This is the giveaway Government — as long as you're a big boss or royalty. For those who have traded on generosity, there are millions of pounds to be scrapped up. Wilson's treasury: vast contracts for useless armaments; £500 million in 'loans' in the last budget, together with £1,000 million in tax handouts; the never-ending drain of 'compensation' for closed-down industries and businesses taken over more than a quarter of a century ago; and now the proposed charges for 'investment' which the government hands over to the National Enterprise Board in return for no more than the right of the government to advise and influence. The National Enterprise Board is to be given an extra £40,000 a year.

The British Royal Family is, of course, noted for its gracelessness the world over. This totally parasitic and useless crew receive tax-free income from one of the biggest private fortunes in the world, and on top of that, gets millions every year from the 'civil list' in order to practice its unique brand of grace.

On the very same day, her gracious majesty's financial agents in the property game, the Crown Agents, got a court order to avoid scores of squatters from properties that had been left empty for five years. Even the Judge stated that the order he was legally obliged to grant was a disgrace.

"FAIR SHARES"

"...And still the Labour Government wants us to accept the Social Contract. Originally, they said it would lead to fairer shares all round. Now that this particular mouldy carrot has been sung out, they're relying on a big stick on the biggest: 'heads I win, tails you lose' argument. If you want higher wages, you can say goodbye to the jobs. Take a cut in living standards, they say, or there'll be massive unemployment.

But by the look of it, we are getting both theemployement and the cuts. When it comes to those who keep their work (and for the lavish upkeep of their 'better' in society), this giveaway government turns into a take-away government.

DAMAGING CUTS

Food prices, it is forecast, will go up as much as 10% in the coming year. And food is one of the major items of the working class budget. This week bread goes up to 10p a loaf. Workers are worst hit by inflation.

Working people are most at the mercy of the really damming penny-pinching cuts in vital services like health and education. In Buckinghamshire, for instance, one in every four teachers is to be 'eliminated' from the schools and colleges. Nursery classes, some whole colleges and nearly all the libraries in the county will be closed down to save £15 million. Hundreds of thousands of workers are on short time, with their wages drastically cut. Over a million are out of work altogether (if you include the many women who don't register for the sake when they lose a job just because the bosses can't make big profits out of building houses or making clothes or furniture. As if people didn't need those things any more.

"TAKING THE BLAME"

And the worst of it is, workers are supposed to take the blame for it all.

When things go well for the capitalists, their defenders never tire of telling us how well it's "proving" itself, and how "outdated" Marx and Lenin are, "now that everything's so well."

"...Marx and Lenin weren't just reacting with their emotions to the squaller and irresponsibility of early capitalism. They knew its workings, and told how the squaller, the violence, the exploitation would remain, ebbing and flowing in intensity as long as the system continues its convulsive, juke's existence of virtually uncontrollable booms and slumps."

CLOUDS GATHERING

And now that the clouds are gathering and the capitalist system is in a mess, what do the "never had it so good" pundits and apologists have to say in defence of their system?

Now they talk less about capitalism, and more about the workers 'messing things up'.

But inflation and unemployment are ravaging the world, the capitalist world, and in those countries where trade unions are weak or outlawed, and workers and peasants live on the breadline or starve, there are MORE people out of work, and prices go up FASTER.

When things go well, the capitalists take the credit, but when things go badly, workers are made to take the blame. Once again: heads they win — tails we lose.

The storm that has erupted over the money the NCB is to pay out to the miners hides the fact that this figure is the price the Labour Government had to pay for a victory over the only group of workers expected to take on the government.

The section of the working class that shook the Tories to their roots in 1972 and brought them down in 1974, has been bought off by the Labour Government for an increase in the total wage bill of only 23%.

The bosses' experts are right in predicting a rate of inflation of 33%. That means that within months, the miners will be back where they started, and thereafter their real wages will be lower than they are now. (The claim that the increases range from 26% to 33% conveniently ignores the fact that 40% of this increase is made up of existing threshold payments that have now been consolidated.)

In addition the National Coal Board has got the NCB to agree to the reduction of productivity and efficiency targets in the coal industry and managed by increasing the differentials between various groups of miners to lower potentially dangerous divisions within their ranks.

After the announcement of the settlement, Gormley saw his opinion of the outcome: "I think it's a good settlement" he said.

