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* THE BULLETIN *
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The Bulletin is a journal by and for socialists who live in East Shropshire. There is no censorship or editorial control, but articles must be by socialists who broadly employ a materialist analysis and be less than a 1000 words long (except by special arrangement with the editor).

The copy date for the next M edition, May, is 23/4/80. Our current contact address is C/O 24 Chatford Stirchley (note the change please).... again this may well change on the next issue.

Those comrades who wish to make considered comments about any of the contents of this journal are invited to write to the contact address. Specific mention of the desire not to be published should be made on correspondence not intended to appear in print. Your verbal comments on the last issue, many of which were highly critical of John Morgans "Red Notes" attack on MK have been noted. Please note also that John Morgan does not write ALL the copy, but is especially interested to receive comments on the "History of the East Shropshire Proletariat" contribution.

JOHN MORGAN - Editor.

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RED NOTES

T.V. Guttersnipe:

Congratulations to the comrades of the Guttersnipe Collective for a really excellent "Open Door" programme. You presented such a good case that it made the actions of the County Council seem pathetic. I bet some of those colonel Blimps were going purple with Tory rage. Keep up the fight for alternative youth in Telford, and kick back at the bastards every chance you get !

Organise Now:

The General Council of the TUC has called for a day of action on May 14th. The right wing rejected calls for a one day general strike, because it would need the support of all the affiliated unions. What rubbish, are we now to wait for the likes of the Institute of Professional Civil Servants and the Probation Officers' Association before we take effective action against attacks on the organised labour movement ? Are we hell, let us start to organise now to get as many of our local branches as possible to issue strike instructions for May 14th.

Re-instate Esward and Hughes:

Two AUEW research workers, Trevor Esward and Alan Hughes who were sacked from head office by John Boyd, have launched a campaign inside the union to win re-instatement. Their petition, already supported by AUEW North London District Committee and the Engineers Charter is available from Alan Hughes, 444b Green Lanes, London, n13; it reads:-

"We, the undersigned view with grave concern the decision of the AUEW Executive Committee to dismiss from their employment at AUEW General Office, Bros. Hughes AUEW Education Administrator, and Trevor Esward, Research and Technical Services Assistant.

On the basis of the information available to us, we believe that brothers Hughes and Esward had committed no offence and have not contravened any rules of the AUEW.

We therefore demand that they be re-instated by the Executive Council and that the Executive Council publishes in the monthly Journal a full explanation of the reasons for the decision to dismiss the two fellow members."

KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING

The recent most admirable attempts by left Welsh nationalists to lower property values by direct means puts me in mind of a storey told me a few years ago. I was staying with a Manx nationalist partymember friend of mine on the Isle of Mann and discovering what a pleasant place the island is and the delights of their excellent beer. We were in a back street pub in Douglas getting hammered at the arrows when some young lads came in and my mate introduced us. It turned out that these lads were "of the" Manx "terrorist" organisation, the "Fu-a-loo" - means "underground" in Manx. We joined up with them and spent most entertaining evening together getting thrown out of most of the sea-front hotel bars. Good lads these Fu-a-loo mob, dedicated to the liberation struggle (and Castleton Brewery) - they could even string together a few broken sentences in their ancient native tongue. I was impressed. Anyhow, sometime during the stormy passage of that evening they ran out the line on Fu-a-loo's "No more English Residents" burning of second homes campaign and told of their small part in it.

Like their celtic comrades in Cymru they held some form of egalitarian socialist theory and stressed that that they sort no quarrel with English workers, but only the rich capitalists who came to take advantage of the islands low rate of income-tax. At that time the price of a small cottage on the island was about the same as that for a villa with ten acres in central London. With little rented accommodation available and a set of bastards running the island, direct action was considered the best way of depressing house prices to a level within the sights of the Manx workers and peasants.

The target selected for this particular Fu-a-loo cell was a half completed de-luxe housing development two miles out of Douglas. The deed was discussed and planned well ahead, petrol being syphoned into cans from a members car over a period so as to avoid suspicion. Then on the day, having been chucked out of the last pub in Douglas to close, they loaded the boot with their hoarded fuel and set off. Parking in a quiet lane some distance from the target they carried the heavy cans across some fields, arriving at the deserted construction site undetected. Nervously hurrying their work they poured the petrol over the exposed roof beams and floor boards of several unfinished future palaces for the English Imperialists.

