

THE MOLE

BRIGHTON: FEB 5 - FEB 19

6d No. 12



£5 A WEEK IS NOT ENOUGH

IN BRIGHTON THERE ARE 7% MORE OLD AGE PENSIONERS THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE. So the problem of old people is one which particularly concerns Brighton. The town's problems, in particular the housing shortage, hit the old hardest. And they are the least able to defend themselves. For example, they are easily victimized by landlords. Lacking anywhere to go, and probably the money or the strength to move, they can hardly resist if the rent is raised, or the property falls to pieces around them.

In Brighton and in Hove old people are living alone. Alone in damp basements, sometimes unheated rooms, lacking friends or relatives to look after them. We have heard of one woman living alone at the top of a house. The only water is in the basement. To get it she has to ask a passer by to carry it up for her.

The welfare services run by the council go nowhere near tackling the problem. The charities try, but they can't cope. And even if they could, why should old people have to be at the mercy of others' consciences?

The answer lies, ultimately, in changing the priorities of society so that a decent living standard in old age is assured to everyone: AS A RIGHT. Socialism is about precisely that. It is about ending, once and for all, this type of sheer human misery that is completely unnecessary. There is enough wealth and resources in the country to make a happy old age possible for everyone. All that prevents it is the way society is organised. When we talk about "capitalism" that is what we mean. A society organized for the benefit of the few at the expense of the many, with all the resulting boredom, frustration, drudgery and misery.

If all capitalism can offer, after a lifetime spent working for someone else's benefit, is a lonely death in a cold room, unnoticed and uncared for, we say it is sick. That's why MOLE is a socialist newspaper, why we say the solution to the problems of the old lies finally not on charity walks but on the picket lines and in working class revolution. At the moment many old people are dying of malnutrition and cold....it is only through socialism that we can end that.

allen west

ALLEN WEST'S saw regular shop floor meetings last week over the management's faulty application of a bonus scheme. For the details of the dispute we will quote from an I.S. leaflet written by an Allen West worker and distributed on Friday Jan. 30th.

"All this trouble is over 650 of us, mainly in stores, test depts., some assembly shops, and paintshop, who receive no form of PBR or bonus system. The management agreed some

PRICE RISE

IN ISSUE NO. 10 OF THE MOLE it was reported that the Evening Argus had raised its advertising rates, due of course to "increased costs". Now the Argus costs 6d, 1d extra, also due to "increased costs" (see inset). The Argus management talks of "wage increases". Let's take a closer look. These wage increases were negotiated in Nov/Dec '69, and affect only 200 workers on the shop floor (all NGA or SOGAT members). They would cost the management a minimum of £200 to a maximum (with overtime) of £500 a week.

£2,000 over

The Argus is currently selling 110-120 thousand copies a day - so the extra penny will bring in between £2,750 and £3,000 a week. Which leaves well over £2,000 to cover the "increased cost of newsprint" - and the cost of newsprint hasn't gone up anything like that much. When you take into account that

1) the wage rise was not a handout, but linked to a productivity agreement which was widely regarded by the men as giving more to the management than they themselves got out of it.

2) advertising rates have gone up (see Mole No. 10.)

3) advertising has increased in value - you can see that the Argus was not forced to put up its price by increased costs, but because of a desire to increase profits.

Not content with getting more for their money out of their workers, they are now screwing more out of the general public.

QUADRANT BOOKS

12a, Queen's Road
BRIGHTON

Where paperbacks are half-price and less
The Age Of The Permanent Revolution - A Trotsky Anthology 10/- 5/-
The Anarchists - Diderot To Vanzetti 10/- 5/-
AND MANY MORE

time ago to pay some form of bonus to 411 of these people (but not to the other 250) and they have just announced that the global bonus will amount to the princely sum of 3/2d per week and not even backdated to October as the agreement stipulates."

The workers demands are for

- * a bonus of 30/- a week
- * backpayment in full to October
- * Bonus to be extended to all 650 workers

george parks

The leaflet then went on to attack the part played by George Parks, District Organiser for the AEF. "We are also told how fortunate we are that Bro. Parks can spare the time to intervene on our behalf... What a coincidence that Bro. Parks happened to be here on the very day that we finally came near to doing something about the claim.

fair deal

For comment we will rely again on the leaflet - "we were treated to an astonishing display; stewards asking people to think individually and not follow the crowd. Well, I thought that Trade Unionism was the exact opposite of thinking individually. I thought it was about what workers deserve... A fair deal... and how they can achieve just that if they stick together.

ARGUS BANS ADVERTISEMENT

but Lennon goes in

This ad. was submitted for the 11th Dec. 1969 edition of the Evening Argus: "Silent Vigil - Stop The War in Vietnam" on Sat. Jan. 17th, 2.30 to 5, in London Road outside the Co-Op Hall - Support This Vigil' Name, address & phone number were given, and the ad. was to be issued by the Brighton Joint Committee for Peace in Vietnam (which includes CND), Kemptown Labour Party, and the Quakers.

A reply to this request inferred that there was not enough room for it in the paper - although the official deadline for ads is 48 hours before publication.

On the 5th Jan. the same ad. was put in for the 14th Jan. edition. The reply said that the advertisement could not be put in. No reason was given.

The Argus had previously accepted a full-page "Powell for Premier" advert without even knowing who was

paying for it (it cost £140) - just a "group of Brighton business men".

£150 advert

The Southend Evening Echo approached John Lennon and got him to place a £150 advert - "War Is Over If You Want It" - after reading about a similar ad. in the New York Times.

The connection between the Brighton & Hove Gazette, the Evening Argus, and the Southend Evening Echo is that all three papers are owned by the Southern Publishing Company. This company is prepared to take pro-Powell ads without caring who places them, it will go out of its way to secure an apolitical do-your-own-thing-man advert from Lennon, but it refuses to publicise a meeting opposing the Vietnam War whose sponsors made no attempt to hide themselves. So much for the "freedom" of the press.