What he didn't admit was that this agreement not only tells a long way behind what the left were fighting for, but it tells behind even what the right wing in the NUM was demanding. They were asking £440 for surface workers, and got £240; and 840 for face workers, who ended up with £101.

The group in the press and in parliament reflects the fact that what trade unions will see in this deal if 35,000 a year...and make it their own target.

But the workers now in the queue, the railwaymen, the power workers and the postmen, are not those with the most militant record...
PERU

THE BRITTLE REGIME CRACKS

Whichever 'normality' may have returned to the streets of Lima in recent days, it cannot conceal the fact that the violence is alive and well, and in other Peruvian cities remains a rival of major proportions in the country — the death toll rose to at least 1000, as bourgeois nationalist regime of General Velasco Amaru becomes a military seized in the bloodbath of the February 6th.

Bitter fighting broke out in Lima on Wednesday, 8th February, as government troops moved in to crush an occupation of barracks by the Civil Guard police force, who were demanding a $200 monthly pay increase and better conditions. Villagel troops and tanks were sent in to clear out 2000 armed Civil Guard personnel who had barricaded themselves in for 48 hours. The next day this battle was followed by a major confrontation, thousands of demonstrators rallied in support of the city centre, setting fire to the offices of two government newspapers and radio stations, burning military clubs and throwing Molotov cocktails into holes.

Reports spoke of both left wing and right wing forces being involved in this, and citizens were being asked by different groups to join the student movement that students had conducted by government opponents by taking over civil and constitutional rights, including the powers to defend, to search, and self-organization.

Mutiny

While the fighting over the death toll was put at around 100, with 600 seriously wounded, the two newspaper offices was put at 200, with 50 killed and 300 wounded, the government faced an unprecedented challenge.

The National Union of Workers, what the government called an "attempt to take over the armed forces was put down with 300 dead."

However, although the Civil Guard demands were over pay and conditions, the force being merged with the police, and that some very reactionary forces were associated with it, the government responded not to the political weapon against the government.

The CIA, for a start, is widely accused of having been in the budgetary process to orchestrate the well-organized protests. It has become a symbol of the conflict between the government and civilians, many of whom are members of the pro-US political movement.

Aloof

The government has entered into serious disputes with US imperialism through the nationalization of the US-based Mina and Pabana oilfields of what was the Ecuadorian government. At present, the government has taken control of the traffic rights of the US-owned airline Braniff in an oiled Lima.

Praise be for the second best!

If you wanted to give someone a phosphorescing instead of a fourth for a guard dog and still be told that "It's a job well done," then make sure you give it a "Phos." These Left Labour MPs gathered around their leader in the journal "Tribune," have spent a remarkable amount of time trying to make the Labour Government for giving them a job that was not what they asked for.

The last case of this is their response to Wedgewood Benn's new industry Bill. This Bill, which is supposedly brought by the OBSERVER to hold them to their words, was described by the Leader of the House of Commons as "People's Bill" and claiming to claim that it has been "requited with squeals of outrage and fear from big business and the Tory press."

As the Leader, observer, the Observer was brighter than the Labour Government. "I am surprised," he said. "But where they seem to be going against the Labour Left is being bright enough" switched Labour policy from outright opposition to something approaching a corporatism of the Observer thought, would inflame that thing.

The Observer was wrong... the "Tribune" was right.

As we commented last week, "Unfettered Capitalism" and the new vision of the trade union and the Labour Left in the new election are like Benn. Their customary failure to see the Labour Government as essentially a capitalist one, and state intervention under its control as a positive benefit to big business, leaves them open to the thinly disguised complacency of corporatism.

R porn

"An East End shopkeeper was hospitalized yesterday morning after a petrol fire bomb was thrown through the shop window. So the East London Observer commented yesterday morning on an incident that took place in West Ham.

The victim of the attack was an elderly shopkeeper who owned a newsagents shop. There was no obvious motive, and the incident appears to have been motivated in some way by the IRA. Detonators have not

LUC ZONES

BUILDINGS ABLAZE IN LIMA'S PLAZA SAN MARTIN

FIREBOMB CASE STAKES ANTI-IRISH HYSTERIA

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How much equality with the equal pay packet?

By the end of this year, the Equal Pay Act will be law, and it will mean that women workers, who have been paid less than men, will be entitled to equal pay. The Government is to be commended for this, and it is to be hoped that the Equal Pay Act will be a step towards greater equality in the workplace.