Alas, their story was not to end in a blaze of glory. Despite the fire of nationalism burning in their breasts, there was no spark to light the ~~coming~~ conflagration. They had neglected to note that none of them smoked and no-one had brought any matches.

Sad to say their misery was compounded. On return to the car they discovered that it had a slow puncture. They had removed the spare to make more room for the cans.

ARSONIST SYMPATHISER.

THE "LEFTIE" QUIZZ

Last month's prize has still not actually been won, but I am happy to announce that it will be left over. The stakes are, due to the generosity of an anonymous benefactor, to be raised. This month's prize will be V.I. Lenin's "The Proletarian Revolution and the Renegade Kautsky" and a whole bottle of pre-budget Bell's Scotch Whiskey. I thought that might make you sit up and take notice, cause its the book you really want isn't it? Entries to reach us by 23rd April. You should answer as many questions as you can correctly and then make up silly replies to the rest, then complete the following phrase using not more than 32,000 words: "I think that bourgeois idealism is a load of cock because.....".

- 1) Who sent in the troops to break the Seaman's strike in 1966?
- 2) Which Telford housing estate figured prominently in the trail of the "Shrewsbury Pickets", and why?
- 3) What were the Putney Debates?
- 4) What was the "Taff Vale" judgement and what relevance has it got to modern Tory policy?
- 5) Why did the "Road" lead to the "New" party?
- 6) What is "Lota Continua"?

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AND DON'T FORGET TO WRITE!

The Bulletin is not here to be John Morgans mouth piece, even if he has got verbal ~~diarrhoea~~ diarrhoea (talks a lot of crap, right?). So isn't it about time you wrote down what you think or reported your experience? This is a shitty little rag not a fancy bourgeois paper, but it print anything a socialist like you gives it, and it does not edit it (Though sometimes it gets dyslectic or changes its spelling during passage threw the typist). The change in society may not begin here, but it is a move in the right direction. In these reactionary days we need open socialist discussion like never before, the dialectic of learning does begin here. Ofcourse if you would rather have your ideas spoon fed ynu, a little at a time so you can understand them whose fucking mind is it anyway ?

A L O N D O N L E T T E R

This is the first in a series of contributions from socialists down there in the great metropolis... The editor has invited these contributions from people involved in the class struggle, but in a very different part of the country to Telford. We hope that this approach will assist comrades in the formulation of more global analysis.

Bob Shepard is an ASTMS steward at REDIFON in Wandsworth, South London. He is also a member of Wandsworth Trades Council. He has spent some time in Telford and knows the area fairly well.

Wandsworth

27-3-80

Tory Entrists:-

Those of you who read the lesser press (lesser than the Bulletin that is) will have noticed an attempt to claw back part of the ASTMS political fund to give to the Conservative Party. This dastardly attempt finished in the High Court after the almost inevitable bungling by the NEC. ASTMS were told to pay up which, with suitable bad grace, they did. However, an attempt to prepare a rule change motion for this year's Delegate Meeting has also been obstructed by legal, nay judicial, meddling at the behest of Kodak Senior Staff branch. All this is no more than one would expect from far-right wreckers with some good financial backing, except, they also send a delegate to the relevant divisional council, no. 8. Can you imagine going to the hunt ball and speaking out against blood sports (or the Tory party) without getting beaten to within an inch of your life? Well even in ASTMS the old labour movement pacifism still holds (just). All went well for the entrust until he voted against a very moderate motion asking the government to reconsider its decision to re-open ambassadorial relations with Chile. A low growl began, with the clattering of chairs as delegates made room for.....? Luckily it was the last motion of the meeting and he escaped to wreck another day.

Pick Up a Penguin:-

Those of you who never got beyond the Bezzer or the Dandy need not read on, but the publishing house that more than any other provided the back up for the education of the generations of the '50s and after, Penguins, is trying to lay off staff. The newstyle of worker of the fifties, confident, educated and, because of National Service, travelled, read the Daily Herald the tabloid with words of more than one syllable and brought Penguin books - culture for the common man (women hadn't been invented then). Now the imported American manager says there's nothing wrong with going down market (like the Sun? or Star?). Mind you last year he spawned a corporate plan which foresaw inflation at 11% and a falling bank rate. Perhaps he does need something a little down market, but what about the rest of us?