Council sneak in RENT RISE

BRIGHTON COUNCIL ANNOUNCES A RENT INCREASE IN APRIL. The Argus gives the details of the rise the DAY BEFORE the Council takes a fully democratic (sic) decision. The suspicious timing of the report almost equals the timing of proposed rent increases in raising doubt amongst council tenants.

Why, with the Housing Committee in debt (massively so), did the Council not announce an increase last December - the normal time? And why isn't the situation being made clear to tenants even now?

The Mole has already answered those questions. In a previous edition we noted that there was to be no increase in accordance with the govt. recommendation, & stated that the activities of the Brighton Rents Project and the London Rents Strike might have something to do with the Council's

uncharacteristic reticence to hit the working class family as hard as it can.

Now that the housing issue is once more restricted to the pre-election realms of party politics and all the hypocritical shit that goes with that, with the papers caring more about what Heath or Wilson says on the subject than about the problem itself - the Brighton council feels safe enough to sneak in a rent rise with as little publicity as possible.

At the moment the various leaders of the tenants committees are waiting for confirmation. One thing, however, is certain. If there is a rise, and that could mean double rent for those living in rehabilitated homes, then it must be fought.

IN SUCH A CASE THE MOLE WILL OFFER ITS PAGES TO THE TENANTS ASSOCIATION LEADING THE STRUGGLE

creeds to close?

WORKERS ON THE SHOP-FLOOR AT CREED'S FACTORY IN HOLLINGBURY were surprised at 12 o'clock on January 13th when an announcement was made over the firm's intercom. A Mr. J. C. Grant, who described himself as Operations Manager, took recourse to this unusual measure to make what appeared to be a highly important announcement. Mr. Grant began by congratulating the workers on their dramatically increased productivity (in fact in 2 years productivity has increased by over 100%, which means that a worker who produced 19 teleprinter parts a day 3 years ago has now to produce 40 to keep his job).

threat to monopoly

But Mr. Grant's congratulations were short-lived. It appears that there is a possibility that at least one of three firms also producing teleprinters (but producing them abroad) might shortly be setting up shop in Britain. The firms in question have a minute section of the market for teleprinters in this country (import duty on top of the higher wages they pay etc., result in higher prices for their machines). By moving production on to this country a firm would pose a severe threat to "the monopoly on which we depend" (Mr. Grant).

GPO test

Meanwhile, it became clear, Creed's had been able to maintain their enviable position without consideration to the quality of the goods they produced - the majority of their output goes to the GPO who take 20 teleprinters a week. The GPO do a random test and strip down 2 machines out of every batch; if they find anything wrong the whole 20 are returned. It appears, though Mr. Grant did not say, that only the other week the GPO had returned a batch, and in the face of the oncoming opposition the GPO would soon be able to look elsewhere for their teleprinters.

quality drive

Thus Mr. Grant initiated a quality drive. During the past 2 weeks of the quality drive productivity has gone down to a level below that which qualifies a worker for his productivity bonus. The Hollingbury factory (one of Creed's 3 factories in Britain) has succeeded in red-

ucing wastage while avoiding the payment of even the pitifully inadequate productivity bonus. Meanwhile, threatening noises continue to be made by the management, and even the AEF foremen and shop stewards are consenting, if only by staying silent.

Last week a delegation from Creed's American parent company European Office, International Telegraph and Telephone in Brussels, visited the Hollingbury factory and at least one shop steward expressed fear that redundancies would follow on the visit. Meanwhile, a management representative called Kay speaking at a meeting of shop stewards from the Treforest (Wales), Burgess Hill and Hollingbury factories started his speech with the words "I am the man who closed Underwoods".

underwoods

It may not be remembered that the Underwoods factory once occupied the same site that Creed's now occupies. It was closed when Creed took over 8 years ago. Underwood workers now at Creed remember a similar warning to Mr. Grant's before Creed came. Many are now afraid that should Creed not be able to meet the competition of their new rivals the Hollingbury factory may be closed making several hundred redundant. Meanwhile, the AEF appears to be co-operating on the victimisation by the management of workers falling below the new quality controls.