Yet the Government's hopes that the Equal Pay Act will bring about greater equality in the workplace are not realised. The Equal Pay Act is only a beginning. The Government has not yet taken the necessary steps to ensure that women workers are paid fairly. The Equal Pay Act is only a beginning. The Government has not yet taken the necessary steps to ensure that women workers are paid fairly.

THE GOVERNMENT

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RAW

The truth is that women face a mountain of disadvantages. The Equal Pay Act will be law, and it will mean that women workers, who have been paid less than men, will be entitled to equal pay. The Government is to be commended for this, and it is to be hoped that the Equal Pay Act will be a step towards greater equality in the workplace.

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WE CONTINUE HERE AND CONCLUDE THE ARTICLE FROM THE FRENCH PERIODICAL L'OEIL DU CLAN IN THE CHRONIC POLITICAL TURMOIL IN ITALY which LAST WEEK DESCRIBED THE FORMING STABLE CENTRE LEFT OR CENTRIST GOVERNMENTS MADE UP OF COALITION PARTIES TOGETHER TO GIVE A MAJORITY OVER THE LARGE OPPOSITION COMMUNIST PARTY.

In the concluding part, The article looks at the consequences of forming a ruling class to stabilise the political situation.

There are many possible solutions to the Italian bourgeoisie's problems. To a certain extent, the bourgeoisie can afford to wait. The system has shown that it could last until circumstances favourable to the radical transformation it needs begin to emerge.

There have been numerous alternatives. But never, somehow or other, the state apparatus managed to play its role in relation to the working class. It has used various means of repression or imprisonment when needed. It has sometimes relied on traditions from the Mussolini era, if only by borrowing with artifice of the Penal Code laid down by the Fascists.

The deep sense of responsibility that the working class bears towards the bourgeois social order has sometimes actually made up for the irresponsibility and jockeying of the bourgeois politicians. This explains why unions and left wing parties alike have not put forward wages demands that would cut into the bosses' profits. Instead, they have sided for a "struggle for reforms" along the lines of a modernisation of the state structure by which they benefit the bourgeoisie. And the working class upsurge of 1969 was kept within acceptable limits by the bosses.

The pre-occupation of the bosses, who want a "strong union" to negotiate with, is then of a union capable of controlling the working class. The interpretation by the bourgeois politicians of the union-management negotiations is then of a union which the unions and the bosses will succeed in putting the "workers" on a scale as far as possible from the workers' control. The "bourgeois councils" which have sprung up during the last few years have become today a sort of institutions.

The policies of the unions and the "left" parties have thus helped the country was particularly affected by the crisis. The flight of capital and the national debt rose in a dramatic fashion and could only be checked by U.S. loans. In these conditions, the absence of a stable government capable of taking the necessary economic measures was all the more deeply felt by the bourgeoisie. This is why a possible Communist Party participation in government is now being openly considered by bourgeois politicians, especially in the left wing of Christian Democracy.

For years, the Italian CP has been kept away from government. As we have seen, this accounts for the weakness of all governmental coalitions. As for the CP, it has been offering its services for a long time. It has stood for a "peaceful road to socialism" and even more recently for the French CP, thus asserting its will to become part of the system.

It also stressed "poly-centres", meaning the right of every CP to have its own "national" policies and its own "road to socialism". The party's links with the USSR were broken earlier than any other parties, and more boldly.

But this was not enough. Until now, the Italian bourgeoisie has refused to let the CP sit with it. It still has doubts about the CP because of the latter's links with the USSR and with the more combative fraction of the Italian working class. Instead of calling for the CP into the government, it chose to keep its unstable changing governments because it could unhesitatingly count on them, as they were composed of classic bourgeois politicians.

Control

Now the American policy of "detente" has tempered the cold war. And the Portuguese CP's participation in government is a European-wide experiment that will show the viability of a recourse to governments of national unity which include the CP. If this experiment is of vital importance for countries like Spain or Greece (with similar problems to Portugal) it can also serve as a proof of the faithful managerial capacities of the CPs which could interest the ruling classes of Italy or France as well.

Meanwhile, the evolution of the CPs in the direction of social democratization continues. In the course of the social disputes of the last few years, the Italian CP has largely proved its capacity to control the working class. It also made further steps to the right, especially when Giorgio Amendola, an old CP right winger, launched the notion of the "historical compromise" by which he meant a CP-DS coalition "guaranteeing Italy's future".