Enterprise Zones:-

According to the London Evening Standard the first "Enterprise Zone", the most obviously "their hand in your pocket" announcement made in this year's Tory budget, will be set up on the Isle of Dogs. Where, you may ask if you have ever got lost in that run-down part of London dockland? Well it's no quite an island but with only one road in and out it does get a bit claustrophobic, especially if you're not steeped in the tradition of dockers and lightermen and their pre-nuclear extended families. And there's a ~~funny~~ funny thing; when containerisation came in and the dockers used their enterprise to ensure that they got the jobs stuffing containers and moving them about, having lost their traditional trades, who were the first to shout blackmail? The Tories of course - no enterprise required from the working classes, it interferes with profits.

Meanwhile the fight put up to get those jobs is still the only half successful campaign to preserve the rights of the working class against "new technology". It was fought long and hard over many years with little or no

help from any direction. No ready-stuffed container was handled by any dock unless it had been stuffed by a registered docker, no stuffing depot went unpicketed unless manned by RDS, no politician received anything but contempt unless he supported the Registered Dock Scheme. This did not take a fortnight but ten years. Not a lot of imagination admittedly but solidarity not only within the union (T&G) but in the whole community.

The dialectic wins in the end. Who were the scabs manning the Sheerness Steelworks through the ISTC strike? Ex-dockers who didn't stick it out, thats who.

Bob Shepard.

REMEMBER BLAIR PEACH

Blair Peach was killed by the SPG we all know, now even Scotland Yard's Complaints Investigation Bureau are convinced. Some of the findings of their report were published in the Sunday Times (16.3.80). Six officers were named: Inspector Alan Murray and PCs White, Freestone, Richardson, Scottow and Lake, all are members of the number 1 unit of the Special Patrol Group. The investigators were certain that one of these men was responsible for the death of Blair Peach. The report was submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions, but they decided there was "insufficient" evidence to prosecute.

Yet while the DPP failed to accept the evidence of the police enquiry, the people of Southall have faced massive fines and imprisonment - 342 were charged, the SPG killers go free.

The inquest into Blair's death resumes on 28th April. The Friends of Blair Peach Committee are calling for a national picket of local police stations on Wednesday 23rd April. A picket of Wellington police station (in Glebe St.) has been organised for that day, starting at 6.30pm. As many people as possible should attend.

TELFORD ANTI NAZI LEAGUE

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DEFEND OUR UNIONS !!

The Rank and File booklet "Defend our Unions" is a reply to the Tories anti-union proposals. Written by John Deason.

Get your copy now! 25p each, ring these numbers:-

TELFORD 591017

or TELFORD 502191

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The Workers Fight Back - Proletarian Uprisings 1756 - 1842(Part 2). John Morgan.

The period from 1760 to 1820 was one of massive expansion in British Industrial Capitalism, in the parlance of bourgeois economic historians the "Take-off Stage". Following hard on the success of new coke smelting iron works in East Shropshire, new, bigger, iron works sprang up all over Britain. The capital amounts employed in these new concerns were out of all proportion to anything that had been done previously. The Carron Iron Works in Scotland was started in 1760 with, for those days, the huge capital amount of £12,000 - by 1774 the capital of the works had risen to £150,000. In Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire the cotton and wollen industries multiplied and re-multiplied their outputs. Huge factory mills employing thousands of machine hands were opening everywhere in the North. The engineering industry began with the organised provision of engines and heavy tools to the mines and factories. The canal network was virtually completed by 1800. An infant chemical industry grew up to service the needs of the textile industry.

In Shropshire the expansion of the industrialisation on the East Shropshire Coalfield continued, and although by 1820 the local pig iron and coal output was becoming overshadowed by that of the "Black Country", it was still of national importance. There were about 31 blast furnaces on 15 sites in East Shropshire in 1820. ((Note: Barnett Leasow, Bentall, Broseley, Calcutts, Dawley Castle, Donnington Wood, Horsehay, Ketley, Lightmoor, Bedlam, Old Park, Sneds Hill, Wombridge, and Wrockwardine Wood.)) Annual pig iron production was between 60,000 and 80,000 tons. Tied, now very much so, to the iron industry the mining industry had also expanded.

