THE Queen's Speech "bears no resemblance to the election manifestos" (final) of the programme published last year to sustain the faith of Labour supporters, yet is sufficiently vague in detail to avoid forcing either the Conservatives or the Liberals into outright opposition. The more positively controversial the issue at stake, in fact, the more carefully ambiguous the phrases with which they are handled," THE Financial Times sums them up pretty well.

The Queen's Speech was defined in two areas. First, foreign policy. This is largely identical with the Tories.

**Repression**

"Support to the constitutional arrangements (within Northern Ireland)"—that is, to the plans for snatching a referendum on the issue of its federalisation and domination and exploitation of Ireland on a former basis.

But in the Labour leaders' view, the Sunningdale Agreement promises very little after the election of eleven Loyalist MPs to Westminster. Wilson's talk of "combating violence and terrorism" is a polite way of saying that Labour is perfectly prepared to continue large-scale armed repression of the Catholic people of Northern Ireland.

Support for NATO—a link to the military alliance that satisfies Portugal in its bloody repression of its African colonies, and stands ready to carry out the same suppression against any revolutionary movement in Europe. In the Middle East, support for the UN Security Council resolution 242. That is, de facto support for Zionism, with a few coins to Israel to be less aggressive.

**Re-negotiation**

"The most obvious aspect of the 'work' of the United Nations in its 25-year history has been its armed actions against popular liberation forces in Korea and in the Congo. There is also the more vague promise for renegotiation of the terms of entry to the Common Market and a referendum. Having launched a "chauvinist" billabob at Common Market entry, an opportunistic political diversion, the Labour leaders now have to do something to square their claim.

Obviously socialists are entirely in favour of any real reforms, however minor, that may be won by renegotiation.

**Nationalisation**

We must demand repeal of the Industrial Relations Act, and no incomes policy under capitalism—i.e., directly on the basis of the fundamental condition of British entry into the EEC.

On domestic policy, Labour now promises something different from the Tories—at least in certain areas.

Rents will be frozen for a year and the Housing Finance Act repealed. Rents will be increased. Museum charges will be removed. There will be food subsidies, reportedly extending to about £500 million a year, or about 20p per week for each of us.

There are more indefinite plans or proposals for women's equality for nursery education and fully comprehensive secondary education for improving the National Health Service (but nothing definite about prescription charges) for better laws on industrial safety for presenting furnished tenants from eviction for public ownership of land and "to eliminate the abuses arising from the slump".

**Meagre**

The "social" concessions scarcely go far as restoring the Tories' setbacks. They are actually very meagre indeed compared with the concessions doled out to oil men in the old class dependency by governments shortly before and after the First World War, or after the Second World War.

Still, the line is clear. Workers are being told that if we want more of the same, we must choose priorities. Do we want lower wages, or do we want a better society? Do we want nursery education, or do we want restoration of the general educational cuts made by the Tories? Are we going to give the Labour Government a chance to achieve a little, or are we going to run it by constant demand?

On a fundamental level, the answer to these choices is simple. If we had a socialist economy, where the whole productive effort of society was directed towards improving the well-being of the people, then we might well debate whether pensions should be increased first, or wages. While 70% or 80% of the wealth in the country is owned by a 10% minority, we demand both higher wages and higher pensions—at the expense of the rich. The indications are of a possible "compromise," where trade union officials will have to deplore the ease in return for some reduction in the sentences and/or amendment of the 1937 Act under which the pickets were originally imprisoned (pressing for). The important thing is that the militant picketing will be shoved aside or, rather, the legal precedents won against that right will be consolidated.

That is why there must be maximum rank and file mobilisation for the 20th March demonstration. At Portobello Hill UCATT and T&GWU have called a conference for 16th March, and delegate representatives have already been elected from NUR, TASS, ASLEF, NATSOPA, NALGO, NUPE and NUT branches as well as Trades Councils. It is important that this conference should firmly reject the policy of simply relying on the official machinery, a policy which could lead straight into a sell-out.

Pressure should be kept up on the official leadership for a firm stand of "release the pickets and drop the charges." Resolutions must be put in before 23rd March for the UCATT biannual conference coming up in June. But above all we must argue for a perspective of escalating industrial action to force the dropping of the charges.

**Socialist**

Having said that, we can take our chance to list priorities.

1. No government legislation of working class militancy. Unless we retain our independent fighting power, we are hamstrung. The best intentions, demands, or priorities are worth nothing without preparation to take direct action to back them up.