no closing

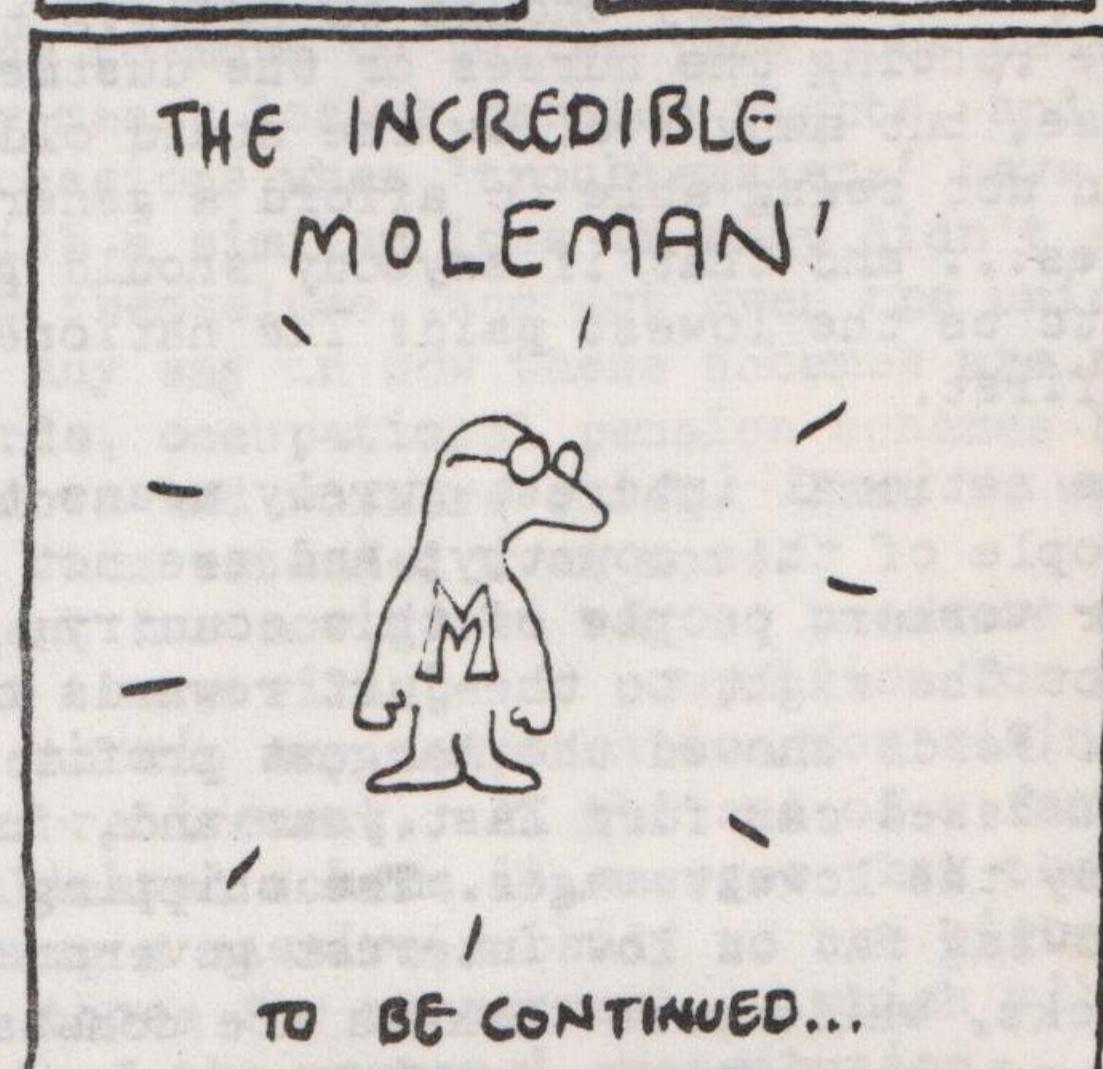
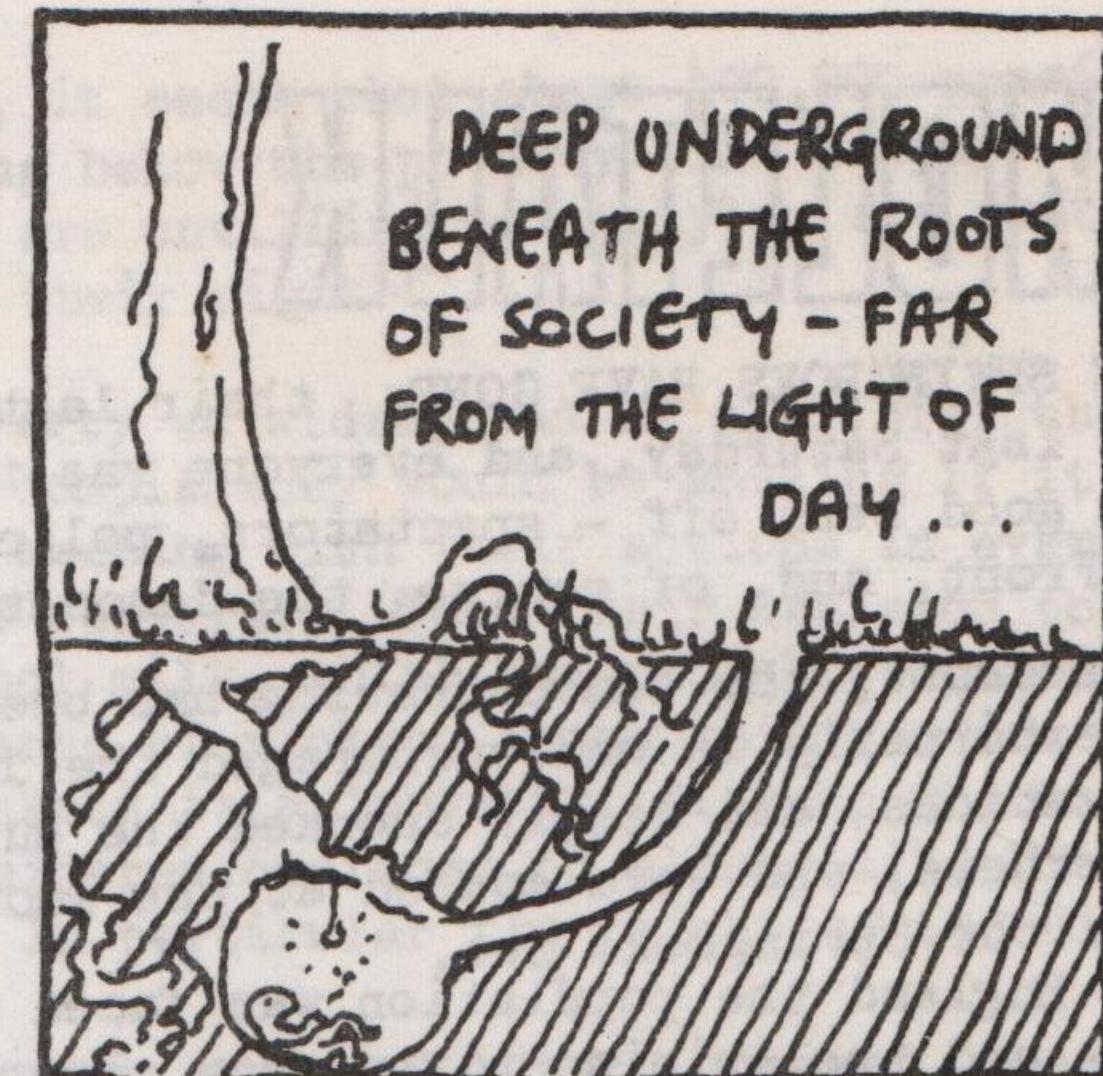
Mr. Plume, public relations manager for Creed, told a MOLE reporter: "The rumours that we are closing are absolute rubbish." Even so, the quality drive is a calculated attempt to hold a threat to their jobs over the Creed workers. Only the bosses can benefit by such a threat - Creed workers must fight against the quality drive and threatened redundancies.

oppose discipline scheme

LAST YEAR the University of Sussex Students Union rejected the University Discipline Scheme. Now the President, Brian Leahy, re-elected by the right-wing after his anti-Rents Project resignation, wants the Union to accept the scheme.

