A rioter hurls a brick at police in blazing Lozells Road

THE SPIRIT OF REVOLUTION!
PASSING THE BUCK
THE DOLLAR CRISIS

Sometime between April and June 1953 the United States went into debt for the first time since 1914. As the chart shows, this wasn't a temporary aberration involving a few million dollars, but a massive sustained, unprecedented and almost unimaginable transfer of resources to America from the rest of the world.

What's happening to all the money flooding into America? It's certainly not going to American workers. Their real wages have declined by 5% since 1967 and by a further 1% last year. It is not being invested in US industry. It is being sent to help fund government's $200 billion budget deficit - and especially to pay for the 'star wars' program and the rest of the US arms build-up.

The deficit is vital for US business, since it is used to buy the products of US industry - particularly the arms industry. Without the deficit there would be a slump. But US business has to help fund the deficit. High interest rates encourage investors to buy US government bonds and discourage investment in industry. With low interest, industrial productivity has hardly grown over the past four years. This makes worse the loss of competitiveness already being suffered by US industry as a result of the strong dollar. Several industries are on the verge of extinction. The growth rate of the US economy has fallen dramatically in the past year to only 2%.

Many businessmen, union leaders, and their supporters in Congress see protectionism as the answer. There are currently 300 protectionist bills waiting to go through Congress. But US leaders know that if these bills are passed they will lead to the collapse of the world economy on a par with the 1929 stock market crash. Hence the latest well-publicised moves to reduce the value of the dollar to reduce pressure on US industry.

As long as the budget deficit remains at present levels, the US needs high interest rates to attract the funds it needs to avoid going bankrupt. As long as interest rates remain high, speculators will carry on buying dollars and pushing up its value.

The US government has announced plans to lend an extra $20 billion to the third world over the next three years. $7 billion is peanuts. But even this will only be lent on the strict understanding that none of it is used to produce goods for the working class or the poor. It has to be used to produce exports to generate funds to pay off existing debts.

Where will it all end?

By attempting to depress the value of the dollar, US authorities are playing a dangerous game. If even a small proportion of overseas holders of US dollars decide to cash them in, American reserves (currently little more than $30 billion) would last a matter of seconds.

The American economy could collapse at any minute, bringing the world economy down with it. But for the moment this is unlikely. World leaders are preparing to prop up the US economy because it is the end not them that have to pay for it, but us - the working class and poor of the world. Are we going to stand by and let it happen? Of course not. Riots and rebellions are sweeping the world. The most likely outcome of American foreign policy is worldwide revolution.

In the 50's and 60's American overseas investment helped to stimulate the world economy. Now the position is reversed. During 1955-$120 billion of the world's investment capital will flow into the US. This figure is almost twice the total investment going to all the world's under-developed countries put together.

The lynchpin of the US economic policy is high interest rates. Because of the world recession, currency speculation appeals to investors as a much easier way of making money than by investing in industry. Every day more than $150 billion - enough to repay the entire debt of Sub-Saharan Africa twice over - changes hands on the foreign exchange markets. The world is awash with money looking for the easiest way to make a quick buck, and high US interest rates mean that the quickest buck of all is to be made by buying dollars.

Speculative demand for the dollar has pushed its value up by 65% since 1981. As a result, the dollar price of imported raw materials has fallen dramatically - causing devastation in 3rd world economies dependent on raw materials exports. But cheap imports - and cheap US exports - have led to a growing US trade deficit, now $150 billion per year. This causes problems for US business. But from the point of view of the world economy the deficit represents a transfer of cheap goods and services to the world's richest economy.

Much of the money and the products flowing into the US comes from the under-developed world. Brazil had a trade surplus of $12.1 billion last year, thanks largely to trade with the US. But interest payments on loans - most of which eventually flow their way to America - amounted to $11-12 billion. America's getting Brazilian goods and Brazilian money. International loans to Latin America have virtually dried up over the past two years. Debt repayments mean that an estimated $150 billion will leave Latin America during 1955-56. Income per capita in the region has already fallen by 10% since 1960 and living standards are plummeting.

In Africa, foreign aid will need to double for there to be even a chance of halting the decline in production and living standards. Foreign aid to Africa is declining.

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Kinnieck’s performance at the Labour Party conference caused uproar among the left but delighted press and TV commentators. In the past, Labour Party Conferences have been the scene for token victories for the left-wing activists in the constituency parties. This time Kinnieck and the party has decided that more votes were to be won by being seen to defeat them.

The defeat of the miners’ strike made this year’s conference a good time to attack the left by calling for ‘realism’. In addition Kinnieck knew he could rely on the support of the ex-lefts in the local councils who needed backing for their policy of capitalisation to thatther over the rates issue.

Press and TV support for Kinnieck was sincere. It reflected growing unease within the ruling class about the effects of Tory policies. These policies are designed to counteract the effects of the crisis on the employed and lowest paid workers. The rich have got richer. Management salaries rose by 12% last year. Top bosses’ pay rose by a spectacular 22%.

