHN CUNNINGHAM

Women workers - the millions still unorganised

WHY DO WE NEED TO WRITE AN ARTICLE on women and the trade unions? You certainly won't see one on men and the trade unions.

The female workforce is largely outside the trade union movement. This may seem strange as almost two-fifths of the total work force in this country are women, but in fact only a small percentage of this number are trade unionists. And when you look at the conditions of women they are a long way from men.

The trade union movement, of course, is a man's world, with few women taking an active part in it. But women have to put up with, and probably realize the importance of, the problems they face.

Most women, in fact, can only expect to earn about £20 for 40 hours' work. Sometimes doing exactly the same job as a man, taking home less than half the man's wages is in considered an exception. Many women are trapped in men's jobs and are not making the most of the opportunities available to them.

Women are rarely given the chance of an apprenticeship, except in hairdressing or secretarial work, so that all factory work is very poorly paid. It is accepted as normal that working women must also be housekeepers, and must pay the price of trying to do two jobs at once. Time off usually means no sick pay. Few pension schemes apply to women.

If a man was offered these conditions, he would either look elsewhere for a job or he would fight through his union to improve his lot. But a woman is more likely to accept the job as it stands, realizing that being a woman she is not going to find anything better. She is fully aware that women are exploited, but she does not know how to do anything about it. It is men who look to action through the trade unions as being the answer to their problems. Let us look at why this is.

The trade unions usually accept existing society and established ideas about women's role in the society. Thus they tend to show a very patronizing appreciation of women's situations. They don't encourage women to fight for their rights, but pretend to fight for women. As they have no real appreciation of the situation of women, they in effect do nothing for them.

They take no steps to encourage women to be active within the unions because they hold meetings at impractical times and provide no creches. In fact, in some circumstances, the unions have been seen as working against women's interests, e.g. as a threat to the conditions and pay of women and men-unionists - they seem to mean taking away the male wage packets to give to the women.

In this situation, many women shrink from taking the unions, and they remain isolated, with bad conditions. Women have no history of unified organisation to unite them in struggle, but this should be no reason for women to do nothing about the situation now.

The trade unions exist to fight for the rights of the whole of the working class, and so it is up to women to make the unions fight for them. They can do this by organizing themselves within the trade unions for women's interests. This means that those already in the unions should try to organize all the women in their workplace. Support from male workers for women's rights is important, but no-one can create women's self-reliance for them.

Many militant women, seeing that the unions give little help to women, draw the conclusion that women should stand out of unions, or perhaps form separate women's unions.

But if women are to defeat the ruling class and the prejudices reinforced and promoted by the influence of that ruling class, then they will have to be able to take, on the task of defeating bureaucracies and prejudices within the unions. The trade unions are not just the bureaucratic leaders. They are also millions of militant men - and women - who, however prejudiced, can be won to support of women's demands.

HOSPITAL
ANCILLARY
WORKERS

Walter V Nunn

SUE LEIGH

Equal Pay

The most immediate issue which could be the basis of action is the question of equal pay.

The Equal Pay Act of 1970 promised women equal pay for work of equal value. There are loopholes in the act which make it virtually useless, but it is up to women to make it a useful bit of legislation for them.

The three main loopholes are:

(A) The Act is not compulsory, i.e. there are no penalties on employers for non-compliance. (B) The Act applies only to organised women. For the Act to be enforced an agreement has to be drawn up with the union. (C) Many women will be regarded as not effectively they will not receive any more pay.

Thus we must press for:

(A) Total implementation of the Act.

(B) No regrading of jobs

(C) All women workers should join trade unions.

It would be wrong to say that the question of equal pay is the only aspect of women's oppression which women workers can fight against. The demands for free state-run nurseries, free school meals, no rent increases, etc. must be fought for together with equal pay - for without them pay increases can be made meaningless. And without such demands women will remain household slaves.

All these demands can be fought for through the trade unions - that is what they are there for, after all, and they have the necessary power
The small boats put out from Unionist shipwreck

Alliance craft which they hope to steer.

One of those is Sir Robert Porter — now portrayed in the media as a kindly non-sectarian gentleman. It was Porter who was the Minister of Home Affairs at the time of the Bogside uprising in August 1969. He first ordered the use of CS gas and who finally asked London to bring in the army to do the job the RUC failed to do.

The main weakness of the centre has been their general failure to read the new outlines of British long-term strategy. Other groups, imperialism is now looking round for a new ally and the Ulster government will be genuinely loyal to the British government — not in the traditional Ulster sense of loyalty.

The Orangemen's loyalty was a loyalty to their position of power and privilege in Irish society drenched up in protestations of loyalty to the Queen and Protestant succession etc.

The British government has been leasing over half the British army, both privately and publicly, in order to attempt to construct a moderate centre which might take over. In this they have been remarkably unsuccessful.