The East Shropshire proletariat had, by 1820, become a very large, and to the class conscious Tories of the county, a very threatening body. The first half of the nineteenth century saw many wild fluctuations in the fortunes of the local iron trade. When the first major recession hit in 1815-16, occasioned by the dis-armament in Europe following Waterloo, Shropshire's iron industry was already largely obsolete and found the competition with larger and more efficient iron works in South Wales, Central Scotland and the Black Country increasingly difficult. ((Note: True-ism of the month - History has a way of repeating itself.))

The effects of recessions on the workers in the iron works and mines were immediate. The bosses would cut wages to protect their level of profit. The system of labour relations in East Shropshire from 1810 to 1850 worked something like this:-

1. Demand for iron is high, capital is invested in new or revived iron works, mines etc. Labour shortage ensues. Workers demand higher wages, profits

are extreamly high so the bosses pay.

2. Sudden recession. Prices paid for pig iron and wrought iron bars drop dramatically. Inorder to maintain the rate of profit the bosses cut wages.

3. Workers strike and either (a) win by closing all a boss's works and forcing him to take them back so that production can continue, but he takes a cut in profits , or (b) loose and have to go back and accept the wage cut.

There were no trade unions, and "negotiations" as such did not take place. Communication between boss and worker took the form of the boss printing notices and having them pinned up at the work-place and (rarely) the workers writing a petition and one of their number ~~xxxxxxx~~ delivering it to the "Hall".

The principle weapond of the workers was strike action, though sabotage and sending to Comentry of black-legs were also used. The boss's main weaponds were starvation, assisted by their influence on food distribution, and the Yeomanry. It is interesting to note that when workers did strike against wage cuts (as they nearly always did) they were said by the bourgeoisie to be "rioters". Yet there is no record of them making any attack upon the person of any member of the ruling class, except in self defence. In contrast the bourgeoisie used extream violence, both judicial and ~~otherwise~~ otherwise, often to the point of taking life.

Unlike the class fighting in the twentieth centuary where, as in Northern Ireland, the bougeoisie employs mercenaries to kill on its behalf, in these early days of capitalism the yeomanry was the bourgeoisie under arms. A standing proffessional army comprised of enlisted workers and officered by the aristocracy did exist at this time. The experience of the French revolution, however, made it much more sencible for the ruling class to use bourgeois militia against the workers, rather than risk military mutiny. On occassions of major class conflict the professional army would be called in to act as reserves, but it was the Yeomanry who actually did the fighting.

The major incident of class conflict during this period was the "Battle of Cinderloo". Now rather carefully lost from the general knowledge of East Shropshire history, at the time Cinderloo was regarded as an incident of great importance in the history of the imposition of ~~bourgeois~~ "law and order" over the growing East Shropshire proletariat.

In 1820 the East Shropshire iron masters decided on a wage cut to protect against a falling rate of profit. All over the coalfield iron-workers and miners walked out in a strike against the wage reduction. The yeomanry were called in but, despite some minor actions, in one of which a miner was wounded, this failed to break the strike. Eventually the wage cuts were withdrawn and production was resumed with profit cuts instead. We can take it that, like the effect of "Red Friday" in 1925, the bourgeoisie, having been found unprepared by the ~~action~~ solidarity of the workers action, started to lay their plans for next time.

On the 31st January 1821 the local iron masters got together and announced an immediate 6d a day reduction in wages. At the time a fully employed (6 days, 10-12 hours a day) worker in the iron industry might earn 15/- a week. The proposed cut then, was 20%; massive in scale and hardly justified by the "stagnation in trade". The move was certainly planned to provoke a major confrontation, one which this time the bourgeoisie meant to win at all costs.

The workers responded quickly. By nine o'clock on February 1st 2,000 men had gathered in Dawley. They marched ~~thru~~ through Madeley Wood and Stirchley stopping the pits and blowing out the furnaces. Boilers were plugged, engines put out of action and pit ropes cut. The strike was made general by direct action, according to the bourgeois view the Dawley men were "compelling the well-disposed workmen to join the ranks of the turbulent". Later the same day the strikers closed all the works in Malinslee and Old Park. Presumably the Oakengates and Donnington areas were similarly effected. By the end of the day the closure in East Shropshire was total.

On 2nd February the two Wellington troops of the South Shropshire Yeomanry commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Cludde were assembled and the scene was set for the battle. About 3,000 strikers were assembled outside Old Park furnaces when the yeomanry arrived. Presumably they were there because the owner of this large iron works, Botfield (probably as a leading Tory the leader of the hard-line faction of the district iron masters) had attempted to re-open the works. Cludde is said to have called on the crowd to disperse and later to have had the Wellington magistrate Eyton read the Riot Act. The crowd did not disperse and after about an hour Cludde ordered the arrest of the "ring leaders". Eight men were arrested, presumably at random, by the yeomanry who then regrouped and formed an escort round their prisoners.