Historically, in fact, the major advances in social services have been won as a by-product of militant industrial struggle.

**Pensions up**

But anyone who places any great hopes in this renegotiation—ultimately, anyone peddling the reactionary demand for withdrawal from the EEC—is fooling himself. Firstly because the Labour leaders will shunt the whole issue to the background as much as possible. Secondly because the real roots of such things as massive price rises are in the general crisis of capitalism and not in the particular conditions of British entry into the EEC.

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Protests at garrotting of Salvador Puig

"The garrot is made up of an iron collar, a chain and a pole. The victim is laid down in the chair, which is attached to the collar. The garrot is put round his neck and the victim is garroted by twisting a screw, snapping the chain."

(From Tim Bithorn, Sunday Times)

In this way two people were put to death in Spain in March. One of them, Salvador Puig, was an anarchist, had been shot as a rebel and a policeman. It was the first execution of a civilian in Spain for turning point in the Spanish revolution.

From now on they are preparing to defend themselves against the increasing terror of the Spanish revolution movement. As reported in the WRP this week a case of garrotting of a worker by a police station in Madrid, some popular occasions occurred, a bunch of people were garroted.

There was a strong response in Spain. People and workers met to express their solidarity with the demonstrators outside. A group of demonstrators was fired on. Several of them were wounded. The Franco regime is now definitely over.

For nearly four years, political talk has been one of the main topics of conversation among the workers. The struggle continues to be fought in the streets.

The workers themselves, that is to say the workers in the textile factories, the workers in the coal mines, the workers in the factories, the workers in the construction industry, the workers in the steel industry, and the workers in the transport industry, are the main forces in the struggle.

The workers are not only fighting for their own interests but also for the interests of all the workers in Spain. They are not fighting for the preservation of their own class but for the preservation of all the workers in Spain.

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German 'social contract' on the rocks

The STRIKE of German dockers, seamen, sailors, miners, metalworkers, and other industrial workers in Germany has reached a new and dangerous phase. The total strike involves more than a million workers and paralyzes the entire economy of the country. The German government has declared a state of emergency and invoked martial law. The police and military have been mobilized to crush the strike. The workers have responded with mass meetings and demonstrations, and have occupied key factories and ports. The strike is now entering its fourth week.

Urgent

The present situation of political events in Germany and the possibilities for revolutionary development are grave and urgent. The government has responded with increasing repression and violence. The workers have maintained their solidarity and determination. The struggle is not just for workers' rights, but for the future of democracy and socialism in Germany.

The government has sought to divide the workers by attempting to negotiate with some union leaders. However, the workers have rejected these attempts and continue to demand the abolition of capitalist exploitation and the establishment of a workers' state. The working class must unite and prepare for a general strike to overthrow the capitalist system and establish a socialist society.

Meeting of post and rail workers proclaims: "Hasten Censcher (Minister of Labour) on to a spill*".
KANGAROO COURT AT OXFORD

On Monday morning the trial of 37 students at the disciplinary court of University of Oxford began. The case is concerned with the occupation of a University building by the Central Students' Union. The trial began after the 11 people which has been met before, has from the beginning clearly been a simple student strike. The court, which is of itself highly unusual, is also open to all the obvious biases in favour of the prosecution.

To begin with they reject with little consideration submissions from the defendants to adjourn the trial to allow their counsel to be briefly properly and to allow certain witnesses immunities from disciplinary action and on several other points on which the defendants asked to be in public, has on totally spurious grounds been restricted to about 5 or 7 til 17. As a result of the end of the day defendants were left with their feelings about the court by stamping their feet and trying to argue with the chairman.

The second day four defendants were physically removed from the court. Grounds that they were irrelevant to the case were effectively left one person who was identifying himself without any recognition, refused to give an undertaking not to do it again.

The case of the prosecution proceeding at such a rapid pace that five so-called ringleaders who will not be heard until the end of October. All the other defendants, the others receive lesser sentences. They are all sentenced for 6 months, which is unfortunate for some of them as he has been in cross-examination to have an amazing ability to contradict his story. This will probably not be the end result, however.

The importance of this trial is the precedent it sets, as though the University is trying to set certain precedents as possible. There is still no final appeal for the militant students in the press, and there is still no final appeal at least and at Kent. It is important to show that students will not be intimidated into silence in aammonia trouble.

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