

Direct Action

For workers' direct control of industry

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MONTHLY PAPER OF THE SYNDICALIST WORKERS' FEDERATION (IWMA)

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WAGE FREEZE MUST BE BROKEN

HOPING to use a sprat to catch a mackerel, the Labour Government has, in the past weeks, introduced some reforms to take the edge off the workers' resistance to its attempts to impose a wage freeze.

The first measure was Minister of Labour Ray Gunter's Redundancy Payments Bill. Workers sacked owing to redundancy are to get a week's pay for every year under that particular boss. Of course, the lie sheets that pass for a free press were quick to point out that a man who had been under one boss for his whole working life and was going to get enough to live on, at his final rate of pay, for several

months after being sacked. Big deal. These are the most fortunate cases. If you have been lucky enough to have been robbed by several groups of parasites in turn, before you are finally shelved for an indefinite period, you will be on the dole-NAB alone in a fraction of the time.

In other words, the bill cuts both ways. One of the preferable features of British-type capitalism, as opposed to the one-big-boss Russian variety, is supposed to be that the worker can offer to sell his labour power to the employer of his choosing. The Gunter scheme will obviously discourage him leaving his job. This aspect is one more step towards industrial feudalism, the worker becoming more and more tied to the boss, as the serf to his lord.

The second attempt to soften us up was the Budget. Under Tory Governments budgets are presented as some kind of state lottery draw or a visit to Father Christmas. This is in keeping with the "glories of free enterprise" image of capitalism that the crude old Tories put across on behalf of the boss class.

Under Labour, the budget is a much more subtle instrument. The Labour leaders, risen to positions within the ruling class, seek to maintain them by securing reforms that please their followers. Hence the Budget attack on business

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ASO demonstrations in Madrid and Bilbao

WORKING-CLASS and student demonstrations in Spain, continue unabated, despite widespread arrests. As we go to press, big demonstrations are being planned for April 30 and May 1—May Day—by the Workers' Syndicalist Alliance, ASO, to which the CNT is affiliated.

On April 7, 8,000 engineering workers came out on the streets of Madrid in an ASO demonstration, demanding a 175-peseta daily wage, the right to strike, no victimisation and free unions. The police stopped 5,000 of them but 3,000 penetrated to the Paseo del Prado, in the centre of the city. In Bilbao, 7,000 engineering workers staged an ASO demonstration in the suburb of Baracaldo. Following it, four ASO militants were arrested on April 11: **SANTIAGO RAMIREZ**, aged 18, and **GERMAN ORTEGO**, 20, both employed at the Spanish General Electric Co., **JOSE FRANCISCO DIAZ**, 18, employed at La Naval factory; and **RUIZ MONTALBAN**, 40, a worker at Babcock and Wilcox.

Another four ASO militants were arrested at their homes in Barcelona, April 6-8, taken to police HQ, transferred to the Modelo Prison after five hours' questioning and are now waiting to appear before the Tribunal of Public Order. They

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Scottish plumbers challenge Brown

SCOTTISH Plumbing Employers are in trouble for granting an increase of 11 per cent. The National Federation of Building Trade Employers rebuked them in public. In 1962 the Scots Employers conceded the 40-hour week without consultation. The Federation is worried about the effect the increase will have on other building trade workers, because in '62 after the granting of the 40-hour week and a dispute in the Scottish building industry, the 40-hour week agreement spread throughout the country. It will be remembered that Nicky blew its elegant top. This time such a breach of etiquette has been reported to George Brown's "Wage Freeze Committee". Scottish plumbers must have the touch.

WAGE FREEZE (cont.)

expenses, the Corporation Tax, the Capital Gains tax.

Wilson himself, however, has given the game away by pointing out that the taxes are already in operation in the U.S., mocking those who insisted that the measures were "socialist". And on Budget Day on television no less a person than Mr. George Woodcock, took as a matter of course a suggestion that the ending of tax exemption on entertainment allowances was merely a sop to introduce the wage freeze.

The last time, after World War II, it was family allowances that Attlee and Cripps used to foster their "wage restraint". Now Wilson and Brown are trying other tactics. Again they have the support of the TUC, just like their predecessors.

British bosses and union leaders have once more announced the end of their shadow-boxing. Having set out the theme of their love song with the Statement of Intent, they have now, through the blessed medium of the Labour Government, provided the full score and lyrics in the White Paper on Prices and Incomes Policy.

With the Statement the representatives of organised labour accepted the permanent crisis of capitalism ("... industry dynamic... prices competitive"); accepted the continuous drive towards the greater exploitation of labour ("... raise productivity and efficiency...") and condemned the workers, *at best*, to receiving their present share of the cake that they alone produce ("... to keep increases in wages, salaries and other forms of incomes in line... (with the increase in output)").

The White Paper lays down an "average rate of annual increase of money incomes per head" of 3-3½ per cent. It does *not* indicate any method of maintaining real incomes, for example by pegging wages directly to a cost-of-living index or an actual index of production; the 3-3½ per cent is baldly stated to be "the appropriate figure... in present circumstances". Other items in the White Paper, discussing how wages *could* be raised above this percentage, make it quite clear that, despite all the talk of "social justice", no correlation between money wages and real wages is to be attempted. The lookout is rough for those workers whose bargaining strength is weak enough to make them need increases of a good deal more than 3½ per cent in order to approach the national average.