Leahy, a seasoned opportunist, opposed discipline when he first went to the University, and owes his re-election to a deal made with the new Chairman of right-wing Sports Federation, Alan Hardwick - the only Student Disciplinary Officer who refused to resign when called on to do so by the Union when it rejected the scheme last November. The attempt to get the Union to accept the scheme is part of the bargain.

But, personalities apart, the Sch-



eme must be rejected, particularly in the light of the recent proposals from the Department of Education & Science. These proposals will accelerate the development of all institutions of higher learning into processing factories designed to meet the needs of capitalism - no room for "unproductive studies" and "unproductive students" (unproductive, that is, to the ruling class).

Discipline schemes will be used all over the country to stop struggle against these plans and the system which spawned them. These plans will lower the standard of education and discriminate even more against the working class.

Therefore: THEY MUST BE OPPOSED
If you are a Sussex student: VOTE
AGAINST THEM ON FEB. 21ST.

CRYPT!

Falmer House

5.30 to 10 p.m.

U.of S.

Food - Music - Good Company

MOLETALK

SO THE SPRINGBOKS HAVE GONE: their last match was played last Saturday, and everyone was there to give them a good send off - spectators, police, the National Front, and, of course, the demonstrators.

Without doubt, the demonstrating has been successful: externally it has encouraged the liberation organizations, and deeply shocked the supporters of apartheid, who were amazed at the amount of opposition the Springboks met. Inside England the population was faced with the issue - and the opinion polls show clearly that the majority were against the tour. Amongst the demonstrators themselves, the continued struggles have given rise to a new awareness. They have seen the British Police defending the Springboks, they have learnt about British investments in South Africa, they have discussed the Vorster regime. They know now that the issue is not just one of racism, that South Africa is as fascist a country as Hitler's Germany or Mussolini's Italy. They have realised that beneath the issue of colour lies that of class, and that Britain, through her imperialist investments, helps maintain that brutal dictatorship. When the South African Cricket Tour starts in April, the resistance will be more organized, the trade unions will be involved. If the demonstrators can get the British working class to actively participate with them, they can strike a blow against racism & capitalism, here in Britain and abroad, in S.Africa.

THE FEATURE ARTICLE IN THE LAST ISSUE OF THE MOLE dealt with the massive offensive being waged by large sections of the British working class for higher wages. Let us now deal with the counter-offensive on one of the fronts;

The Ford workers demanding "parity with the Midlands" (an extra £10 a week will bring their average wage up to about £30 a week) and the London dockers pushing their claim to nearly £40 for a 31 hour week will provoke the old response about higher paid workers. That they are fairly well off already and therefore they should sit back and allow some of the more badly paid workers a bigger bite at the cake.

Few people are silly enough to believe that these men are robbing the nurses or the dustmen of an increase, but many swallow the staid old line about Britain not being able to afford a general increase in wages... and that if anybody should get one it ought to be the lowest paid. The national interest comes first.

But the national interest surely means the good of the people of this country; and are not the dockers and car workers people of this country; and have they not the right to the just rewards of their labour. Fords showed the largest profit of any British based car firm last year and, funnily enough, they pay the lowest wages. The shipping companies are growing fat on low interest government loans to the docks, while port workers are constantly in danger of losing their jobs through automation. It is not the national interest that cannot afford to pay a decent wage to such men, but the capitalist interests of a small minority. Rather than depriving lower paid workers of an increase, their militancy will persuade others that the only way to achieve a sizable increase in income is to fight for it. Only when the workers of Britain get what is rightly theirs - a just wage - will the national interest have been served.

letter

Dear Mole,

Whilst I appreciate being featured on the front page of Brighton's own newspaper, I must point out that your story is a bit misleading to your readers.

I refer to your statement about the Beaches and Profit, had you waited for the full facts you would have heard that this project is not to be confused with the Marina, as I am asking for a trial three year concession, and that,

most important it would be NOT PROFIT making to any hotelier.
I would add that our advertisements in the National Press state we are "Flying High" and are "Gay and Continental", my project would be a start to making this true.
I trust that you will print my letter in your next issue and just for the record, did you have to have such a large ugly lady claiming to be my property, I have always had an eye for "Beauty" so next time please let's have someone looking like Barbara Castle.

Sincerely,
Councillor Alfred Feld.M.H.C.I.

OLD PE why do the

IN BRIGHTON & HOVE there are well over the national average of old age pensioners. In a future issue of the Mole we will be examining in detail their plight. Yet whatever the local authorities do for them, and the two council's actions leave a lot to be desired, everything really depends on the pension level...

Last November the old age pension was raised by 10/- to £5 a week, and married pensioners now get £8/2/- a week between them. Hardly generous. In fact these rises do little more than restore the purchasing power eroded by rising prices over the last two years.

NEW PENSION RISE JUST EQUALS COSTS

Mr. Crossman, the Minister responsible, has been sounding off a lot recently about his great new pension scheme. Yet he has made clear that pensioners cannot expect another increase for another two years. So for people already on a pension he is merely offering the same as before.