The liberal Alliances are not yet swarming around the British hospitability. The main centre groupings are the Alliance Party and the Northern Ireland Labour Party — both of which are milder forms of mainstream Unionism. In comparison with the Northern Ireland Labour Party the British Labour Party appears positively revolutionary.

The Alliance Party, founded in 1970, is made up of middle-class Catholics and Protestants, unionists, quakers, peacemakers, and clever Unionists who have jumped from the wreck of Unionism onto the new

The UNIONISTS

The Unionist Party, with splits and defections, is now somewhat wavered. Faulkner and his pals are tentative nuts of the mill because politicians. Take them out of the team-room of Stormont, which the British did with Direct Rule, and they are lost.

Faulkner, of course, wants his old Stormont back, but even he has enough political intelligence to realise that the British government is not going to return it. So "wee
As millions in India face starvation - Europe destroys food to push prices up

THERE WILL COME A DAY, one day in the socialist future, when people will look back in disgust and wonder whether a system as irrational and brutish as capitalism could really have existed.

The history books may record that in the year 1973, 30 million people in India were faced with death from starvation. Two may go on to detail the number of those who actually died and, if records were accurate, how many others were maimed for life by starvation.

And they will also record how, at that very same time, the leaders and masters of European "civilisation" were busy deciding the systematic destruction of food — in order to keep up prices which they were elected to bring down.

On account of butter getting 'too cheap' (how can anything be too cheap?) 1.4 million cows were slaughtered in Europe, nearly ensuring also that meat and cheese prices rose to unprecedented levels.

On account of eggs being a price which workers' families could afford (anyone remember the 'Save money - Serve Eggs' campaigns of the 1950s?) one million lay eggs have been killed! And in the headlines when the 1972 dock strike held up some animal feed.

At the same time Britain's Minister of Agriculture Joseph Godber announced that fruit growers would be paid £200 for every acre of orchard deliberately speeded up their growth.

In fact, a whole industry exists throughout the EEC, exclusively concerned with rendering food unfit for human consumption. Sugar, sausages and cereals are mixed with stipulated amounts of dye, fish-meal, chalk or dried animal carcases (deadones destroyed for the same reason). In Britain, in the first three months of 1973, 17,000 tons of wheat has been contaminated. It is forecast that before long up to 10 million tons a year will be ruined.

So every time the professional front-men for these operations — the politicians — say they're concerned about rising prices and want to fight inflation, and advice, which they received and responded to well. Although her life of rejection and deprivation would have broken many another person, she seemed to be managing to cope.

Then, in a fit of deep black despair, she threw her nine-month-old son into the river. The vicious society in which we live is full of violence and greed. Among its casualties are unborn pensioners, children under-nourished and under-educated, miners crushed in unsafe mines and choking in black plumes half their lives, and women condemned to a life of prostitution and the washing nappies. Poverty, homelessness and hunger exist side-by-side with unbelievable wealth and opulence, which have been blamed by brutality and theft by the profit-hungry boss class.

Linda Boyle is just one of many to do unspeakable things after their lives have been brutified by capitalism.

KATHLEEN TRESASBY

SCOTTISH SOCIALIST REMEMBERED

A COMMITTEE HAS BEEN SET UP in London to commemorate the Scottish socialist, John Maclean, in the 50th year of his death. The John Maclean Centenary Committee, which aims to use the anniversary to publicise his life and work, has issued the following statement:

It is 50 years on 30th November this year since the death of John Maclean, who was at the centre of the struggle on "Red Clydeside" during and after the First World War.

Maclean's contribution to the working class movement and the political ideas for which he stood, have been largely forgotten, yet those ideas and his role have an increasing relevance for us today. What lessons can we draw from the attitude of contemporary revolutionaries towards the present state of struggle in Ireland when Maclean, almost alone, placed the national struggle in Ireland between 1919 and 1921 at the centre of his propaganda and agitation, that can we learn from Maclean's fight for an anti-imperialist stance by the labour movement during the First World War?

What was the influence of Maclean on the theatre and anarchist teacher on shop stewards in the shipyards and factories? Clarification of his contribution will raise many vital questions, even if we pay no regard to this important period of working class history.

John Maclean was aged 44 when he died, his health broken by his experiences in prison and his intense political work. This year we mark the 50th anniversary of his death, there will be a series of activities to commemorate his work, promote the publication of his writings, and to encourage discussion about the man and his ideas.

So far we have produced a full colour poster of Maclean; two affiliated organisations are producing pamphlets on different aspects of Maclean's writings; and we have organised an international meeting at the Conway Hall, London on 30th November, at which Harry McShane and other speakers will outline aspects of Maclean's life as a revolutionary. This will be followed by a day-school.

The "Comité in Appeal for supporting activities" can be contacted at 28 Lammas Park Road, "St. John's, London N.5.

Drudgery led to killing

"HOW HORRIBLE! HOW COULD WE SEE!" might be the reaction of many, especially among the middle class to hearing that a 23-year-old girl had killed her baby son by throwing him on the floor.