Meanwhile, in order to escape the horsemen's attempts to arrest them, the workers had climbed the rough sides of the furnace waste heaps. The yeomanry had now to pass between these heaps on their way back to the Wellington road. As they did so the workers launched a hail of "cinder" debris, knocking several of the troopers off their horses. Others rushed forward and managed to free two of the prisoners. The yeomanry opened fire. At the end of the battle one worker was dead and many others wounded, another dying shortly afterwards. Several members of the yeomanry were also injured. The "Battle of Cinderloo" had been a bloody victory for the bourgeoisie.

It took another three days for the yeomanry to finally break the strike and force the workers back with the wage cut. The day after the battle two more troops arrived from Shrewsbury and another from Hales Owen. On the 4th February a troop of the 6th Dragoons was stationed at Shifnal. Throughout the two days following the battle the yeomanry roamed around the coalfield dispersing any groups of strikers that formed, and although the workers retaliated by "destroying property" resistance was effectively broken. By the end of the fourth day of the

strike the yeomanry were in full command and by the fifth day the workers had returned. The Shrewsbury yeomanry were withdrawn on the 6th February and the Wellington and Hales Owen troops the next day. An inquest on the two dead men - William Bird and Thomas Gittens - had been held on 4th February and, not surprisingly in view of the class nature of the jury, returned a verdict of "justifiable homicide". Lord Sidmouth, secretary of state in the government, wrote to the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, the Earl of Powis, expressing the governments satisfaction at the outcome of the confrontation:

"It is with regret that I learnt the melancholy consequences which ensued, but it is some consolation to have ascertained that those who fell were among the ring leaders of the riot, and it is satisfactory to learn that the jurors who sat upon the inquest were convinced that the homicides were fully justified by the circumstances."

The trial of those workers selected by the yeomanry as "ring leaders" was held at Shrewsbury Assizes on March 25th 1821. The defendants were : Thomas Palin (who had been wounded at Cinderloo), James Eccleshall, John Grainger, Christopher North, John Payne, Robert Wheeler, and Samuel Hayward. All were found guilty. Two were sentenced to be hanged, though one was later reprieved, the others were given nine months hard labour.

The result of the confrontation of 1821 was the severe restriction of the development of the workers movement in East Shropshire. The rule of the bourgeoisie was now fully established in the coalfield. Although the operations of the yeomanry had been nominally directed by the Earl of Powis, the whole affair was actually devised and executed by the local bourgeoisie. Their principle means of organisation was through the district association of iron masters, which made all the important decisions effecting East Shropshire. The iron masters were keenly supported by their allies the established local gentry - men like Cludde and Eyton - whose families had important interests in the iron and mining industries. The industrial capitalists made the decision to have the confrontation and using the local gentry's monopoly of the yeomanry and control of the courts, given the right planning and resolve, made a crushing victory over the workers.

When twenty years later the possibility of similar organisation being available for the working class was raised with the establishment of chartism, the Shropshire bourgeois were horrified. They need not have worried. In Shropshire, as elsewhere, the Chartists were dominated by the petty-bourgeoisie and never developed forms of organisation better than those that already existed in the labour movement. It was not until the second half of the nineteenth century that trade union organisation grew in East Shropshire - notably through the Shropshire Miners Federation (now several amalgamations later, part of the NUM). By this time the victory of the bourgeoisie was complete and trade unions were destined to become part of the class struggle within a bourgeois framework.

Between 1821 and our next great concentration of struggle, 1842, lay the recession years of the late 1820s and early 1830s. In the late 1830s an upturn in the iron trade caused an increase in local production and, in consequence, in wage levels generally in the coalfield. During 1830-31 a local incendiary campaign was reported to have political motivation. In 1831 there was a major miners strike and in 1833 the Potters at Coalport went on strike against wage cuts. Generally however, for twenty years after Cinderloo the East Shropshire proletariat was subdued and the bourgeoisie had things very much their own way.

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The concluding part of this essay, together with a list of sources, will be published in the May edition of the Bulletin.