But the real crunch comes in the means of administering the policy. It will call, says the White Paper, "*for considerable efforts on the part of unions and management...*" A union which is trying to keep wages down is not only no union at all, it is a tool of the employers.

The words quoted in the last paragraph are not just the pious hopes of George Brown; they are the declared intent of the TUC, who accepted the White Paper before publication.

Syndicalists hold that the producers should dispose of what they produce. Capitalism denies them this. Syndicalists therefore urge their fellow-workers to resist their daily exploitation at work by obtaining the highest possible price for their labour power through organisations that they, the workers, control—simultaneously preparing the overthrow of the system.

There can be no doubt that the freeze will be broken. It happened last time, it will happen again. The right to strike has been suppressed in many places, in many times, but never the *power* to strike and to win strikes. Already draftsmen, teachers and railmen have shown their determination to ask for more. Not unlikely, they have taken their cue from the fat increases the union bosses and politicians awarded them-

selves recently. Or maybe it is from the rumoured salaries of the Labour men on the new Nicky—the National Board for Incomes and Prices—£10,000 a year for one, £7,500 for the other two. The chairman gets £15,000.

The wage freeze shows once again whose side the union leaders and the politicians whom they support are on. Their case is clear. But we should also remember that during the General Election campaign all sorts of self-styled opponents of capitalism encouraged us to return yet another Labour Government, though they full knew what was in store. With the wage freeze they are beginning to wriggle out. In the coming period union officials are likely to be sent packing with great frequency by unofficial strikers. These persons should receive the same treatment.

MARK HENDY

LEST WE FORGET

A Labour 'May Day'

IN THE House of Commons on March 25, Nigel Fisher (Con., Surbiton), wanted to know how many ministers would be on the CND Easter march. The Home Secretary, Sir Frank Soskice, replied, "I have not the slightest idea. It is entirely a matter for them."

After Julian Snow (Lab., Litchfield) had intervened, Sir Frank said, "I thought we lived in the greatest democracy in the world. I always thought that marching, public processions and public addresses were the ordinary instruments of democracy and extremely useful."

Sir Frank Soskice was Solicitor General in the Labour Government of 1945-51. On March 20, 1949, the Fascists staged a provocative march through the working class quarters of North-East London. The Home Office used a very large force of police to protect the march from indignant workers. The Labour Government then used the Public Order Act to ban "all public processions of a political character in London" for three months. Thus, marches which had been planned to celebrate the 60th anniversary of World May Day were made illegal in London.

The Act did not cover meetings and a May Day meeting was held in Trafalgar Square, where D. N. Pritt, MP, said, "There are only two capital cities in Europe where the workers are forbidden to march on this day, Madrid and London." When groups attempted to march, police broke them up and arrested numbers of demonstrators.

In the following year, 1950, the Labour Government again banned all processions in London on and about May Day. A workers' "May Day" procession on May 7 was broken up by police acting under Government command. Seventy marchers were arrested.

TOM BROWN

Builders divided

BUILDING WORKERS from many London sites packed Conway Hall on April 8 to support a four-point demand of: 1s. 6d. per hour increase, 40-hour week, 3 weeks' holiday with pay and an adequate sickness scheme.

The meeting heard Pat Healey, AUBTW, call for union executives and branches to be deluged with resolutions supporting the four points and against any further package deals when the present agreement ends in November.

However, Healey and the platform seemed mainly concerned with lobbying Central Hall, Westminster on April 30, when Brother George Brown puts his "Incomes Policy" across

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SELMA: ONLY A PARTIAL VICTORY

IN THE UNITED STATES, the conflict between the forces of freedom and reaction has attained an unprecedented ferocity. Recent rapid developments forced the President to be less compromising towards the Southern segregationists and to submit to Congress a Bill which, if it goes through, will give Negroes all over the country the right to vote and provide safeguards against any attempt to stop them exercising this right.

Among the almost daily marches, demonstrations and clashes with Sheriff Jim Clark's goons, the one which had probably the greatest effect in shaping the President's policy was not the march from Selma to Montgomery, but the abortive demonstration held in Selma on March 9, the defiance of a ban imposed not by a State court, but by the Federal Judge, another Johnson. The President urged the Negroes to "respect the law and, by implication, to obey Judge Johnson's order," (to quote the next day's *Guardian*), and by not obeying that order they expressed their impatience with Lyndon Johnson and the other white liberals in and around the Democratic Party.

In contrast to the brutality of the day before, the State police commander, Major John Cloud, used no force in stopping the march, no doubt because the demonstrators—many of whom might not have shared Dr. Martin Luther King's pacifist views—heavily outnumbered the police. The

same report in the *Guardian* described the purpose of the march as "to protest and draw attention to the discrimination practised against Negroes seeking to register in Alabama as voters."