Since the present national insurance scheme was set up in 1948 there has not been a single official enquiry into how pensioners manage to survive. The government has made no attempt to find out whether the pension level is enough to allow a proper diet, or to heat homes properly. No survey has stated what necessities can or cannot be afforded on £5 a week.

2·4 MILLION ARE OFFICIALLY IN POVERTY

Anyone whose income falls below the official poverty line can apply to the Supplementary Benefits Commission for a supplementary allowance. Out of seven million old people, nearly two million had to apply last year for supplementary benefit. Furthermore, if the poverty line was raised by a mere £1 a week, then four out of five widows over 60 would qualify. If the poverty line was £2 higher (i.e. rent plus £7/6/- a week) then three out of four of all pensioners would qualify. Only a minute 4% of old people have incomes that reach the average wages of manual workers in industry, now at £24 a week. In other words, most pensioners are in acute poverty by any normal meaning of the word.

WHILE 'SCROUNTERS ARE BLAMED'

Currently one of the big political issues is that of those famous 'scroungers off the welfare state'. The Express, in particular, is continually screaming at the way the country is being bled white by workshy scroungers. Implied and sometimes stated is the idea that if only the regulations were tightened up the people who really need help would be better off. As usual, social problems are blamed on individuals, just as in the '30's many ruling class propagandists seriously attempted to persuade people that unemployment was because of an epidemic of laziness....

The Supplementary Benefits Commission is in fact hardly the most approachable of official agencies.

CRYPT DISCO

FRIDAY NIGHTS
SMALL BAR
8-11pm

PEOPLE they go without?



Recently an old age people's club in Brighton had to raise its subscription by 4/- a week; many of its members can now no longer afford to belong.....

Recently, for example, the government has admitted that the average time people have to wait for attention in its offices is 2½ hrs. The Means Tests used are not, to be fair, as vicious as before the war, but they still assume that the applicant is a potential swindler until he can prove otherwise. If you do swindle them you are liable to severe penalties. If they mistakenly withhold your benefit the Ministry cannot be penalized.

Indeed, it's impossible to know whether you have got the right amount. The detailed rules governing entitlement are secret....under the Official Secrets Act. Even the amount of people employed by the Commission (probably about 25,000) is withheld. An appeal against the Ministry can be heard only by a tribunal, sitting in secret: there is no chance of redress through the law courts or in parliament.

In Birmingham there has recently been formed a Claimants Union by people trying to claim their rights and negotiate as a body....The local social security officials seem to be treating it like any good 19th century employer would.... by refusing to recognize it even exists. You get told what you'll get and that's that.

OUT OF 3M CLAIMANTS THERE WERE 88 FRAUD CASES

Out of all the supplementary allowances 70% go to old people, another 12% to men who are sick and disabled, 9% to fatherless families, mainly widows with young children, and only 8% to men out of work. Research has shown that most of these are old, handicapped, and living in areas with high unemployment where jobs are hard to come by even for those who are completely fit. Last year the Ministry had a much publicized drive on false claims. The results were sensational. Out of nearly three million applicants there were 88 cases which led to legal action, and of these 17 men went to prison. Is it in fact surprising that this new Scrooge-like offensive opens precisely when unemployment is rising and real living standards are in many cases falling.... when more people are applying for supplementary benefit for the single reason that they desperately need the cash?

So, if a pensioner decides to apply for supplementary benefit, he is welcomed with open arms. Claiming means filling in a complicated series of forms and being interviewed by a category of civil servant allowed more freedom of decision than anyone else in comparable public employment. Not

surprisingly, it seems that about 400,000 pensioners are living below the poverty line simply because they are unwilling to apply or are just not aware of their rights.

With real poverty as widespread as all this, the government's complacency would be amazing if it wasn't so in keeping with their actions in every other area of welfare. (Take their decision to end free school milk, which has probably caused the re-emergence of rickets among children in Glasgow - rickets is a 'poverty' disease which is normally considered confined to places like Biafra and India). In particular the plight of the old is ignored.

AS BEFORE: SQUEEZE THE POOR AND HELP THE RICH

Mr. Crossman's new pension scheme is hailed as opening a new era in welfare. Rubbish. It makes no difference at all to people already on a pension. Although the new scheme does in some ways represent a real improvement it is based on the well known capitalist principle of taking from the poor to feed the rich, and on giving out benefits in proportion to what is paid in.

The level of pension will depend quite simply on how much you pay in contributions deducted from your wage packet, matched by a contribution from your employer. Future pensioners will get more, simply because they will have paid in more. The great improvement is that there will be an automatic increase in pension in line with the increase in the average wage level once every two years. Old age pensioners therefore will automatically have a share in a general rise in living standards.

BOSSES' PENSION SCHEMES TO KEEP WAGES DOWN

Recently the bosses have been running a big propaganda drive in favour of occupational pensions. ...those run by the employer himself. Not only is the investment of these pension funds now big business which would obviously be hit by an increase in the scope of any State scheme, but also they have the fantastic advantage of tying workers to the firm they are currently working for. People are unwilling to move to better paid jobs because this usually means losing pension rights, and there have been occasions when 'troublemakers' have been threatened with a similar loss if they didn't shut up. Workers themselves, and not even the unions, rarely have any say in how these schemes are run. In other words, occupational pension schemes help keep wages down and workers quiet. That is why the Tories want them extended even more.

The government has now given way to pressure and decided that there will be no compulsion for these schemes to contain any compensation for rising prices after retirement. At the end of a fantastically complicated scheme it emerges that the State will be giving a massive subsidy to the higher pensions....those for management....which will be paid for out of the workers' contribution.

So the new era in welfare has a nasty sting in its tail. Although it will mean some improvement in pensions it won't be fully in operation till 1982. Meanwhile the government doesn't give a damn what happens to the existing pensioners, and promises the bosses new ways of making money out of the next lot.