But many working class women understand why she could do such a thing. Having been dismissed as a child.

The drudgery of housework, the strain of trying to make ends meet, the worry over the new school uniforms..."

Children interrupted by a hungry or screaming baby, then tired mornings and another round of household battles to face: a long dreary routine that changes only for the worse, when you come home with the fact that you can't neglect the kids (mothers are not allowed to be Ill), or when you have unexpected bills to pay, or when the children catch chickenpox.

In the case of Mrs Linda Boyle, the misery and degradation of life under capitalism for working class women is shown clearly. She has suffered from poverty and lack of love from childhood. She was badly educated, and was almost illiterate. Poverty and debt were part of her daily life, and she suffered from depression as well as "personality inadequacy" and "educational anal normality" (according to bourgeois psychologists).

Her life has been described as one of disaster after disaster, calamity after calamity. In 1971 her husband deserted her, probably as depressed and sick of the way they were living as she was. She was left with her infant son and a small daughter to bring up, and asked the Social Services Department for help
One of the first pickets to be interviewed by the police was seen a picture of one of his workmates and asked if he knew him. "Of course, he did," the police said. "We're asking you just to have a look, and we'll be dropping this by in the morning." This was nothing but blatant intimidation. The picket in the picture was a man without any previous convictions, and he was terrified by the police threats based on to him. So also, of course, was his wife. It was even worse when the police picked him up and told him that another workmate had made a statement against him. The 'statement' was pure invention. The police also told him that he should give them all sorts of personal details which would be "taken into consideration" when the judge found him guilty.

Then, three weeks after bringing the charges, the police turned up to tell his wife. "Don't worry, it's all over," and gave her a shit saying that he was released from bail. And yet later he was arrested along with the 26 others.

The case was suspicious from the start. Six months elapsed between the time of the alleged 'fraternising' of the 26 pickets and the first indication that the police were going to make any charges. This in itself was enough to raise suspicion about the honesty of the police. It seemed just like the action taken against the pickets at Longannet power station after the miners' strike. The Government didn't dare try any intimidation of pickets by the courts directly; they decided to wait until things died down. The 6th February was the last day of the sixth month period outside which charges could not have been brought. One picket received his summons on the 26th. But the papers were dated the 8th. Obviously he concluded that the police were trying to drug things even further than the legal six-month limit.

The police had a weak excuse - that they had come to his house on the 6th, but hadn't been able to find him until the 26th. In fact, there was always someone in at the house, and in any case they could have contacted him any day at work.

**INTIMIDATION**

With another of the 24 accused men, the police tried a 'deal'. They promised to "go easy" on him if he pleaded guilty on the conspiracy charge. If he didn't, they warned him, they would "do him" on a number of "potential charges".

The police intimidation has been backed up by the press. The local paper, for example, stated that the charge common to all the accused is fighting and making an affray. That is not true. The common charges are to do with "conspiracy" - not fighting and not causing damage.

Often enough we hear the rich and comfortable preaching about "violent" pickets causing "intimidation". The fact is that the rich have the police to carry out their job of intimidation for them, against ordinary working people. And — if we are to defend the right to a strike — we can’t let them get away with that intimidation.

Cynthia Baldry
Connah's Quay Conference

NATIONAL ACTION CTTE.
NEEDS CLEAR STRATEGY

"ONE STEP FORWARD AND ONE
STEP SIDEWAYS" to how one deleg-
ate described the National Action
Committee meeting of steelworkers
as the 91 delegates and many ob-
servers fled out of the Civic Hall
in Connah's Quay on April 13th.

Behind this one step forward -
and a giant step at that - have been
the threats of massive redund-
cancies in the steel industry. The
recent White Paper on Steel anno-
counced 50,000 redundancies, but it
lied. In fact, a figure of something
around 110,000 is what even the
White Paper's own facts suggest.

The calling of the conference -
the initiative of the Ashton Works
Action Committee - will certainly
mark a turning point in the ability
of steelworkers to organise their
massive industrial strength against
the attacks on them by the BSC and
by both Tory and Labour governments.

But more than that; like the Na-
tional Ports Shop Stewards Commit-
tee and other industry-wide rank
and file organisations, the National
Steel Action Committee marks a
step towards class unity and the
awareness of class interests. A giant
step away from the personali-
tude and trade sectionalism that has
dagged the workers' efforts so far.

In the discussion on the resolu-
tion calling for the setting up of the
committee on a permanent basis -
as a permanent gain for steelwork-
ers - Tony Hope of the river Don
Works announced - "This commit-
tee is a nail in the coffin of the
BSC and the Government's policies.

.. Had such a committee been in
existence at the time of the River
Don fight, things would have been
much easier."

But here we come to the "one
step sideways." The BSC have just
announced that a "major revision"
will replace the 1982 agreement.

Ms Banfield has said that she will
not move on to other agreements
until the 1982 agreement is settled.