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S LEFTIE QUIZ

Well, what can I say, the response to these quizzes is one of overwhelming ~~apathy~~ apathy. May be it has not escaped the notice of some members of the Left that the prize offered was a book by Lenin devoted to a polemic against those that call themselves Markists without the justification of actually being Marxists. Could it be you dont like competition, regarding it as un-socialist? Perhaps you could not answer any of the questions. More likely "Crossroads" and Labour Party meetings etc. provide more stimulating political interest. For the record, here are the answers to the March quiz:-

1. Voline refused to accept the presidency of the St. Petersburg Soviet in 1905, saying it should go to an industrial worker. An industrial worker was duly chosen, but was promptly arrested by the Tsarist police. Comrade Trotsky was then offered and accepted the position.
2. Trotsky's "Transitional Program" was sub-titled "The death agony of Capitalism and the task of the Fourth International". Essencial reading for all socialists because (a) its very good and relevant to struggle; (b) it is not too long and (c) all traditional trotskyist groups (WRP, IMG, Militant, WSL, Icl etc. etc.) base their own current programs on it.
3. Come on you all know who formed and led the Red Army in the Revolutionary War. Your Granny told you that when you were still in your pram.
4. Trotsky prophesised war between Britain and the US. Well we all make mistakes, intellectual heros are no less infallible than emotional ones.
5. Well I suppose you have picked up the theme by now so you will have guessed that Trotsky said "I will sweep Anarchism from Russia with an Iron Broom". Mind you he did say it in Russian, I believe.
6. Lev Davidovich Bronstien, that man again, came into the world at Yanovka on 26th October 1879. It is reported that three wise men were murdered by Tsarist agents.

TELFORD ANL DEFENCE FUND

Following the completion of the payment of a fine and costs arising out of the Leicester demonstration against the National Front last year (a total of £382.60 has been paid from the fund), there will be a general meeting of supporters of the Fund. The meeting will discuss the future of the Fund and will take place at 24 Chatford, Stirchley at three o'clock on Sunday 13th April.

TANLDF "the Real Thugs are Dressed in Blue" badges are still available price 30p each.

LIES, FILTHY SLANDERS, DISTORTIONS, RUBBISH, MALICIOUS COMMENT, HALF TRUTHS, INNUENDO

I hear from informed sources that the ageing champion of the Left, Cllr. Turner, is to open the Sutton Hill May Day celebrations this year. It seems that when the matter came up before the May Day committee, his name was put forward. This is, perhaps, not very interesting, Jack is after all a well loved local personallity. It might be a rather insulting proposition to the labour councillors who actually represent Sutton Hill, one of whom is ofcourse definatly out of it as he only lives in a TDC house. It was, however, the reason advanced by Jack's proposer that caused some members of the May Day committee to raise their eye-brows. It seems that the good councillor should be invited because he is to be "our next Labour member of Parliament"! Will the opening ceremony be interupted by boom hoaxes phoned in by Labour right-wingers? Is Gerry Fowler to be assassinated? Could this be the stupidest story we have published so far?

On the subject of Gerry Fowler..... You may remember that a few years ago (when he first lost the Wrekin to a Tory) he applied for the job of Director of Wolverhampton Polytechnic. He must have been fairly confident of success. After all, Wolverhampton is a Labour borough and Mr. Fowler had some considerable experience of educational administration, and he had lately been junior minister with responcebility for Higher Education. Somewhere along the line however, our erstwhile leader must have blotted his copy book with Cllr. Bird and his croanies. Not only did poor Gerry not get the job, he was not even selected for interview! Word is though that a second chance may be coming along in the not too distant future. The man who eventually got the job, George Seabrook, has proved to be the most reactionary thing to arrive in Wolverhampton since it was sacked by the Vikings. Moreover, Seabrook (a lawyer by trade) has recently put the backs up of Wolverhampton's Education Dept. by threatening to take them to court. An embarrassing legal confrontation is, however, likely to be avoided as the Director is increasingly debilitated with angina, and looks sure to retire soon on health grounds. So, what is the betting on Counillor Bird and his men

taking a trip up to Huddesfield, where the assistant director (one Mr. Fowler), may well be waiting for this very opportunity to further his career. Well, well, things are looking up for Left unity. Which of us could have foreseen the day when County Councillor Derek Woodfine (full time official of NUJW) would be sharing the platform with time-served revolutionaries at a Socialist workers Party meeting. What a difference a Thatcher makes. An embarrassing legal confrontation is, however, likely to be avoided as the Director is increasingly debilitated with age, and looks sure to retire soon on health grounds. So, what is the betting on Councillor Bird and his men

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:-

House of Commons
Westminster.