(Information from an article in Socialist Worker)

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is on sale at:

book'tique The Lanes

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REGGAE

music of revolt

POP MUSIC is a term not easily defined. A distinct variety of what might be called the music of contemporary youth has already been denominated 'rock music' - this is supposedly progressive pop, the sort you might hear John Peel play.

Nevertheless the mass of the market for contemporary recorded music is still drawn to either the kind of music that makes the charts or to the sort of music emanating from the West Indies - bluebeat, ska, reggae and their many variations. It is significant that whilst reggae music today is enormously popular (at least as popular as rock in terms of audience numbers) it receives practically no attention from the popular music press, radio etc., at all.

promotion

Of course the charts are not simply a meter of popular taste, more importantly they are a promotional device, a means of creating popular taste (so it was that Brian Epstein, with the financial aid of E.M.I. bought several thousand copies of the Beatles' first record "Love Me Do" just so its appearance in the lower end of the charts would persuade people that it was good and therefore worth buying).

Reggae records are mostly put out by small West Indian recording firms and distributors (such as Pama, Duke, Punch, Camel etc.) whose limited resources would obviously prevent such expensive promotional devices. Presumably their lack of funds make it difficult for them even to get plugs on the radio or T.V.

It is therefore surprising that reggae has caught on to the extent it has, and moreover the fact that it has not been adopted by the big record companies in even the bastardised form that they have taken over rock

genuine appeal

Two things are obviously of importance here: one, that both reggae and rock rose to popularity without the

live dead

CAN THE WHITE MAN FIND AND EXPRESS HIS SOUL? Not many people know what's wrong with being white though Roy Harper will tell you. ('yes, I hate thee, white man'). The trouble with most of the influential rock singers posing as liberated spirits is their desire to show themselves as superior to their audience. Thus singers su-

ch as Robert Plant, Alvin Lee, or Mick Jagger, all of whom are sometimes superficially intimate with their audience, are really more concerned with presenting an impression than with openly expressing feeling. Which brings us to the Dead.

Instead of trying to elevate themselves as stars over their audience they aim to involve them, to the extent of sometimes inviting anyone onstage to play with them. At their best, they play with a fluidity and enthusiasm which builds up in-

to a kind of religious fervour. They have recently made a double L.P. set of live material called 'Live Dead', which shows how the group can play when it draws its energy from the audience. Musicians and audience are united in the flow of the music. Inevitably, the selection of material is patchy - there are both sublime and boring moments. The best music I think, is on side 3 with 'Turn on your lovelight', where a fantastic sympathy is built up between the band and the audience - what's called 'getting it on'. Those not yet turned on to the Dead should hear this side first.

Of all the Californian groups, the Grateful Dead have most taken to heart the new value of brotherhood and love, and it would be a shame if this record were to remain a connoisseur's piece. As the Dead sang in an earlier song, "We all need each other - well all you know its true".

KM.

worthing connaught theatre

BEYOND THE FRINGE

FEB 10th TO 21st.

(The revue that brought satire to the forefront of the stage)

box office worthing 35333

LOVE ON THE DOLE



WALTER GREENWOOD: LOVE ON THE DOLE
(PENGUIN 6/-)

UNEMPLOYMENT IS PREDICTED TO REACH 600,000 THIS YEAR. In the East End of London, according to a recent survey, a 1/4 of the children are short of nourishment.

Facts like these make 'Love on the Dole' - a novel about unemployment in the '30s - rather more contemporary than apologists for our 'affluent' society would like to admit.

The novel's immediate impact comes from its straight description of poverty, both of the simple economic facts and of the human. As the Depression deepens people slide from, somehow just coping, into hunger and despair. Men pick up fag ends in the street to get a smoke, their women buy their drinks in thimblefulls from a profiteering neighbour. Poverty doesn't just mean less to eat, it means the destruction of everything that means a human being. The dole queue and the Means Test tighten their grip, clothes are pawned, never to be redeemed, the furniture is sold. Both the homes and the inhabitants start to break up. And over it all sits the gloom, grime and grease of 'Hank Park' - the slum area of Salford, where the novel is set.

system to blame

At a second level, beyond mere description, the book is an exposure. An exposure of a system where apprentices are sacked as soon as they are trained and qualified for man's wages, to be replaced by more apprentices as cheap labour. A system that spawns people like the corrupt Mr. Grundy, the crooked bookmaker and Mr. Price, the pawnbroker, both getting fatter while the people they live off totter into starvation. The workings of the Means Test and the police are all shown up, not as scandals but as integral parts of the whole system.

In fact it is the system - capitalism of the Depression - that is the real subject of the book. The actions of Harry and the other members of the Hardcastle family around whom the story centres all light up different parts of the same murky reality: a claustrophobic brutality from which there is no escape. At this level we reach the central theme of the book around which all the story is skillfully built, and this theme

remains vitally relevant today. For although the worst of the poverty and unemployment have gone, it remains true that the system can offer nothing to the exploited and that unless they change it they remain its passive victims.

This is highlighted by the two episodes in the novel when it seems to Harry that life is well worth living, that he can escape. While he is an apprentice he has no responsibilities and money to spare, and also while he is on holiday with his girl after suddenly winning the pools. Yet he remains trapped. His apprenticeship leads, he knows, straight to the dole, and in the idyllic seaside village there is unemployment, as everywhere.

The same applies to his sister Sally. She falls in love with Larry, a young Marxist, but he too loses his job, gets ill and eventually dies after being beaten up by the police on an unemployed men's demonstration. Sally, in despair, goes off as Sam Grundy's umpteenth mistress, so that he will get Harry and his father a job on the buses.

Harry has a job, but at the cost of Sally's, his, and his family's self-respect. The novel ends as it began...the rain falling on the dirty streets...the system remains, its victims more degraded than ever.