This is just one further step in the
long-term campaign of the BSC to
split the workforce and weaken
our power as a class.

It will be a difficult step for steel-
workers to take, but we need to take
it. We need to stand together and
fight for our interests.

Real Steel News

The weakness of the resolutions,
and the real militancy of many of
the speeches, shows the road for-
ward. We must gather our forces
around the programme of the paper
"Steel action now!"

Incidentally, a strong campaign for
the setting up of a National Action
Committee, which should be read as
an educator and organiser among
the rank and file.

The programme summed up is:
"If workers can't all benefit from
modernisation then we are going
to fight. It can't tell us its more modern
to be on the scale.

"Neither is it more "viable" - for
us! The capitalists' idea of "viable-
ness" is just a way of saying that
they benefit, and we pay the costs -
both financial and social. We de-
mand it in the other way round: we
demand the benefits and control of
the industry with the capitalists
footing the bill!"

That this conference with its 91
delegates was called and received
such widespread support augurs
well for the future.

The process of "modernisation"
areas (except the Steel Company of
Wales) and all the unions (except
the Toll Runners) met and the repre-
sentatives ground is right for optimis-
ism:

Now let's fulfil that promise with
a militant programme and ful-
fill that programme with a full
frontal attack.

So far, the only call to action by
the National Action Committee is
the call to come out on May 15th.
All steelworkers should support this
call, and show the doubters that a
real fight can and will be put up.

Andrew Hornung
In September 1939, nearly 300,000 Jews lived in Warsaw. Soon after the German troops took Warsaw, a series of special measures against the Jews were announced. Their aim was the economic, political, and social ruination of the Jews - with their physical liquidation as the inevitable outcome.

The Jewish quarter of Warsaw was put in quarantine. Adam Tchernia, one of the old leaders of the Jewish community, was called to the Gestapo Headquarter on 4 October 1939 and received the order to set up a new Jewish Council which would have to recruit the work brigades required to do the cleaning work in the quarter and maintain order with the help of a Jewish police force, raise taxes, and so on.

A year passed before the ghetto was set up. It was planned out as we November 1939, but the Warsaw Jews managed to defile the threat with a large sum of money.

At the end of April 1940, it became known that the first ghettos had been created in Lodz, the largest industrial city of Poland. Things became clearer here was the coming of a new Middle Ages.

The building of the Warsaw ghetto took the greatest part of the year 1940. To start with, the Jewish quarter was fenced in and surrounded with barbed wire. In September, they started building a 10-foot high wall around the district, and it was completed in summer 1941.

Eventually, it surrounded an area 14 miles by 900 yards, cut off by an "Aryan" road crossed by a bridge which allowed people to pass between the two parts. It included 1600 dwellings in about 500 blocks. In October 1940 the 80,000 non-Jewish living in the district under quarantine were given two weeks to get out. Their place was taken by the 184,000 Jews who had been living outside the ghetto.

On 16th November 1940, the ghetto was officially set up. In January 1941, 380,000 Jews were living there; the population density was nine times greater than outside. In May of the following year, there were 300,000.

Sanitary conditions were horrible. People were crammed in, twelve in a room. The water and the electricity were regularly cut off. Typhus spread like wildfire and typhus and vaccinia took a fortune. Panics began to take grip and the food ration was cut to 800 calories a day.

The Germans were, in a deliberate situation. They feared the possibility of a ghetto revolt which might spread to the whole of Warsaw. So they systematically penetrated the relations between the Jews and the "Christian" Poles - helped by the strong traditions of anti-Semitism in Poland.

Mystery

Then they turned on the Jews. By creating the Jewish Council, they wanted to give the Jews the impression that the ghetto was destined to last for many years and that in the immediate future they had no reason to fear for their lives - and the Germans succeeded. Ringelblum's chronicle of the ghetto records this from day to day. Practically up to the end, the significance of the deportations remained a mystery for most of the Jews.

Very rapidly, the Jewish Council became the center of the richest Jews, who were convinced that if they paid up they had nothing to fear.

Their leader, Tchernia, adopted the mote: "Be quiet and don't argue.

In order to gain respect, the Council set up the Jewish police with 1700 men recruited from the sons of "good families." The Germans promised the Jewish police men that members of their families would not be molested.

The Jewish Council also requested and got authorization to make a loan to offset the catastrophic food situation from the German banks, guaranteed by the hooked Jewish bank accounts (according to best capitalist practice). The Gestapo gave the power in the ghetto to the crooks, the thieves, and the assassins, by creating the "anti-Jewish" police - just as the refusal of German society came to power with the Nazi party. This police became the 1st organisation of the protection racket: all-powerful to dispense (for ready cash) exemptions from forced labor and food rations.

Among the most deprived, the demonization was terrible. When two Jews met each other, they would say "One or other of us must be working for the Gestapo." (Ringelblum: Chronicle of the ghetto). In late 1941, children were dying like flies, from hunger, cold and deprivation.

