WORKERS' LIVING STANDARDS --

FAIRLY

And with that, what could have been an important debate about where the left stands and what alternatives it can put forward, turned into the same old stale rally-type speeches.

Labor leader John Dawkins and Lawrence Daly made strong speeches voicing the TUC (which didn't need any convincing) to vote for the "social contract". But the real issue is exactly what the social contract is.

One part of the social contract appears to come fairly clearly, that is the union's side of the contract. The unions are to accept wage restraint.

The other partner in the contract is the Labour Government, on whose side of the contract? Here it is not so clear. If the unions accept wage restraint, then the Labour Government's side is to impose wage restraint. But that's not much of a contract!

WEALTH

Beyond that, Murray talked about "improving Britain's economic performance and living standards". How, if wages go down (it's a hold down), and "improving industrial structure". Lawrence Daly talked about the need to get a Labour Government in to do that (they can't hold down wages) and a redistribution of wealth (we'll certainly not go down if wages are kept down, and redistribution away from wages, towards profits).

The general idea seems to be that the Labour Government needs to do reforms "in return" for wage restraint. But when TASS spelled out eight social reforms he demanded as conditions for a social contract the TUC said no. When Alan Fisher of NUPE called for the TUC to demand a statutory national minimum wage of £60, the TUC said no. The TASS resolution was of course more like a proposal for a real social contract than a principled opposition to wage cuts under capitalism. Nonetheless, the fact is that if resolution had been passed, it would have killed the blank cheque, general wage generous promises type of social contract stone dead.

Ken Gill withdrew it for the sake of "unity". And what sort of unity is it that says, unionized we stand ready to be fleeced to pay the costs of capitalism crisis? Why, in any case, should wage restraint be demanded before we get social reform? The repeal of the Industrial Relations Act was not won by restraint - it was won by the militant action of workers like the 250,000 who struck to support the Pentonville Five.

Against the Social Contract

The record of the "social contract" since the election of the Labour government is summed up in a few facts.

The Special Patrol Groups have not been disbandled. The two who were sentenced have not expired still face more months in prison if their Appeals are rejected. The Clay Cross councillors still have fines amounting to thousands of pounds hanging over them. The British army's of occupation is still in Ireland, and Republican prisoners are still in British jails.

In the coming months, unemployment is expected to rise to a level of about 900,000 and prices to continue rising at about 17 to 20% per year. The Industrial Relations Act has been repealed. But with the various amendments added to it in Parliament, the new Transfer Union and Labour Relations Act contains most of the parts of the Industrial Relations Act that the capital union class still find really useful.

The charges against the Shrewsbury pickets have not been withdrawn. The Special Patrol Groups have not been disbanded. The two who were sentenced have not expired still face more months in prison if their Appeals are rejected. The Clay Cross councillors still have fines amounting to thousands of pounds hanging over them.

Secret deals of the old style always seem to spill out exactly what practical steps they are going to take. To keep down price rises, the practical policy is to nationalise the big food monopolies and super-market chains, without compensation.

Against the National Front

The National Front's hatred of the IRA is part and parcel not only of all the street by which men liberate themselves from oppression. The National Front is the Upholder of the most blatant racial and social oppression - apartheid in South Africa, the US in Vietnam, white supremacy in Rhodesia...

The truth of the nature of the struggle of the IRA is a struggle for complete national liberation. We know that too. And because we recognize that, unlike the fascists of the National Front, we applaud the heroic struggle of the Irish Republican Army and urge all societies to give it their solidarity.

March on Saturday against the National Front.

by Martin Thomas

on, to defend the interests of working people, is in the independent action of the rank and file.

A "Social Contract" which signs away that independence should not be supported.
A COUPLE of plenitudes of medical supplies, some socks and blankets, and about $7m, is what South Korea received to save its population of 75 million people from immediate starvation, long term economic collapse and the recurrence next year or the one after of a food and weather catastrophe.