Sir.

I have just perused the second issue of your communist rag. I most sincerely hope it does not survive to a third.

I note that ~~in it~~ members of the Labour Party are honoured with the name Tories and even surprise is expressed that they do not choose so to call themselves. I may say I consider this a disgusting slur on the good name of Toryism.

I appreciate that we have just gained Mr. Reg Prentice, and that he has joined us on the Tory right, a welcome ally against leftists like Heath, Prior and so forth, and I appreciate that there are many more where he came from. Nevertheless while we on the Tory right would welcome Roy Jenkins, Shirley Williams and some others, there is a danger that men like the former MP for the Wrekin would join the Heath Left wing of the Conservative Party. I do not concede of course that Mr. Fowler is as leftist as Mr. Heath.

I know that Labour's excuse for occasionally coming up with socialist rhetoric, that otherwise workers might espouse policies like those advocated by your disgusting rag, but I believe that there is a serious danger that such organisations might actually convert someone to socialism. Workers might then act, rather than confining their activity to their proper station - electing people to a good wage in this place so as to cheat them. Isign in disgust,

Whore-son Hawks-pee.

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The Dustbin
History

Dear Sir,

With reference to your socialist journal Bulletin. Do you think this is going to do any good? All you are doing is splitting the Left. We need to unite to fight the Tories. This is not the time to raise revolutionary socialist ideas that no one is going to understand or take any notice of, we must deal with the practical issues of today. All you will do is alienate the support the Left is now building up - people will not stand for this type of thing, we have to make transitional demands. How can you expect ordinary people to write socialist articles when they don't even have the right leadership?

Yours fraternally,

Salvador Allende, President Kerensky, Lord Citrain, Robert Mubabee, Harold Wilson, Jim Read, Kautsky, Ho Chi Min, Ramsey Macdonald, Joe Stalin.

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PTO for more letters....

Highgate Cem.
London

Dear Comrades,

The task of the liberation of the working class is one for the working class itself. Let us pin to our banners the slogan "The Abolition of Wage Labour". The existence of revolutionary ideas in a particular period presupposes the existence of a revolutionary class. Both for the production on a mass scale of this communist consciousness, and for the success of the cause itself, the alteration of men on a mass scale is, necessary, an alteration which can only take place in a practical movement, a revolution; this revolution is necessary, therefore, not only because the ruling class cannot be overthrown in any other way, but also because the class overthrowing it can only in a revolution succeed in ridding itself of all the muck of ages and become fitted to found society anew. Proletariat of the world unite! You have only your chains to loose, you have a world to win!

Yours in Struggle,

Karl Marx.

UNFAIR COMMENT - By Thought Afore Malice

Not so long ago the papers were full of the terrible plight of the boat people from Vietnam. People who were not normally known for their commiseration with suffering humanity were suddenly waking eloquent about Vietnamese refugees, and implying that the ^{miseries} ~~miseries~~ of the Boat People proved that the Americans had been right in incinerating a large proportion of the Vietnamese population.

Something of the value of their sympathy can be seen from the award of the Queen's Gallantry Medal to L/Cpl. Almansing Limbu, a Gurkha serving in Hong Kong. He intercepted a raft load of refugees from main land China, and when they resisted arrest :

"I bashed them with my baton, climbed on the raft and took them all prisoner".

No one doubts that corporal Limbu repelled a savage attack by eight assailants. Those who are driven to become refugees by tyrannical regimes - whatever these regimes may be - (or also wealthy former members of the elite, dissatisfied with losing their wealth and going elsewhere with there gold) who have risked drowning and starvation are liable to be vicious. But ordering Limbu to do what he did and rewarding him for it is an inhumane act.

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The witch-hunt in the Labour Party against the Militant goes on apace. Why it is hard to imagine; except that it makes a convenient aunt Sally for the extream Right to distract attention from the fact that it ~~is~~ rejects common ownership. If Press reports of the Underhill documents are accurate, the noble Lord hasn't even been able to distinguish between rival entrlist factions.