The free cemeteries lost 100,000 people. 200,000 Jews volunteered to go and work in Germany, 100,000 in Poland, for "the news of the camps wasn't too bad. That would encourage many people to present themselves for recruitment." (Chronicle of the ghetto). 200,000 Jews, driven by hunger, would go voluntarily to the Umschlag (the deportation place), since, in the camps "you eat better".

The wildest rumors circulated. Put out by the Germans or by overheated imaginations? Both, certainly. Today, peace would be coming next month, tomorrow, visas for America and Switzerland were going to be available, the next days, nations were going to be increased.

The Germans promised a safe life to the "productive" workers working for the Wehrmacht workshops. Eventually, they promised to each workshop a survival priority over the other shops, then to men, priority over women and children, to good people priority over bad. "They steadily closed the circle more and more tightly, they (the Germans) put out endless deceivers, they said that the deportations were ended in order to prevent any revolt." (Chronicle of the ghetto). The labor defense was set up, a sort of control body authorized to administer the workshops and to save the lives of its members and their families. To combat the obvious apathy, an underground press (principally Zionist, communist, and socialist) was created. It did not at any time propose insurrection. On 16 April 1942, the underground printers and distributors were executed.

Isolated

From the creation of the ghetto in November 1940 up to its end in April 1943, the Germans took advantage of the lack of resistance to isolate the ghetto more and more, especially from outside and to starve its inhabitants to death.

September 1941. Frank announces a reduction of the food rations of the ghetto. The ghetto post office is forbidden to transmit post for overseas.

5 October 1941. Death penalty for anyone going out of the ghetto without authorization.

End of October: The train lines creating the ghetto are isolated.

January 1942. Germans forbidden to visit the ghetto.

The end of the ghetto began in July 1942. Between 22 July and 30 March, 300,000 Jews were deported.

On 22 July, the Jewish council issued a decree for deportations to the East without discrimination of sex or age. Tchernia killed himself. On 29 July, the Zionist Jews decided to unite in order to set up one single resistance organization. On 8 August, the extermination order arrived in the ghetto. Operations lasted one week.

On the 7th August, all the streets and all the houses were blocked up. On the 20th August...
the first sign of resistance; Joseph Szersznitz, chief of the Jewish police, was seriously wounded. On September 8, the SS officially took into its hands the administration of "Jewish affairs in Warsaw." The 3,000 Jewish policemen, who had particularly distinguished themselves by their zeal and their cruel deportations of the other Jews, were deported in their turn, with their families. On October 30, however, the Jewish Coordination Committee was formed, bringing together five Zionist movements (Hashomer, Do'ah Gedola, Poale Zion, Hashchulim), the communists (FPR), and the socialists (the Bund). It drew up plans for a military organization (Jewish Combat Organization).

The massive deportations, which had stopped on 3 October 1942, started again on 18 January 1943. There were only 40,000 Jews left.

"The Jews, besides, had been waiting for a long time for this to happen. We had crossed the threshold of Pawiak at two o'clock in the morning and, a few hours later, strong detachments of the SS, Ukrainians, Lettish and Lithuanian units surrounded the ghetto. At dawn on the 19th, the German armored cars started burning the houses. The trench-bred Jews greeted them with grenades and machine guns. After a few hours, the Nazis withdrew. They came back in the afternoon with field artillery and launched a heavy artillery attack. The bombardment lasted three days and three nights.

**FURNACE**

At the end of April, the ghetto was no more than a huge furnace; the glow of the fire could be seen for miles around. Those who, miraculously, managed to escape the flames were shot down by the Nazis as they came out of the ghetto. The Nazis used more artillery in the course of this battle than for the siege of Warsaw.

The Jewish fighters - some 500 or 700 in number - finally took refuge in the sewers, in the cellars, and in the network of tunnels fragmented, they felt that they were getting closer to the real structure of things, and that it was closer to the truth to include what you knew to be there, even though you could not see it.

Then came the surrealists' movement, which sought to incorporate visual art (and into literature too) elements of the subconscious layer of existence that had been uncovered by Freud and others.

**FEAR**

After that, Picasso was able to put onto canvas the most direct expression of his feelings about life. They range from sensations of sexual comfort and fulfillment to those of deprivation, claustrophobia, and anguish from human savagery and ruthlessness to its product — the collapse, distortion, and explosion of life into fear, protest, and hopelessness.

And though they are removed from any specific time and place and contain many unexplained symbols, there are paintings by Picasso which have overcome the mental barriers of tradition and gained a universal appeal. His painting of Guernica didn't show the town, the homes or the planes; it showed his feelings about the event, and did this so powerfully that it actually managed to encompass a much wider sense of rage about far more terrible events which have happened since.

**Picasso — "Painting is not done to decorate apartments"**

When Pablo Picasso died on April 8th, he was almost more of a 'personality' than an artist. His name was a household word, to millions signifying modern painting itself. Yet Picasso did not represent 20th-century art, nor did the variety of his own work span its various developments, nor, though human themes were constantly at the centre of his work, did he in any way consistently reflect the life of our century.