For a number of reasons, then, Johnson has had to commit himself unequivocally to seeing that the Negroes in the South be allowed to vote. But giving them a legal right already "enjoyed" by the white workers and the Negroes in the North—that of choosing their rulers—will not solve the Southern Negroes' problems and they must not consider it any more than a partial victory in what will be a long struggle for equality.

The Negroes in Harlem and other Northern ghettos—one of the worst is in Washington itself—have the vote now, but it has not raised their standard of living above starvation level. Whether Johnson or Goldwater lives in the White House, the employers and bankers have the real power in the USA, which means, for the Negroes, that there will still be discrimination against them in industry, not only by the bosses, but also by the bureaucratic trade unions, some of which are still closed to coloured workers.

The French weekly, *L'Express*, reporting the annual AFL-CIO Executive Committee meeting at Bal Harbor, Florida, said: "According to the official experts, poverty begins below 3,000 dollars a year. Now, say the trade union chiefs, a worker paid 1.25 dollars an hour earns less than 3,000 dollars a year. It is true that the average wage in industry is about 2.5 dollars, but millions of wage-earners get less than the minimum. This is the case in the Southern States for most Negro workers in the tobacco or cotton plantations. Some receive only 50 cents an hour."

Nobody can vote or legislate away such a situation; it is an essential part of the capitalist system in the USA and will disappear only with that system. It is the real, economic inequality indicated by the above figures that divides the American working-class, isolating the Negroes, so that when they try to act independently of the white liberals and ecclesiastical do-gooders, as on March 9, they are defeated and become pawns of the Administration again.

Neither does Johnson's determination that the Negroes in every State should have the right to vote appear as altruistic as the capitalist press would have us believe, when seen as part of American imperialism's fight against Communism in the underdeveloped countries, particularly in Latin America and South-East Asia. Like Kennedy before him, Johnson supports the Negroes' more modest demands in order to present a friendly image of the US Government to the natives of these areas, most of whom are coloured. The war in Vietnam, with its genocide and cruelty to innocent women and children, shows all too clearly that when such propaganda proves ineffective, the so-called liberals will resort to the old gunboat methods without any compunction.

American workers of all races must unite and bring down the Wall Street oligarchy which keeps people all over the world in abject poverty.

ROD BAKER

Joffre Stewart on run from Chicago cops

WE have received this account from an American comrade, Joffre Stewart, on the run from the Chicago police.

On December 15, 1964, Joffre was followed to a friend's flat by two cops, Nos. 6069 and 6777, one with gun in hand, who entered uninvited. They left after accepting some literature and giving warnings.

Some time later, in the street, Joffre and a friend, Bob Bolinger, were stopped by the same policemen. For no apparent reason, Joffre's pockets were searched, and then both men were put in the police wagon.

For the next two and a half days (while in custody) Joffre refused to eat or walk.

He was clubbed on the way to the wagon and, when pulled out at the station, his ears were twisted and judo tricks applied to strain his wrists and other joints. His bag and briefcase were torn apart and papers strewn about. SWF "Why Vote" stickers were taken from him. Next morning he was taken to a House of Correction, where, for the first time, he learnt he was charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest (later specified as violence and abusive language towards the police—Bolinger remembers the police calling Joffre "son of a bitch" and "nigger").

Refusing bail, he was held for two days and then released (his mother had put down \$10 on \$100 bail). 25 cents, a pair of gloves and a T-shirt had been stolen from him. When, by Feb. 5, he had not appeared at court, a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Joffre is now hiding trying to get publicity for his case—one of quite unjustified persecution. Friends think he is in considerable danger from the police when they find him.

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Direct Action

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Legislation no answer to prejudice

"I HAVE no colour prejudice, it's just—well—they are different from us. They live ten to a room, and do you know they eat Kit-e-Kat. And the smell of their cooking!"

How many times have we heard this kind of thing? Or the other extreme, all white men are bastards, and the coloured immigrants are always right. Many, many people are colour prejudiced, without fully realising the fact. People like some people and dislike others, but when the colour question is involved the personal basis goes, they are all lumped together, and are blamed for every problem that crops up. Housing, unemployment, dope—the lot.

The papers play the anti-colour game in a very subtle way, instead of reporting "a man from Notting Hill was charged today at Bow Street, for disturbing the peace," they report "A Nigerian, a West Indian, was charged, etc., etc." The report is tucked away in a couple of column inches but it's enough for people to latch onto, when they are desperate for a house and don't know who to blame for the shortage.

At the moment the mention of the word "housing" sets feelings running high. The idea that is pushed is that the "blacks" get the houses, and that the Englishman has no chance. Seven times out of ten immigrants buy houses that whites wouldn't look at as a home for their relatives and friends. On the other hand accommodation is rented from black and white Rachmans.

Whilst on the question of housing, to be able to rent a house means—who do you know and what can you pay? The "Housing List"; how many people understand the points system, and complain because they think that others have jumped the queue. This is nothing new, there has always

been a housing shortage and always will be, whilst property speculators and land pirates are allowed to operate. Immigrants are not responsible for the situation; they just provide a suitable scapegoat.