The book is prefaced with a quotation. "The time is ripe, and rotten ripe, for change; then let it come..." And that is as true as ever.... J.W.

d.h.lawrence ; laid bare

THE GENERAL RELEASE OF THE FILM OF "WOMEN IN LOVE" AND ITS SERIALIZED IN THE 'EVENING STANDARD' means that the reactionary influence of D.H. Lawrence is now completely extended to mass culture. Lawrence, a confused intellectual from a working class background, vacillated (as will all intellectuals isolated from the working class and its revolutionary party) between solving his dilemmas in a progressive and reactionary way, and finally turned his face to the myths of the past, supporting the emerging forces of fascism.

As a member of the petty bourgeoisie, Lawrence closely expressed the panic steicken uncertainties of this class in a period of crisis, at once crushed by monopoly capitalism, and yet used by it as the shock troops of fascism. A later book such as "Kangaroo" (1923) which glorifies the coming of the 'strong' fascist leader in unmistakable terms is rejected as an embarrassing error by middle class liberals who champion his earlier works, such as "Women in Love" (1921). Yet in this book Lawrence shows the way his mind is developing: his belief in a dark-forces-of-nature primitivist philosophy, his latent homosexuality, his obsession with the question of his relation as an individual to forces which he thought were devouring him. Yet "according to the tenets of Marxism the emancipation of the individual is impossible until the masses are emancipated". (Stalin)

will power

Lawrence is often glorified as a rebel against capitalist society; but his form of rebellion, a spiritually tarted up version of "sexual liberation", serves the bourgeoisie well, leaving them comfortably in power and providing them, they hope, with a safety valve for the 'discontented'. The wealthy mineowner in "Women in Love" exploits, we are led to believe, not for profit but out of a desire to exert his "will" over the men and "nature".

"What he wanted was the pure fulfillment of his own will in the struggle with the natural conditions. His will was now to take

the earth out of the earth profitably. The profit was merely the condition of victory". (Women in Love)

His desire to shoot striking workers is somehow an expression of this virility and will. The workers struggle is debased as vulgar - the nasty envious masses desire for petty possessions, while of course the upper classes' minds are on higher levels. In a similar lofty vein Lawrence recoils in horror from the machine and technology as making Life Mechanical, and indeed as bringing about the collapse of Civilisation. He was later to champion the Primitive Life in Mexico where no doubt the peasants lived in picturesque squalor, but were suitably earthy and lusty.

mindless

Lawrence characterizes the English miners in Women in Love in a similar way, seeing them in the same terms as a white racist sees black men. They are "sickeningly mindless", but have a "thick hot attraction" due to their "surging maleness". For Lawrence the solution for the working class is to revel in their own sexuality and, as in Lady Chatterly's Lover, to knock off a wife of a member of the ruling class. Stripped of his glamour and mystic appeals to the "dark forces of the blood" the line from Lawrence to John Braine (author of Room at the Top and Monday Club supporter) is a short one.

escapist

Being totally incapable of understanding history as class struggle or the struggles of this period as the beginning of the long battle of the working class to seize state power, Lawrence views the future in Women in Love, with pessimism, as a collapse of the "white races" into mindless degeneracy!

No wonder the British ruling class is using Lawrence, via the mass media, to channel the discontent of workers and students in a reactionary and escapist direction.

Keith Turner (CPBM)

MOLE'S DIARY

noise

UoS Blues Soc, Jimmy's, Steine St.
12th Feb JUNIORS EYES 8 pm.

19th, CHAMPION JACK DUPREE 8 pm.

DOME 11th Feb JOHN WILLIAMS 8 pm.

Fri 13th Feb 'In the Glen Miller Mood' with Syd Lawrence Orch. 8pm.

Sun 15 Feb ANDRE PREVIN conducts London Symphony Orchestra 2.45 pm.

18th Feb TYRANNOSAURUS REX, RARE BID, GFNESSIS 8 pm.

21st Feb Madrid Flamenco 7.30pm.

GARDNER CENTRE UoS

9th Feb Allegri String Quartet 8pm
12th Feb University Choir and Orchestra 8 pm.

17th Feb B.B.C. Invitation Concert (Tickets free on application 8 pm)

19th Feb GRAHAM COLLIER BIG BAND.

MARLBOROUGH FOLK CLUB, Pavilion St Brighton. Tuesdays 8 - 11 pm.

10th Feb SHIRLEY COLLINS.

17th Feb Singaround Evening.

MONTPELIER ROOMS

Dancing nightly 8 pm onwards.

Sat 14th Feb, ARTHUR CONLEY

CRYPTO-DISCS, UoS, Every Friday night at Crypt, admission 2/-.

UoS JAZZ CLUB, Mon 9 Feb, 8pm, Mike Osborne Trio, Debating Chamber.

IMPERIAL HOTEL, Queen's Rd, Sat, Feb 7th, The New Eagle Jazzband.

PAVILION WORTHING (91-202221)

Week comm. Mon Feb 16th, Angela Putini sings Madame Butterfly,

Mon, Wed, Fri, 7.30. Sat, 2.30. Maureen Morelle sings Rosina in

The Barber of Seville Wed, 2.30, Thurs, Sat, 7.30.

CUTHBERT TOAD HALL Progressive Folk Club, Tues & Sats, 7.45-10.45 Y.W.C.A. Regency House, Oriental Place.

KING & QUEEN FOLK CLUB, Thurs 8pm Feb 12th, Paul McNeil.

Feb 19th, The Tinkers.

cinema

B.F.T.

Thurs. Feb.5(til Sun.) LIFE & COUNTRY (G.B.'64)..8.30 Sat. Late-nite:NAZARIN(Mexico'58) Sun Feb.8(+il Thurs.):THE SERVANT(G.B.'63)

Thurs. Feb.12:BLIND DATE(G.B.'59) Sat. Feb. 14.late-nite:THE EXTINGUISHING ANGEL(Mexico'62)

Sun. Feb. 15: JULIET OF THE SPIRITS (It.'65)

Thurs. Feb. 19: 8½ (It. '62).. A.B.C.