There are still of course numerous opponents of such a "historical compromise". For instance, the ministerial crisis that started in early October 1974 was due to a determined opposition of one member of the centre-left coalition Social Democratic Party to any kind of "opening to the left". It seems that the US embassy — whose links with the Social Democratic Party are especially strong — even intervened in order to impose, for the time being at least, a turn to the right. CP participation remains a plausible hypothesis and is openly considered in political circles, especially in connection with a possible deepening of the economic crisis. The CP in government could then enable the bourgeoisie to make the working class bear the burden of the crisis. The coming to 'power' of the Italian CP is therefore one of the political possibilities of the coming years. Whether or not this eventually becomes a fact will with the concessions to the working class that may imply. Such a process would of course mean a serious and complete social-democratization of the CP, which would have consequences perhaps more like the British Labour Party, or even Germany's Social Democratic Party.

This development is itself closely related to other economic possibilities open to the Italian bourgeoisie, and to political world crises, these possibilities appear very limited indeed. The very small manoeuvring options for the ruling class on the economic front, and the very small concessions it is therefore ready to make to the working class, set the limit to the social-democratization of the CPs in all those countries where they are powerful.

Solution

The completion of any process of social democratization would ultimately lead to second-party systems as in Britain and Germany, where the ruling class has a choice between a traditional right wing party and a big left-wing party that came out of the working class, but which now plays its role in the bourgeois political game, and which is acknowledged wholeheartedly by the bourgeoisie as one of its parties.

This is even truer in a weak industrial country like Italy, where such a solution seems excluded. Because of this, the participation of the French and Italian CPs in their respective governments would be unlikely to last long, serving simply to lay down the conditions for a turn to the right and, most certainly, for a downside attack on the working class and its organisations.

Acute

In a country like Italy, where the economic crisis can rapidly produce serious unrest anywhere else and where it adds to the problems posed by a deepening political crisis which has been going on for years, such an outcome must be accelerated.

Whatever the type of reactionary solution the Italian bourgeoisie wants, one thing is certain: the working class cannot respond. First of all, the legacy of a decaying bourgeois state to defend it. The law-abiding politics of the working class organisations are criminal, as they prepare the demonstration and defeat of the working class instead of victorious counter-attacks. Fortunately, the combativeness of the Italian working class stands well above the politics of the so-called 'workers' parties.'
"Our fundamental aim is to return to our roots in the NHS or the alarming growth of private hospitals in general. The collapse of private clinics that have sprung up since the liberation of the National Health Service has been one of the biggest ironies that have been asking high fees from women who for years have been unable to get an abortion on the NHS.

HORROR

Large sections of the press, many MPs, and organisations that campaigns for women for Life, have made a big hose and cry abortion dangers in the industry, and the fact that women from overseas have come to this country to have abortions as never before. It is the same with the Harley Street doctor who is alleged to have sold footnotes to patients. It would be fine for Hampton Films. But when he does the real horror stories - stories of what happened to women before the 1967 Act (and in some cases since that Act) who were unable to get abortions legally and were forced into the backstreet's risk of dangerous complications or even injury, and death.

The obvious answer is to expand the abortion services of the NHS: in fact it is precisely these people's campaigns against the NHS, which has included lining up NHS consultants to refuse to sanction abortions, that has driven so many into the arms of the private clinics.

At present only 9% of all abortions are done under the NHS. The Law Reform Association suggests that this leaves them no choice but to increase abortion on request (which would not then need 2 years in private, patient facilities, and the bringing of all abortions under the NHS.

The increasing number of private clinics and carriers out abortions is a reflection of the ever increasing growth in the "private sector" of medicine generally - something which seems to be getting nowhere. In fact it is at the present time cutting the NHS services relentlessly, and closing some hospitals dealing specifically with women's complaints.

Meanwhile, the "compulsory" provision of abortion services appearing to deal with the question of private clinics is, in effect, one of the most impossible for women to get an abortion. The Private Bill which got its second reading in Parliament last week, which was written up by Mr. James White, a Labour MP and a man who, in the view of Mr. White, thinks that 200,000 abortions a year is far too many, "we certainly don't think women about abortion just because they want one anyway"

LANE

Mr. White has many supporters among the powerful private organizations that want a return to the 1967 situation. The Second Reading given to this Bill in May has obviously been walking the sociated corridors of power, and gathering a very sympathetic hearing there.