Perphaps the theory is that these blood thirsty revolutionaries are about to work together and change society. No such luck. The one thing one Trot faction hates above all else is a rival Trot faction. Thus one has Newslime

(Editor: paper of the Workers Revolutionary Party) calling for the physical destruction of the HKS (the Iranian Socialist Workers Party) the equivalent - more or less - of IMG (Editor: the International Marxist Group, publishes Socialist Challenge). Thus in Nicaragua the American SWP acted as informers against the militants of the Simon Bolivar Brigade, betraying these to the stalinist supported petit bourgeois rulers; which later were still at that time members of the same "Fourth International".

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Shirley Williams - arch Euro-fanatic, apologist for the multinationals, member of Labour Governments and supporter of state regulated wages policy - has just jumped on the "Small is Beautiful" band-wagon. No doubt she has always opposed state ownership, and so can plead having to state monopolies, but who ever heard here condemn ICI or any similar monopoly in the private sector.

Nauseous as this is to anyone who has read Schumacher, what was far more nauseous was that a week later she was applauded by a constituency Ecology Party for her hypocrisy. If there were no other reason for condemning the Ecology Party out of hand - and a glance at the Ecologist will provoke many other reasons - failure to expose this bit of political trickery would be ample.

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With all the fuss about Militant everyone has entirely overlooked the existence of a branch of the party less than 300 members strong which though it has policies at variance both with the party conference and the party constitution, insists on the exclusive right to elect the party leader. Its members have unparalled access to the media to publicise their dissident views, and even fight elections on policies contradicting the decisions of national conference and the executive. It is surely time the branch was reorganised By Transport House.

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THE SCUM OF THE EARTH

The following officers of the Special Patrol Group are named in an official Police report as having comprised the squad which murdered Blair Peach.

INSPECTOR ALAN MURRAY PC WHITE PC FREESTONE PC RICHARDSON
PC SCOTTOW and PC LAKE

These scum are being protected by the police and by the state, after all they were only doing their job.

[Faint handwritten notes at the bottom of the page]

TELFORD'S "BIG RED DIARY" - EVENTS IN APRIL AND MAY

Tue	1st	APR	7.30pm	Telford C.P.G.B. open meeting. "Marxism and the Labour Movement", speaker Ian Connell. Dawley Information Centre.
Sun	13th	Apr	3.00pm	Telford ANL Defence Fund General Meeting. At 24 Chatford, Stirchley, Telford.
Tue	15th	APR	7.15pm	Wrekin Against Racism committee meeting, open to all members. Dawley Info. Centre.
Wed	23rd	APR	6.00pm	Picket Glebe Street police station, Wellington; in support of the Blair Peach campaign.
Sun	27th	APR	1.00pm	National demo. called by the Friends of Blair Peach Comm. Speakers Corner, London.
*	Mon	28th	APR	Frankie Armstrong Workshop, Sutton Hill Com. Centre.
*	Tue	29th	APR	Ditto
*	Wed	30th	APR	Ditto (and film)
*	Thr	1st	MAY	Frankie Armstrong concert, Sutton Hill Com. Centre.
*	Fri	2nd	MAY	Forum in Sutton Hill Com. Centre organised by Telford TC and the WEA.
*	Sat	3rd	MAY	Folk evening at Sutton Hill Com. Centre.
*	Mon	5th	MAY	Outdoor market and evening concert at Sutton Hill.
	Mon	5th	MAY	MAY DAY (or as close as is convenient to capitalism) IS WORKERS DAY - TRADES COUNCIL MARCH FROM TRENCH LABOUR CLUB TO OAKENGATES TOWN HALL.
Thr	8th	MAY	7.30pm	Socialist Workers Readers Group meeting at Dawley Info. Centre. All welcome.
Wed	14th	MAY		TUC CALLED DAY OF ACTION AGAINST THE TORY GOVERNMENTS POLICIES. START ORGANISING NOW !!!
Sat	17th	MAY	7.30pm	Bertolucci's epic film "1900" at the MERC.
Sat	24th	MAY		LCG Day School on the "Alternative Economic Statergy" at Leeds. Cheap transport available through the Telford LCG.

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Note that entries in the diary marked * are part of the Sutton Hill May Day community celebrations. Details are from the provisional agenda and should be checked with pulishised announcements.

It helps a great deal in the production of this diary if organisers inform me well in advance of the events they have arranged.

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DON'T FORGET !

If you don't like the rubbish in this journal, send us your rubbish and we will see that it gets a proper airing.