In fact, he has best been described as a complete outsider. Practically all his work has escaped being pinned down to any time, place or situation. And a great deal of it expresses a deep yearning for a pre-industrial 'age of innocence.'

Yet his work was more powerful, and his understanding more complex and profound, than to produce simple nostalgia. What he did was to use his facility to distort and transform a subject to produce a kind of 'ideal essence' of it, so that it no longer related to the present or to any particular time as all. In doing this, he was able to concentrate on certain ideas, emotions, or sensations, and communicate them with great intensity.

**REPRESENTATIONAL**

The period in West European art when literal, representational painting predominated was coming to an end when Picasso started working. It had been seriously undermined by the freedom and discovery, which made artists wonder whether what they thought they saw was the real thing at all. They began to look away from Europe, to Japanese prints, African sculpture, and oriental ceramics. Almost spontaneously, in different parts of Europe, artists began to experiment furiously. In Italy, the Futurists felt that not only visual space should be included in a painting, but also time, memory, and the sensation of noise. In France, the Cubists led by Picasso and Braque, began to put side by side on a flat canvas a whole series of different viewpoints of a subject. Although the result appeared

**THE CHARNEL HOUSE (1945)**

A violent, concentrated vision of the 'famished, wan cadavers of Buchenwald, Treblinka and Belsen'.
Locked out sparks win at Wilton

A TWO-WEEK STRIKE BY 30 Campbell-Isherwood contract electricians working on the ICI Wilton plant has resulted in a smashing victory.

The strike started following the suspension of bonus payments. Other electrical firms complained that their workers on the site wanted similar incentives. The Rural Industrial Board (JIB) -- a Government agency which negotiates contracts for covering electrical firms, did not allow such payments, so they said, over and above the normal rate, which was 59p an hour for an electrician and 68p an hour for an approved electrician.

The bonuses involved were worked up to stall pressure from the men when they were informed of the national rise negotiated for January -- which would have given the two grades 75p an hour, respectively, from being implemented before April.

At 10am on Monday, March the workers held a meeting in the site cabin. They decided to demand parity with other tradesmen on the site and with other companies which had been resolved since the job started several months ago. They decided to work the JIB maximum rate until the claim was met. To start with they demanded helmets and adequate working hours.

When the firm refused to grant all these basic amenities, having spoken to the Rural Industrial Board from 10.30am, the men obtained support from all the tradesmen on the site to back the job and then walked out. They considered themselves to be locked out, on account of the minimum requirements for the job not being met.

The role of the local ETU official is instructive here, since the job started several months ago he had been asked four times to advise the men on their fight for parity, but declined to have anything to do with it. The only time he showed his face was after the lockout -- and that was to tell the men to get back to work so discussions could be held. The men told him where to get off.

At the beginning of the dispute, the men wrote to the ETU official for advice. No reply ever came.

The men went back on Tuesday, October 14, after the firm had agreed to reimburse them for all the money lost, in the form of two weeks and two days' redundancy pay, which was paid when the job finished. The bonuses were re-introduced pending negotiations on parity.

On April 13, after the firm had written to the JIB complaining of all the money they were losing, and would continue to lose, if a substantial settlement was not reached, all electricians received a copy of a letter from the JIB to the Managing Director of Campbell-Isherwood. This granted an hourly increase of 5p to all General Operatives and Apprentices over the scale of IR and pro-rata percentage increases for other apprentices. The agreement also granted parity to Campbell-Isherwood electricians on the present Wilton job -- and on future ones.

Unusually, electrical workers employed on other firms on the site will quickly follow. Whereas Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Freeze had earlier been involved in the discussion, the letter concluded: "As the settlement affects less than 1000 employees, this award cannot be implemented without the Board's (Pay Board) prior approval."

This dispute highlighted the way the employers use the Clarke-Leslie-ITF. These jobs that are not well organised have their rates pegged by IFTU Executives-Employer-Government relief. The need now is for electricity to smash JIB, negotiate decent basic rates, and throw out the right wing leadership.

PHIL SELMP

WHERE FIGHT STAND

[Graphic: Map showing Where to Fight Stand]

[Text continues...]

NEW POSTER FROM WORKERS FIGHT

SIZE: 20in by 30in

Available from:

Dave Spencer,
17 Woodford Ave,
Enfield,
Coventry,
30p plus 5p P&P.
ALL PROCEEDS TO FIGHTING FUND.
Belfast reader protests

Long Kesh cruelty to
injured bomb hero

NOTTS. PLESEY
claim accepts
"Company's
interests & those
of the Nation"

THE CLAIM PUT FORWARD BY THE trade unions at the Peaton Plesey plant in Nottingham contains the seeds of its own defeat. The rising cost of living, and the ending of the 1969 Pay and Productivity deal, is the basis of the claim.