Political parties are very sensitive to coloured immigration. Seats can be won or lost. The Labour Party is no exception, but it's on a tight rope, bobbing for votes on the one hand and trying to cling to a strand of socialist principle. Hence the Race Relations Bill.

The Bill is a crumb to the well-meaning "Left" of the Labour Party. The three main points: 1. Makes illegal discrimination in public places. 2. Prevents the retention of leases which for reason of colour may prevent a tenancy. 3. Makes it an offence to stir up race hatred by writing or speech.

The Bill still leaves open discrimination against coloured lodgers and also discrimination in employment. Two very big areas.

The Bill in fact has done nothing except add one more law to the statute book. Colour discrimination in public places is at a minimum. If the police don't like your speech at a public meeting they will find a way of stopping you—they always have done up to yet.

You can't legislate against people's feelings. The only way to overcome race prejudice is by education and propaganda for black and white, and this is a two-way effort. There is discrimination between Indian and West Indian, between Jamaican and Anglo, etc. This is *all* ammunition for the racialists. The whole problem is far from easy to solve, but solved it must be. This certainly won't be done by passing laws. Children don't need laws to integrate—here lies a lesson.

GROUP NOTICES

LONDON SWF: open meetings every Friday, at the Lucas Arms, 245 Grays Inn Road, WC1 (5 min. Kings Cross Station) 8.30 p.m.
May 7 Roger Sandell—The Warren Report.

14 Tom Brown—Wage Freeze.

21 Ralph Rosenbaum—How the CIO Arose.

28 Open discussion on working as a minority.

LONDON: SWF Industrial Action Sub-Committee (London). Readers wishing to help in the work of this committee are asked to contact the Secretary, Joe Ball, 27 Jerningham Road, London S.E.14.

BIRMINGHAM AND W. MIDLANDS. Contact Peter Neville, 12 South Grove, Erdington, Birmingham 23.

BRISTOL: Contact S. Gannon, 22 Hampton Road, Cotham, Bristol 6.

DUNDEE: Meetings every Saturday, 2.30 p.m. at Mike and Alison Malet's, 20 South George Street, Dundee.

GLASGOW: Contact Ron Alexander, c/o Kennedy, 112 Glenkirk Drive, Glasgow W.5.

Meetings at Horseshoe Bar, Drury Street, Tuesdays, 8.00 p.m.

HULL & E. YORKS: Contact Rod Baker, 6 The Oval, Chestnut Avenue, Willerby, E. Yorks.

LIVERPOOL: Contact Vincent Johnson, 43 Milbank, Liverpool 13.

MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT—Contact Jim Pinkerton, 12 Alt Road, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs.

SOUTHALL: Enquiries to Roger Sandell, 58 Burns Ave., Southall, Mdx.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS: Contact J. D. Gilbert Rolfe, 4 Mount Sion, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

WITNEY: Contact Laurens Otter, 5 New Yatt Road, North Leigh, nr. Witney, Oxon.

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FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS

INDUSTRIAL YOUTH—voice of militant apprentices and young workers. 2d. monthly from 25a Duffield Road, Salford 6, Lancs.

THE NEW AFRICAN—radical review. 24 pages monthly on life, thought, politics and art of the new Africa. With articles, poetry, stories, drama, satire, reviews interpreting change in South Africa and developments in Africa to South Africa, Africa and the world. Annual subscription £1 to the Manager, The New African, 12a Goodwins Court, St. Martins Lane, London, W.C.2.

RESISTANCE—for Peace and Freedom. Bulletin of the Committee of 100, 6d. per copy, 10s. a year post free, cut rate on bulk orders. 13 Goodwin Street, London, N.4.

EDINBURGH ANARCHIST GROUP: Contact Douglas Truman, 13 Northumberland St, Edinburgh 3.

NEW FOREST ANARCHIST GROUP: Contact Ken Parkin, Old Tea House, Brockenhurst, Hants.

OXFORD ANARCHIST GROUP: Contact H. G. Mellor, Merton College, Oxford.

SURREY ANARCHISTS are invited to meetings on 1st Thursday of every month at Chris Torrance's, 63 North Street, Carshalton, Surrey (ring 3 times) and on 3rd Thursday of every month at M. Dyke's, 8 Court Drive, Sutton, Surrey. Both meetings 7.30 p.m.

S. WALES ANARCHIST GROUP. Irregular meetings held. Enquire Peter Raymond, 300 Whitechurch Road, Gabalfa, Cardiff.

BACKGROUND TO THE ADEN CONFLICT

SOMETIMES, when I first arrived in Aden, I couldn't tell who was "white" and who wasn't. The fierce tropical sun burned the British as brown as the Arabs and white-skinned new blokes were contemptuously referred to as "moonies" by the veterans. In time I became as brown as the rest and laughed at the whites as they stepped off the kite from UK.

I enjoyed life in Aden. Though I was sick fed up of the

Follow my leader CND

AS USUAL, the first two days of the Easter march went off mainly "very well"—quiet and orderly. Well done CND. We'll let you march again next year if you behave yourselves.