We live in an age of unparalleled human control over nature: our floods, earthquakes and hurricanes are predictable and foreseeable. Human science and knowledge could either prevent such disasters, or at least mitigate their consequences. But they don't. The victims are as vulnerable as ever were the people of the Middle Ages in Europe and the Americas.

All they do is pick up a few bullets, gather up their surviving children, and plough through the mud to the nearest railway station or relief centre, more likely not to find than to find what they were told by corrupt officials on the black market. Draught, flood and epidemic always hit the poor and the lowest of the low again from the vicious exploitative system of social and economic hierarchies that were the hallmark of the 20th century. The simplest of the statistics from the people of the Asian interior of the continent, the islands of the western Pacific rim, the fertile paddy fields of the Mekong delta, are testimony of the triumph of the old order.

We are approaching the end of the 20th century. But the Sahel is unraveling, the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers are drying up, the South American pampas are dead. The world is not a capita one, it is a finite one, and we are using up the time, money and resources of the world faster than catastrophes and disasters for man are occurring on it. The Sahel and Aberfan and Summerland in the United States and the nuclear accident in Japan — where a whole town swallowed up in a day and a night by the physical illness from the pollution of the fallout from the flicks, of a kind that has never before threatened the human species, and that has been unheralded by the newspapers, is just one of them.

VICTORIOUS BUT UNCERTAIN IN AFRICA

BY BAS HARDY & MARTIN THOMAS

EVER SINCE last April, the white inhabitants of South Africa have been living uneasily in their beds at night. A wave of violence against their racist police state is growing. That regime they are strengthening the iron curtain of the Defense, fenced behind the 'buffer zone' between South Africa and the north is a mirror of the presentation of Portuguese colonialism.

The coup in Portugal five months ago which put Gen. Antonio de Spina at the head of the military government has not marked the beginning of the end for white supremacy in Southern Africa. It was an admission on the part of the Portuguese army that it could no longer contain, let alone defeat, the guerrilla movement on their own and South Africa's behalf, for more than a decade.

A week ago, Spina's government reluctantly submitted to the demands of the independent African nations which exist today. The manner in which independence is being won — a successful armed struggle over the past 10 years or so — has been the unique in the history of black Africa. But between the military defense of the Portuguese army and the setting up of new states, there are a few twists and turns in the road. We must look at each of the ex-colonies separately.

Spina's original plan for Africa, on his assumption of power, was an "equal" federation of the three African colonies with Portugal. This reflects an Africanism of the colonial administration, aiming in effect the creation of a "people's government" in each of the territories.

To achieve this end, the Portuguese have attempted to raise a "third force" (i.e. a political grouping occupying middle ground between the political of the white settler population and the liberation movements) based primarily in the towns and supported principally by the black and mutirao business community large and small. Where possible, the Portuguese have also wooed small guerrilla organisations to its side to fulfil such a role.

In Guinea-Bissau, for example, the Portuguese have gained the services of FLING (Liberation Group for the National Independence of Guinea), a reactionary "liberatiun" group based in Dakar and supported by the CIA and South Africa, the arch-conservative ruler of Senegal. Last June it was reported that Guinea-Bissau rulers were recruiting mercenaries by FLING in Senegal, and two shipsloads were sent to Guinea-Bissau to do Portuguese dirty work in the wake of Portuguese troop withdrawal.

However, this scheme is unlikely to succeed in Guinea-Bissau. The liberation organisation, the PAIGC (Independently African Party of Guinea-Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands) commands a mass following and controls big parts of the country's mainland. Guinea-Bissau also lacks a sizeable settler population and a number of African middle-class, two very important aspects (potentially at least) for the maintenance of colonial rule.

WITHDRAW

But what has really decided Spina to withdraw is the comparative poverty of the Guinea-Bissau economy, which lacks both industry and mineral resources. The loss of this colony is very marginal to Portugal, and Spina hopes that by granting independenc e he will show that he is, after all, an honest and sincere negotiator. (It should be noted that the fate of the Cape Verde Islands, strategically important to NATO and where the PAIGC has no military hold, remains undecided. Despite Portuguese promises to the contrary, Guinea-Bissau may well be partitioned, with these islands remaining in Portuguese hands.)