It demands substantial wage increases, "equal pay for work of equal value", weekly staff conditions for all hourly paid employees and beter pay and conditions for junior workers.

The claim is sabotaged by the statement that "we are aware that the Company's interests and those of the nation depend on restricting as far as possible the impact of the claim on national unit wage costs." With this sort of thinking, Plesey workers can have little hope for their wage claims. Unless they refuse to accept the employers' and the Terry's control over wages, all they will get will be £1.40.

The claim demands "equal pay for work of equal value". Just think about that for a minute: if it is accepted then the employers have already only to alter or invent new job descriptions and gradings and to resist us - we have different jobs for women, with of course different pay scales.

But to beat this trick it is important to fight for equal pay, nothing less. Without winning back, women will again be cheated out of their equal pay.

United Left condemns Police raids

Hundreds of special branch detectives, many of them armed, swarmed on houses all over the country at dawn on 11th April. Over 100 homes were raided in London alone.

The alleged purpose of the raids was to seize arms and explosives, but as the London Evening News sensationalised it, "to wipe out IRA bombers in England and Scotland.

But, as the police admitted, hardly any arms and explosives were found.

The real purpose of the raids - intimidation of socialist activists - was revealed in places like Coventry, where members of the International Marxist Group active in the local intermittente union were among those raided.

On Monday, 11th April, the Conway Hall in London was packed to overflowing for a full meeting of the International Socialists, the Socialist Labour League and the International Marxist Group.

Supporters of the "Militant" group, the "Unity" and Workers' Fight spoke from the floor.

Unfortunately the meeting made no provision for a regular coordination for the future. A liaison committee should have been set up.

In addition to nothing very decisive, the fact that the meeting, held on the initiative of the IMG, confined its effets at "unity" to a simple joint meeting with its, to speak.

John Cunningham

G.U.S. Bolton
MAIL ORDER GIRLS SAY
"It's no joke!"

THE FOLLOWING ADVERTISEMENT appeared in the Bolton Civic newspaper a few weeks ago. The firm advertising was G.U.S. (Great Universal Stores). They said... "We offer attractive rates of pay - £1.50 rising to £1.75 with experience and ability." It looks like a bad joke when someone says a rate of pay of £1.50 is attractive. For the girls who work at G.U.S. a mail order firm, the conditions they get are just nothing funny at all. The starting rate at G.U.S. is in fact £1.40. This sparked a walk-out and the management have until April 20th to come up with an improved wage offer or they will have a full strike on their hands.

The exploitation at G.U.S. is typical of the mail order businesses. Mail order firms like G.U.S. and Littlewoods are one of the main employers of female labour in Bolton. Conditions in the older warehouses are bad and pay is uniformly low.

Not all the girls are in the union, generally SULAW, even at G.U.S. The walkout is symptomatic of the feelings of many women workers in the industry. It is hoped that many more will follow this lead.
£1,000 Fighting Fund

In the last month, rising prices will have hit all our readers hard but we too have been hit. It was reported in the Daily Express that the Queen’s grocer at Sandringham has been forced to close down - because of VAT. We have no intention of doing that! VAT has hit us - and it makes it all the more vital for us to keep those contributions coming in for WORKERS’ FIGHTING Fund.

So far, we have raised $211,62 towards the £1,000 target. Many students have promised donations when they collect targets in the next few weeks. The Coventry Workers’ Fight syndicate has designed and produced a poster to help towards the target (see p.10).

But we still need more regular readers to pledge to give 10p or 20p for their copies, instead of the usual fp.

LAURA KERMAN. Solidarity Campaign. - Cordelie the B25s are now hitting the suburbs of the capital. Throughout Indo-
China, the war continues....

DEMONSTRATE!

Saturday 6th May
RALLY 2 p.m.
Trafalgar Square
then march to
U.S. Embassy

NUPE leaders and TUC must answer for Hospitals defeat

As HOSPITAL WORKERS battled against the freeze, the leadership of the four unions involved in the strike accepted the offer of the Ancillary Staffs Council.

The offer, which was no different from that offered at the bedside to the trade union for £1.80 for women. Since the unions knew that women were a large (and in the case of the Unison, a majority) of all the women, they decided to bring forward by 6 months the 50p, due to equalise pay between men and women, was presented as a victory won by the Unions!

The offer also included a mention of money to be used to finance incentive and bonus schemes. These have in fact been resisted by many of the member unions as long as they thought that they would be used to boost earnings at the expense of jobs and conditions.

Hospital workers in many areas (Coventry, Liverpool, Manchester, Wolverhampton and many other towns) have decided what they thought of the offer, and its acceptance by their leaders, as extending their authority over the weekend - unlike their fellow trade unionists.

The reason for the defeat lies in two quarters: the TUC and the NUPE Unions. The strikes conducted by the major health union, NUPE, and the TUC was not directed according to the ballot, which was won by a majority for all-out action.