On Monday the strong contingent of red and black banners spread across Kensington Gore to enter Hyde Park for the lunch break, making a fine sight. Besides the banners of the Syndicalist Workers' Federation and the Anarchist Federation of Britain there were local groups from Bedford, Bexley, Cardiff, Crayford-Dartford, Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow, West Kent, Ilford, London, Manchester, Merseyside, Notting Hill, Oxford, Reading, Southall. Comrades also came from Crewe, Dundee, Hull, Ipswich, Margate, Rochdale, Tyneside.

After lunch this contingent was increased to about a thousand by several Committee of 100 and YCND groups and the Irish Communist Group. The big white chiefs decided that these wicked elements shouldn't walk in front of Mrs. Olive Gibbs and her MP mates and decided to cut them off from the main body of the marchers. In their normal crafty manner however the outcasts of capitalist society beat them at their own game and ended up in the front section of the march as it left the Park.

Meanwhile, an even dirtier plot was being hatched. As the front of the march reached Parliament Square this section, which had been escorted from the Park by a police bus before and behind plus a copper to every two ranks, either side, was surrounded and hemmed in by the guardians of law, and order, and CND—whilst more respectable elements (Communists, right-wing Trotskyists, etc.) marched stolidly on past and up Whitehall. After some minutes being shoved, punched and kicked by Our Wonderful Police, and chanting "Freedom to March", they broke out and rushed up Whitehall in a most disorderly fashion, receiving further entirely gratuitous manhandling and shoving from the police again.

But when they reached Trafalgar Square Mrs. Gibbs soon put paid to their grievances. Work through the Labour Party and the United Nations. All we need is 150 more of my mates in Parliament and everything will be dandy. She said.

Other speakers consisted mainly of the normal bunch of politicians and labour-fakers. Canon Collins was even dug up from somewhere and introduced as the man who had done most for the Campaign (to build it or to wreck it?).

So don't agitate folks, don't organise, or good people like Mrs. Gibbs and her MP mates (who detest the Bomb and the war in Vietnam, but somehow can't get round to voting against them) will be out of a job, and we can't let that happen. Remember, the Campaign for the Labour Party needs you—but only if you're stuffed from the neck up.

MARYLYN HUTT

Air Force, I liked the sun, the sea and the women. But I did a lot of serious thinking. Although I'd never read any Syndicalist propaganda, or heard of the SWF, I knew I'd been sent to Aden to keep the world safe for the London Stock Exchange. So I did everything I could to foul the machinery. I was on a permanent "go slow". I acted stupid to annoy the officers and NCO's, I did a bit of sabotage when I could, I spoke to my mates about my ideas. When I got seven days inside for not saluting the CO, I became a hero.

There was a corporal in the stores who called himself a communist. He was going to buy himself out if he could and refuse to obey orders if he couldn't. We used to have some great arguments, with the rest of the blokes joining in, and the sergeant screaming, "Have you all gone mad?"

I came to realise I was living in a revolutionary situation. The tension in Aden mounted steadily. Once I was put on guard at the Governor's palace. We were supposed to prevent anybody bumping him off. He was never so near to getting assassinated. What would I have done if the tension had come to the boil? I don't know.

The morale of the troops was low. Even the army blokes, who lived in the same barracks as us, weren't happy. They didn't mind going up in the hills, banging away at long-haired tribesmen. But suppressing workers on strike was another matter. Many Arab "leaders" talked in a racist way, when they should have been subverting the troops.

Racial hatred was understandable. There's a street a mile long, Maalla Streight, which consists of blocks of flats for servicemen's families. All of them air-conditioned and the higher the rank, the more luxurious the flat. Right behind it rise the barren rocks, with Arab shanties of wood and cardboard perched on them.

The workers went on strike. General strike. The armed forces set up barricades at the entrances to the military sites. We were used as blackleg labour. I was put in the hospital kitchen, so I thought fair enough, the hospital's got to be kept going.

At this time we had a "coolie" working for us in the barracks. I mean he was employed by the blokes, not by the RAF. He swept up, made the beds, polished shoes, etc. He was a Somali, tall, black as the Earl of Hell's waistcoat and handsome. The Somalis are a good-looking race, especially the women. He turned up for work during the strike.

"What are you doing here?" I asked, "There's a general strike on."

"That's the Arabs," he said, "I'm a Somali." I said it didn't matter what race he was, he was a worker, but he just laughed and called me a mad Jock.

The situation in Aden has got worse since I left. Bombs have been thrown and the families of servicemen go in fear. This bomb-throwing is not done by workers, but by agents of Nasser, who is seeking to replace the British as master. Bomb throwing never solves anything.

Revolutionaries should remember that the Armed Forces consist mainly of working class blokes who were misfits in civilian life. The deadly bureaucracy of military life can turn a man into a machine, or it can cause a reaction and make him a rebel. When the chips are down, the best weapon we have is fraternisation with the enemy. In every great revolution this has proved to be true.