For the same reason as makes Portugal willing to withdraw from Guinea-Bissau — lack of economic support — the prospect of social and political developments after independence remains uncertain.

The character of the PAIGC is that of a grouping of some 3000 members that has done some work, basing itself on the salaried classes of the peasantry. The PAIGC is not a party only just beginning to be an instrument of an independent political life. At present it is dominated by local conditions — which vary widely from semi-feudal to community forms — and local concerns. They have no previous experience of organisation and struggle on a national scale, such as the Cuban peasantry. They are not a party, but the peasantry movement does not have a radical social dynamic, which would push its leadership to far-reaching political conclusions. The PAIGC is a party of independent workers — not an independent workers' party — which acts under the banner of the PAIGC for the interests of the peasantry. The PAIGC is a party of independent workers — not an independent workers' party — which acts under the banner of the PAIGC for the interests of the peasantry. The PAIGC is a party of independent workers — not an independent workers' party — which acts under the banner of the PAIGC for the interests of the peasantry. The PAIGC is a party of independent workers — not an independent workers' party — which acts under the banner of the PAIGC for the interests of the peasantry.
Nailing the NAZI Front

Excesses

The Front gets round these problems by dismissing it all as you just have to accept it. But in fact, it isn't really necessary to go back to 12 years, to see the political character of a Front, as is the case with the Nazi Front. They haven't changed, and their surprise isn't overwhelming. What is remarkable is how naturally they still show, despite strenuous efforts at camouflage.

There is a strong suspicion that a recent move to the left, which has been seen by many as a wash Harley by claiming that the Nazi Front, is more a cover for a thousand Jews, not a small Jewish organization, not a cover for anything, as is seen in a letter written on the Front's newspaper, is in fact a cover for a very small, but existent organisation.

One of their proudest achievements is the removal of the housing of a family in Potter's Bar, who live in a small flat and have 13 children.

The Front is still quite a growing trend.

No it isn't really necessary to show the old pictures of the Front. The new one is just as clear.

The camouflaging is in places where it is obvious to the Front's own make-up. Writing an article for a Front's newspaper, the Deputy Chair of the Front, John Tandy, says that at the age of 64, John Tandy finds it difficult to dismiss his old comrades' influence. He adds: "It's not just the 'youthful excesses', unless Cliffed was a particularly honest Front member, and that was not the case. Then, says Tandy, in the same issue of the Front newspaper, a few small political groups of the radical Front, and a number of people who want to see the passing of an old comrade. This same British Front was established in 1978 by a Front radical called John Tandy. In the same issue of the Front newspaper, a Front radical, who raves on about the Front's political future, is described as being "a solid man, a lawyer, a Front supporter of the Bolshevik Revolution on"

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Discrediting

In July a Baptist Front national organiser in Walthamstow stepped out of line and got himself shot dead by a Front member. The Front's newspaper published an article titled "The Plotter". It described him of "a man who raves on about the Front's political future, is described as being "a solid man, a lawyer, a Front supporter of the Bolshevik Revolution on"

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...
Demonstrating the principle of "professionalism" held by most of the organizers, it is important to note that the opposition to the strike is not being passive. The organizers have taken the necessary steps to ensure that the strike is not without consequences. The unions have called for a general strike on the day of the protest, which is expected to have a significant impact on the local economy.

The British Labour government, which prefers to be seen as a force for order and stability, is taking the organizers seriously. The government has already taken steps to ensure that the strike does not disrupt the country's essential services, such as healthcare and public transportation. The government has also mobilized its resources, including police and emergency services, to ensure that the strike does not result in chaos and disorder.

The strike is expected to last for several days, depending on the response of the government. The organizers have called on the public to support the strike, and the majority of the population has shown their support for the strike. The strike is a significant challenge to the government, and it remains to be seen how it will respond.

The strike has already had a significant impact on the country, and it is expected to have a long-term impact on the economy. The government is likely to face a difficult period as it tries to find a way to resolve the dispute and ensure that the country's essential services are not disrupted.