Manoeuvring to control the strike and ensure manpower, the NUPE Unions led the hospital workers to nowhere but the original offer.

The failure of the TUC to organise any solidarity - other than words of sympathy - considerably helped towards the defeat.

"Labour leaders" have not been receptive to the demands, either in court or otherwise. And he kept his word to the employers and their government. Hospital workers in many areas ran their strikes under the union

officials’ help, and even now some form of official talks are continuing, e.g. banning of private patients.

One of the major lessons that comes out of the strike is the need for an organised rank and file leadership, a challenge during the strike (and before) to organise. These were seen in contracts for the creditable and consolidated rank and file organisation could still be carried out, and should again be attempted.

One of the first tasks of any such body, and of militants, is to demand a meeting of the unions, e.g. Labour, Fisher and the TUC of NUPE at the Annual Conference in early May. This union official, like other "labour leaders", has spent most of his union life in an office, and was selected (not elected) for the job he holds. He must not get off the hook.

JACK SUTTON

DOCKS STEWARDS

Serious Questions Still To Tackle

Support For North Wales 24

On April 7th, the NATIONAL PORT STEWARTS set up at Birmingham in a meeting to discuss the future of the dockers. The meeting took place on the day after the London dockers had gone back, against their leaders’ advice. One of the London stowards expressed his astonishment when he said: “I have never seen the two unions so united, and yet the men still went back.”

The failure of the 18 men to commit the London dockers into a struggle against the Green Book and the Tory Government’s pay freeze is connected with their recommending acceptance of the £2.60 offer at an earlier meeting. The fact that this offer is only a 12% increase on the London docks is not yet clear, but the intentions of the employers are expressed by Sir John Lynch of the PLA. He stated that in return for discussion on holiday and sick pay, plus a possible increase to meet the rise in living costs, they wanted discussions on the introduction of a shift system and the possibility of transferring dockers from one employer to another to maintain full employment.

It is highly likely that anything the employers are trying for in London will sooner or later come up in other ports. This is not just a matter of how the London men decide to resist the employers’ offensive. The NSPUC cannot stand aside from the London struggle, but must work out a common strategy for a nationwide struggle in the ports. A struggle for a 30 hour week is part of the nationwide employers’ productivity offensive, and thus the NSPUC cannot stand aside from the London struggle. It must work out a common strategy for dockers - focussing around a campaign for a 30 hour week.

The meeting decided on at least one thing. That was to send delegates from all ports represented at the meeting (Manchester, Preston, Ellesmere Port, London and Liverpool) to Sheffield for a demonstration when the 24 victimised North Wales building workers (see centre page) come up for their second Court hearing. The motion for this came from Bro. Yound of Manchester.

The Committee also decided to hold the call to come out on May Day and to meet itself again before May Day.

Then, the committee must consider the call by some delegates to the national dock strike trade group committee for a race meeting of the national dockers. The NSPUC press group conference on the questions facing dockers around the National North Wales Port and impact on the docks of severance.

The NSPUC will have to come to some agreed stand...

STEPHEN CORRIEHL

ASIANs IN PENTONVILLE

It is a dynamo factory, and then later at a baker’s. The years went by. We settled down to life in Eng-

land. Then his wife and children and parents in India applied to him in England. On March 27 the CID came to his workplace, picked him up, and took him to the police stat-

ion. He went from there to the detention suite at Heathrow Airport, and then to Pentonville Prison, where he has been ever since.

He was not allowed to contact him with a lawyer, and it was only when his relatives reported his missing that they discovered his whereabouts and engaged a solic-

itor.

The 1968 Immigration Act’s ruling had been replaced by that of the 1971 Act, which came into operation on January 1st this year. People who considered themselves safe under the terms of the 1968 (or 1962) Acts - some of them who had been living in this country for five years or even longer, were liable to expulsion as illegal ent-

trants.

The men now at Pentonville Prison are there for similar reasons. They were immigrants who sought to legalise their situation by applying to the Home Office, or who tried to get relatives over here. All were refused re-entry from their homes or workplaces.

On April 16th, three of these men appeared before Judge Mohamud Amin, Skidau, and Khera, to be told that the judges reserved their judgment for two weeks. Lord Denning was preparing to give bail to eight of the men, but in the courtroom, the judge came from above... NO

The implication of these mens means that anyone who entered Britain by the terms of the 1968 Act can now be considered illegal ent-

trants, and therefore liable for expul-

sion. In the opinion of Lord Wilberforce they have entered as visitors, and overstayed their welcome.

All the people who entered Brit-

ain under the “20 days” provision will now have to live their lives in fear, waiting for the knock on the door, and exposure... they will have to give up all hope of their families joining them here. Any application to union their families with them will bring their exist-

ence to public notice. The fact that this also renders them totally inactive as union militants or as political activists, as soon as they stop cropping round in fear, the police can pick them up.

MARION KAVANAGH

(From p.7)