DAVE COULL

You CAN'T be so sure of Shell

AN INCIDENT recently at a Shell plant in Essex, although unreported and unspectacular in itself, raises one or two points of interest. A chargehand was expecting a delivery of sulphuric acid for storage in one of the large chemical vats. When the tanker-driver arrived, he signed the invoice without looking at it, as he was in a hurry to get away to his dinner—it was for carbonate of lime. He told the driver to discharge it into the usual vat, which, of course, contained sulphuric acid.

A short time after someone heard almighty rumblings and hissings coming from the vat and gave the alarm, as a result of which the threatened explosion was prevented by partially draining the vat to stop the pressure building up.

The chargehand in question, aged 55 and a lifelong employee of Shell, was removed from the job and given a dead-end one with a big drop in pay. The workers on the installation felt this was more than a safety measure, it was downright victimisation, and decided to apply an overtime ban in sympathy. This threat of direct action worked: the management, realising they had overplayed their hand, changed their mind and put him in another job, with the same pay as he had as chargehand.

The tactic of an overtime ban should be explained. Strike action, with its consequent loss of income, was unnecessary here, since the processes undertaken at this plant are impossible without overtime working, because a process may take varying times to complete and needs constant supervision, similar to china-clay drying, as reported in DA last year. So the management had no option but to give in. After all, there was always the risk that some of their own heads might roll if production had been disrupted, even by a limited withdrawal of labour.

But there is a further question, beyond that of industrial strategy. This solidarity action was, after all, on behalf of a member of management, albeit at the lowest point of the hierarchy. Surely if this sort of defensive consciousness exists at any workplace, it could and should be extended and become offensive, aimed at encroaching on the rights of management itself. Why shouldn't workers elect their own chargehands and foremen directly from the line—if they are considered necessary, either for co-ordination or supervision of any particular skill—and retain the right to recall them at any time, with or without replacement? This is what happens in Sweden. Workers, conscious and organised like those at Shell, are well equipped for getting the ball rolling.

And incidentally, while on the topic of Shell, we understand that NO unions are recognised for the thousands of white-collar workers at their South Bank headquarters. Another case for united action by ALL Shell workers.

P. R.

ESSENTIAL READING—IN ANY YEAR

LENIN AND WORKERS' CONTROL by Tom Brown

DIRECT ACTION Pamphlet No. 8 6d. (postpaid)

TWO BOUQUETS FROM SUNNY CALIFORNIA

OVER THE PAST YEAR I have enjoyed reading DA and its excellent analysis and coverage of working class progress in England. Your paper should be put in the hands of every worker—it would easily demonstrate to them the utter worthlessness of the capitalist system, and the only answer to the problems of today is Workers' Control of all industry. I'll look forward to receiving DA for another very informative year.

For a workers' world,

Napa, California.

MICHAEL P. LAMM

ENCLOSED \$5. Am working again and off the dole so not so much sweat for a buck. IWW in this area quite active and noisy, if not all that effective or coordinated. We try a bit anyway. Your last year's leaflet on tourism in Spain made a big hit with everybody but the local Spanish tourist office and they found it more of a blow I'm afraid . . . keep the paper coming and I'll try to get back at you oftener with some loot.

Fraternal greetings to you all,

Berkeley, Calif.

DICK ELLINGTON

Spanish arrests (cont.)

are: **JOSE PUJOL**, 30, married with two children, engineering worker at the Montesa factory, accused of being secretary of ASO's engineering federation and of sending articles and reports abroad; **IGNACIO CARVAJAL**, 32, married with two children, bank worker, accused of being secretary of ASO Bank Employees; **JOSE ELHOMBRE**, 28, single, member of ASO's municipal workers' federation, accused of distributing leaflets calling on Barcelona workers to support the demonstrations on April 30 and May 1; **ANTONIO MARTINEZ**, 30, chemical worker, accused of having a duplicator to print clandestine leaflets. The following four lawyers have been engaged for their defence: Rodolfo Guerra Fontana, Francisco Casares Potau, Jose Maria Benet Morell.

Send letters and telegrams of protest to: José Solís, Ministro-Secretario del Movimiento, Madrid and to Sr. Gerraldo, President of the Tribunal of Public Order, Palace of Justice, Madrid.

Response to the appeal for financial support, launched by the CNT in GB, has been good—but more cash is urgently needed to help our comrades in Spain. Send donations to the Secretary or Treasurer of the CNT in GB, A. Roa, 210 Bravington Road, London, W.9., or J. Cabañas, 42 Dalgarno Gardens, London W.10 respectively. Printed appeals available on request.

KEN HAWKES

BULGARIAN CENTENARIAN WRITES

FROM FRANCE we have received a stock of **UN CENTENAIRE BULGARE PARLE** by Nicolas Stoinoff, published by the Bulgarian anarcho-syndicalists in exile. This French-language book is the autobiography of one of Bulgaria's best-known and loved libertarian militants, who died—aged 100—in 1963. It gives a vivid picture of our Bulgarian movements in the years before Stalinism—an inspiring story of militant struggle and intensive educational campaigns. Price 10s. 6d. (post paid) from SWF, 34 Cumberland Road, London, E17.