WOMEN IN LOVE (for a season)

CLASSIC 29414

Thurs. Feb.5: HELL IS FOR HEROES Sun. Feb. 8: STUDENT PRINCE/PATCH OF BLUE.

Sun. Feb.15:THE LOVE BUG/GUNS IN HEATHER.

DUKE OF YORKS 62503

Til' Sun.8th: FOR LOVE OF IVY/CHARLIE

Sun. Feb.8:COOGAN'S BLUFF(U.S.A 69)/BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN(U.S.A 35)

Sun. Feb. 15: MACKENNA'S GOLD(U.S.A. '67)

CONTINENTALE 681348

Thurs. Feb.5(til Sun):SWEET SINS OF SEXY SUSIE.

Sun Feb.8 : BILLY LIAR(G.B. "63)

Sun. Feb.15: PEOPLE MEET

EMBASSY 735124

Thurs. Feb. 5: PLAGUE OF THE ZOMBIES(U.S.A.58)/DRACULA PRINCE OF DARKNESS

Sun. Feb.8:COMMANCHE/MILLION DOLLAR BRAIN.

Thurs. Feb.12: SEE YOU IN HELL DARLING.

Sun. Feb. 15: LOCK UP YOUR DAUGHTERS.

VOGUE

EASY RIDER (now showing)

Feb. 22(provisional start) OEDIPUS REX(It. 68)/THEOREM(It.68)

U.of.SUSSEX FILM SOC.

Thurs. Feb. 5: THE HUSTLER (U.S.A 61) at 6.30pm.

Wed. Feb.11:CHIMES AT MIDNIGHT (U.S.A. 65) Orson Welles at 4&7pm.

Thur. Feb. 12: THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE(U.S.A.62) at 6.30pm;

Wed. Feb. 18: LA GUERRE EST FINIE(Fr. 65) at 4&7pm.

COLLEGE of Ed.

Thurs. Feb.12: UN HOMME ET UNE FEMME(Fr. 68) at 7pm.

Tues. Feb. 12: NORTH BY NORTHWEST(U.S.A.69) Hitchcock. at 7pm

Co. of FFC.

Thur. Feb. 12: BREATHLESS (Fr. 59) GODARD. at 7.30pm.

theatre

WORTHING CONNAUGHT (91-35333)

Jan 27-Feb 7, Gaslight, Patrick Hamilton.

Feb 10-Feb 21, Beyond The Fringe

THEATRE ROYAL (28488)

Feb 2nd for 2 weeks, Best of Friends, Nigel Patrick, Siobhan McKenna.

Feb 16th, Happy Apple — comedy.

CONGRESS EASTBOURNE (95-25252)

Week comm. Feb 3rd, Noel Coward's Bitter Sweet

GARDNER CENTRE UoS (685681)

Opening MARCH 12th, British Premier The Nuns.

art

GARDNER CENTRE, Feb 10-Mar 7, Ten Dutch Artists - Contemporary painting & sculpture from Holland.

DITCHLING GALLERY, 30, High St, Ditchling. 3rd-21st Feb, Younger Painters.

LANGFORD'S HOTEL, Hove. Feb 1-22, Clive Wright Art Exhibition.

BRIGHTON ART GALLERY (til Sun) Victorian Music Titles.

events

MAYDAY MANIFESTO GROUP, Meetings every Monday at Royal Exchange Pub, Southover St. 8 pm.

Feb 7th, Conference on Left and future action, Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq.

Feb 7th, S.P.G.B. Discussion- The Paintings of Turner, 7.30pm, 52, Clapham High St, S.W.4.

Feb 14th, Tenants Rally, Trafalgar Square.



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sports

FOOTBALL: Feb.7th..Bton.&Hove Albion v Shrewsbury Town.

Feb.11th..Bton. &Hove Albion Res. v Orient Res., Goldstone Gd.

Feb.21st..Bton. &Hove Albion v Taramere Rovers..

GRFYFOUND RACING: Feb.7th.&14th. Neville Rd. Hove.

RUGBY: Bton. 1st YV V Streatham Scorpions..Sports Arena, Brighton.

Feb.7th.Hove 'A' XV v Chipstead, Hove Park.

Feb.11.Floodlight Rugby; Martlets v Esher, Sports Arena, Brighton.

Feb.14: Bton. ex 1st XV v Bton. Tec. " Hove 'A' XV v Gosport Vikings, Hove Park.

Feb.21: Bton. 1st XV v Wasp Vandal, Sprts Arena.

Feb. 21: Hove 'A' XV v H.A.C.?

HOCKEY Feb 7th, B'ton & Hove 1st XI v HURSTPIERPOINT COLLEGE, Cricket Ground, Preston Park.

Feb 14th, B'ton & Hove 1st XI v SOUTHAMPTON TROJANS.

WRESTLING Cunningham Hall, Hove Feb 6th, 7.45, Les Kellett v Lee Sharron.

PLUMPTON RACFS: Feb.9th. Plumpton Fr. Lewes.

addresses

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU:17,Ditchling Rise..tel 61664

I.S.: 2, Montpelier Rd.

KEMPTOWN LABOUR PARTY:176,Lewes Rd.

N.C.C.L.: 37,Park Crescent.tel. 657C

RENT TRIBUNAL: Anston House,137 Preston Rd.

C.P.R.(M-L):7,Portland Place.

UNICORN BOOKSHOP:50,Gloucester Rd.

information

Late trains:to London from Bton. 23.1C and back 23.59.(Victoria) Late Chemists: Westerns,12 Coombe Terrace, Lewes Rd..9am..1.0.p.m. tel..65354.

24 hour garage..The Endeavour, Preston Circus.Tel..506331

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