By contrast, the Lane Report, which stressed that abortion should be part of the whole family planning process, has been totally ignored for the last 9 months.

If Mr. White's Bill becomes law, it will be very difficult for anyone to prove that having a child would have been "in the interests of the women" or "serious injury to their mental health". The private grounds would certainly have to be elucidated, and it is possible that another clause which severely restricts abortion comes into play. However, altering the law so that in future all abortions will be illegal and doctors will face prosecution for the performance of an offence, unless they can show that the child would be in the patient conform with the new criteria.

At present all abortions carried out in the NHS are legal unless a prosecution can prove that the patient could have been otherwise.

If it is changed, in order to protect themselves doctors are Braithwaite and others have said that legal issues only where medical, rather than social grounds are involved. And, as the ALRA pointed out, far too many of the number of abortions at the present time are done for social reasons.

The League's Bill supporters don't think these reasons are enough.

Burdens

We live in a society which, in an economic depression, fails to meet even the basic needs of our children. Many children in Britain today are growing up in poor families. In a society of underpaid and unemployed, the poor young people, properly a responsibility organized on the basis of how they are thrust onto individual, isolated families, and the women bear the brunt of the work. In the case of one million children, one parent alone has to shoulder this burden.

The least that women can expect is the right to choose whether or not to have a child that wasn't deliberately wanted.

Mr. White's Bill aims to cut legal abortions by 70,000 a year. However, as has been stressed by everyone involved, the number of abortions legal and illegal has remained practically the same since the 1970's. In other words, the only difference is the number of 70,000 abortions being legal and safe, and we will be that much safer and sounder.

It will be the same old story: the rich to Harley Street; the poor to the backstreet.

If a woman is desperate for an abortion then she will get one.

REQUEST

Mr. White's Bill would if passed mean that Britain would have one of the most conservative abortion laws in the whole of Western Europe. Even Austria, a predominantly Catholic country, has had abortion on request since January. France's new legislation will legalise abortion up to 12 weeks menstrual age (as advocated by AI), and it will be effectively abortion on request.

Mr. James White, and one of his colleagues, the TUC, and one of its sponsored MPs, Mr. Lane, have got together, many branches of this union have adopted the Workers' Charter, and its journal has carried articles on the Charter.

This Charter has been quite clear in pointing out that to talk about equal pay for women without demanding the right for women to have an abortion on request is pretty empty.

This action has been given official backing by the NUT.

The Tories who control the County Council have described the cuts as "trimming the frills". The "frills" were originally going to be trimmed to the tune of £7, 5 million, and amongst the proposed cuts are: 7,000 student teachers have been closed; two colleges and most of the county's libraries; and nearly 25% of teachers to be made redundant.

Rucks Acton of Trade Unions Council has formed an alliance against the cuts. The cuts include NUPE, NUT, GMBU, AFTI, NATFHE, and the Fire Brigades Union.

A joint Defence Committee has now been set up in London to fight the cuts in schools. A joint action taken to fight the cuts in South Hackney School and South Hackney School and South Hackney School.

President of the school, the teacher sacked by the school, took the case to the school and she was taken to the school. A joint Defence Committee has now been set up in London to fight the cuts in schools.
LIVERPOOL CONFERENCE ON THE SHREWSBURY 2 CP PUTS THE DAMPERS ON

ON SUNDAY 4th February, 1984, the Trade Union Congress (TUC) will hold weekend sessions to discuss the release of the Shrewsbury 2, the twelve trade unionists from Great Britain who are on trial in Portugal. CP members of the TUC have been invited to attend the sessions, but the response has been lacklustre, with few members attending.

STOOPAGE

2. That the General Secretaries of the TUC and the CP call a meeting of the TUC to discuss the proposal for a one day national stoppage to protest at the release of the Shrewsbury 2.

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ON THURSDAY 4th February two shop stewards were sacked and five others given final warnings and severe reprimands at Newman Hospital General Hospital, because they had called a ‘stewards’ meeting during work hours.

The NUPW members, both ancillary and nursing, immediately voted to strike, and this straight away made official. The action was followed by 24 hour strik...