Alberta teachers need lesson in solidarity

THE county of Strathcona comprises the rural districts surrounding Edmonton, the capital of the Canadian province of Alberta. Its school board has a bad reputation among teachers and was responsible for provoking a strike by them in 1963. The School Board has since been agitating to have teachers forbidden by law to strike. It was in this reactionary community that a young teacher, Raymond Hertzog, became centre of a controversy with far-reaching consequences for all teachers in Alberta.

Mr. Hertzog was teaching sociology to a mixed class of grades 11 and 12 (17 and 18-year-olds) and, to illustrate the cultural lag between the law and social practice, read verbatim section 150 (2) (c) of the Criminal Code of Canada which says:—

"Everyone commits an offence who—offers to sell, advertises, publishes an advertisement of, or has for sale or disposal any means, instructions, medicine, drug or article intended or represented as a method of preventing conception or causing abortion or miscarriage."

Contraceptives are, in fact, on sale at all drug stores in Canada and can be purchased freely (each packet hypocritically marked "for prophylactic use only").

Mr. Hertzog took his quotation from an article criticising sexual hypocrisy in Canada, which appeared in "Edge", a magazine published by a group of the faculty at the University of Alberta. After the class one of the students, a girl, asked to borrow the magazine. The next day she came to him in tears to say her brother had stolen the magazine and shown it to her parents, who had telephoned the reeve (mayor) of the county to complain that a pornographic magazine was being distributed among students by a teacher.

Mr. Hertzog, the school principal and the superintendent discussed this and decided to invite the parents of the student to school to seek a solution to the affair. Before this could take place Mr. Hertzog was suspended from teaching pursuant of section 350 (a) of the School Act. (This act of the Alberta legislature sets out how schools are to be organised and run; the duties, rights and responsibilities of teachers, etc.)

Section 350 (a) reads as follows:—

"Where a board has reasonable grounds for believing that (a) a teacher has been guilty of gross misconduct, neglect of duty, or refusal or neglect to obey a lawful order of the

board, or (b) the presence of the teacher is detrimental to the well-being of the school for reasons of mental infirmity, the board may suspend the teacher from the performance of his duties."

Now, Mr. Hertzog was not guilty of gross misconduct, neglect of duty or refusal or neglect to obey a lawful order of the board, nor was he suffering from mental infirmity; he therefore appealed to the Minister of Education. The Minister allowed prejudice to override reason and maintained that the School Board was "right" in suspending Mr. Hertzog, but recommended his *immediate* reinstatement. The decision of the Minister is supposed to be final.

The county of Strathcona ignored the decision and Mr. Hertzog remained suspended. At this stage, Alberta Teachers Association, at the request of Mr. Hertzog, threatened legal proceedings against the county if he were not immediately reinstated. The county responded by appealing to the Minister for permission to *dismiss* Mr. Hertzog on thirty days' notice. By now Mr. Hertzog had been under suspension two months, the prospect of further struggle apparently was too much for him and he resigned: much, we suspect, to the relief of all concerned.

The importance of all this to Alberta teachers is that the School Act, which was thought to protect teachers from summary dismissal, has been successfully flouted by Strathcona County School Board with the condonance of the Minister of Education. Officials of Alberta Teachers Association have shown little concern over this issue and were, we gather, very relieved when Mr. Hertzog resigned, and they could quietly drop the whole thing.

Now any teacher with non-conformist opinions on any matter is liable to find himself fired should a bigoted or intolerant parent protest to the local school board. The indifference of most teachers to this grave threat to their freedom makes one wonder how many Canadians *care* whether they live under an authoritarian dictatorship.

Our doubts are strengthened by the story of another teacher, Brother Lahaie, of the French-language school of La Menais in Montreal. Brother Lahaie, aged 22, had pictures of Jesus Christ and a cross and Hitler and a swastika hung side by side at the front of his classroom. He taught that "Hitler and Jesus Christ had many common qualities"; these included courage, perseverance and generosity. Brother Lahaie also gave his students military rank according to educational and disciplinary merit. The top rank was "SS"—Hitler's military élite.

This came to light in the middle of March, but Brother Lahaie continued to teach with the support of his school principal, who remarked that "the facts are correct, but they have been misinterpreted by sensationalism". Montreal Roman Catholic School Commission started an investigation and a month later Brother Lahaie was suspended. The most disturbing part of the affair was the attitude of the parents: over half expressed approval of this teaching and were happy to have Brother Lahaie continue to teach their children.

The blatant way Brother Lahaie taught his Nazi ideas forced his eventual suspension, but there are many with similar ideas, but more discretion, teaching in Canadian schools with no fear of suspension. On the other hand those who, like Raymond Hertzog, have libertarian ideas face the danger of being driven from teaching at the behest of a few religious bigots or right-wing fanatics. Nor apparently can they expect any support from their fellow teachers, or their professional organisations.

BUILDERS DIVIDED (cont.)

to the union executives gathered there. The leading speakers contradicted themselves constantly, particularly when talking of the Labour Government. Experience, they claimed, had taught them you always had to struggle and fight for every increase in wages or better conditions. And in the same breath, they were disappointed with the Labour Government's performance.

The leadership was condemned in general terms by the platform, but when it was attacked from the floor, Pat Healey was at pains to point out that some leaders were better than others.

Use of Labour Party and Parliamentary machinery to right the building workers' wrongs was advocated by John Palmer, Labour candidate, NW Croydon. The meeting was characterised by this schizophrenic attitude, save for some rank-and-file members who spoke from the floor.

One came away convinced that compulsory reading for the so-called rank-and-file leaders should be our pamphlet, *How Labour Governed, 1945-51*.

D.W.

BILL GREENWOOD

KODAK, 'FRAMING' SPECIALISTS

If the "Kodak Affair" has done nothing else it has exposed the violent anti-union activity of the American Kodak management. The ACTT has been active in this firm for many years and claims 90 per cent membership. All the workers in Kodak have their "card marked" in more ways than one. One employee who married an American went to look for a job with an American parent company and found all his political and trade union activities were documented by the American firm (*Private Eye*, 1.4.65).

Last November two men were accused by Kodak of receiving a roll of felt. They were charged and released on bail. Then they were arrested again and charged with industrial espionage; the roll of felt was conveniently forgotten. Their bail was increased, and on returning to work were both ordered off the premises. Later they received letters from Kodak management informing them they were sacked without pension rights and compensation. They were also informed that *irrespective of the outcome of the charges* they were sacked for misconduct. Obviously these two workers were going to be out even if the law painted them Archangel Gabriel. Kodak also informed the Labour Exchange indicating the men had been dismissed for industrial sabotage and were not entitled to unemployment pay.

At the trial the jury dismissed all the charges. This trial to people who read about it sounded like a plot from a cheap thriller. The prosecution witness J. P. Soupert was paid £5,000 by Kodak to come from Belgium to give evidence, and if he played his part well, he was on a bonus as well. The two men charged were supposed to have passed film processing secrets to the East Germans, *via* Soupert. As the trial proceeded, "frame-up" stood out like a silver knocker and as a result the two men were acquitted. They received back unemployment pay from the Ministry of Labour but remained *sacked from Kodak*. This was to be expected in view of the management's original notice. Another man has been sacked just for watching the trial.

LITERATURE

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE UNIONS? by Tom Brown	4d
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From Direct Action, 34 Cumberland Road, London E17. Cheques and p.o.'s should be payable to Syndicalist Workers' Federation.

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The Government is a major share holder in Kodak. The charge was brought by the Director of Public Prosecutions with the consent of Kodak, Maurice Orback, MP, raised the question in the "House" and claimed conspiracy by Kodak Ltd., and a foreign agent, to pervert the course of justice. The Attorney General claimed that "There was no miscarriage of justice in the sense that the two accused men were acquitted." In other words "We all make mistakes and we're sorry."

The two men are suing Kodak for wrongful dismissal, the Government can insist they be reinstated. *Does the (Socialist?) Government subscribe to the anti-union activities of its junior partner in Kodak Ltd.?*

Kodak should be "blacked", not only until the two men are reinstated, but until the *junior partner* in Kodak Ltd., cuts out the vicious "red under the bed" policy.

WOMEN AFTER GUNTER

THE General Council of the TUC is considering what form of legislation is needed to ensure the proper implementation of equal-pay. The question of equal pay is a hardy annual and every excuse under the sun is found to oppose it. The TUC Women's Advisory Committee report states "the tide of opinion throughout the world is now so strong that a wider acceptance of equal pay must come to Britain with the foreseeable future." Mr Gunter, Minister of Labour, states that it could raise important issues with the Government's prices and incomes policy. He will write to the General Council again on this issue. One can expect another load of old codswallop against equal pay.

There are 32 wage claims in the pipeline, Ray Gunter is bound to put equal pay in the "way off" tray. It's up to all workers to see it gets transferred to the "immediate" tray.

THE TERRIBLE TWINS

DONNELLY and Wyatt are shaking their rattles again.

Donnelly wants a single, radical, non-doctrinaire classless party of the left. He claims that this was no time to rush into old fashioned steel nationalisation. Wyatt claims that a scheme could be worked out short of 100 per cent nationalisation. His scheme would involve 51 per cent share-ownership of the 12 major firms with options to extend it to others. Obviously the twins are courting liberal support or at least abstinence on the steel issue. This "rattle rattling" is a bit of a giggle—the terrible twins are not expected to defy the party whips. Paralysation of the steel industry by the Labour Government, "A Plan for Steel" by the Trots, Communists and other rag tag and bobtail—anything bar Workers' Control.

GUNTER SCREAMS

RAY GUNTER is up in arms about these strikes: they cause "frightening damage to the economy". These union-jack wavers make your flesh creep. Mr. Gunter claims far too many agreements are broken; "this is disastrous for the standards of our country". For Gawd's sake, belt up Ray! What's your game—Lord Gunter of Southwark? Every agreement made by workers is under duress, unless of course you make your own agreement and pay yourself £9,750 a year for services rendered to capitalism. You and your cronies will get tumbled one day when people realise there is a funnier show at a West End theatre than there is at the Gasworks in Westminster.

BILL CHRISTOPHER