Tory policies got the response they deserved from the people in the cities; the riots. Now the ruling class is on the run for less divisive policies to avert more riots in the future. Labour offers an alternative in the form of even-handed pay cuts for all workers – not just the lowest paid 10% of employed workers who have suffered pay cuts under the Tories. This is why we are now told that the crucial issue in whether Labour under Kinnieck can make a deal with unions. An agreement is a precondition for relieving the pressure on the inner cities by launching a broad based attack on the working class as a whole.

not so Militant

There might appear to be a risk for Kinnieck in all this that he will alienate the Militant supporters and other leftists who make up the majority of active members of the Labour Party. But despite their protests all the leftists will nukele under and work for a Labour victory at the next election anyway.

In fact the leftists will support the Labour Party whoever leads it, whatever its policies. Because they say, the Labour Party is ‘the party of the working class’. This is a sick joke.

Labour has always followed capitalist policies. It is part of the capitalist state at national and local level, whether in power or in opposition. It is run by members of the ruling class: MPs, union and local council bureaucrats. As for the leftists themselves, they are nothing but aspiring bureaucrats. When they do get to power in the local councils they act like any other bosses - witness the many bitter strikes by local council workers in Liverpool, Sheffield, and other cities controlled by the Labour left. In Liverpool the Militant-led council is laying off 30,000 workers and blaming it or the Tories. But capitalists always blame ‘factors outside their control’ when they attack the working class.

And in a sense they’re right. The economic crisis of capitalism means that anyone who attempts to administer capitalism at a national or local level must attack the working class.

KINNIECK: UNASHAMED MEMBER OF THE RULING CLASS

We hope that all workers, and especially the miners who joined the Labour Party during and after the strike, have been convinced by the Labour Conference that they will gain nothing from a future Labour government. Instead of joining Labour they should join the real opposition movement to capitalism in the streets of British cities - and spread it to the working places.

Militant and the other Labour leftists oppose the riots. At a recent meeting we attended Militant MP Terry Fields said that their aim was to channel the ‘mindless violence’ of the rioters into the Labour Party. We also want the rioters to turn their attention to the Labour Party - in a revolutionary struggle which cripples the Labour Party off the face of the planet along with the rest of the capitalist state.

Riots tonight

There was a small riot in Scotland in West London about 30 Alan Jones picked a fight with police in Gloucester. About 30 rioters had assembled. It is reported, as word spread that there was to be a "counter riot". As far as I know this is the first case in modern times of a riot in a cathedral city. There was also an interesting riot at of all places, Wrexham, a pleasant market town on the Welsh border, where three white police cars were machine-gunned down and a police station was devastated. But for theisiert the worst.

Tel 15-10-86

TNTING NEW DEVELOPMENT WERE A SERIOUSLY INJURED RIOT IN RUGGARTS, where it is said is a riot in the town centre. In the middle of the night, a man was tried to think of an English town in the summer’s moneymaking Festivals. The riot which will certainly come to mind. It is not only progress but the wealthy. It must continue at least a number of these have arrived. The police and police motorcycles were involved in ‘various disturbances’ and a police spokesman said: ‘we must put our people to work.

If there can be a riot in Ruggarts there can be a riot anywhere in the United Kingdom. In this case no arrests were made. Was this because the police simply did not believe the evidence of their senses?"

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SUPPORT

What a laugh... grinning rioters overturn a car as masked motos watch

The Home Secretary getting stoned; the police getting massacred; media scum getting attacked. The growing organisation and ferocity of riots in Britain is a tremendous step forward in the class struggle. We totally support the riots.

Rioters have identified and attacked the enemies of the working class with increasing accuracy and violence; the Home Secretary in Handsworth, a vicar in Brixton (who got his trousers set alight when he tried to calm down the situation), journalists in Tottenham, and everywhere the pigs.

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RACISM

The racism of the police and discrimination against blacks in housing and jobs has helped to create inner-city areas where there is a constant state of war between the working class and the police. A riot is where the tables are turned and the most oppressed and powerless sections of the working class go onto the offensive and drive the police off the streets. This isn't just black youth - most of those arrested for the most serious offenses at Handsworth were white. A third of those arrested at Brixton were white. This, and the fact that black and white rioters cooperate in street fighting and looting shows that these are not race riots. It's class against class, not black against white.

Many of the working class inhabitants of Britain's cities have learned the lessons of the defeat of the '68 uprisings. At Tottenham, the rioters won. At Handsworth, the police hadn't regained control the next day. They couldn't protect Brixton. After that, he didn't dare visit Brixton.

"From now on, it's a life for a life" - Tottenham rioters.

After the police killed Mrs. Jarrett, large numbers of friends and relatives gathered outside Tottenham police station. A few windows were put in. That afternoon, a meeting was held at Broadwater Farm estate. After hours of calling for calm, the youth leaders and the council leader Bernie Grant, were advised to leave. All over Tottenham, the riot started coming under attack from youths with bricks and petrol bombs. After that, it turned into the worst night of rioting in mainland Britain yet. Pigs were going down like ninepins. 243 were injured, nearly half of those sent in, and one killed. Compared to the small number of rioters injured or arrested, this was undoubtedly a victory.

The level of organisation which seems to have taken place before and during the riots shows that it's not just the police who've been planning what to do since '68. In Tottenham a lorry and vanload of bricks were delivered before the riot. Walkie talkies and whistles were used to coordinate activities. Rioters looted ammunition whilst others held the front line. The next day, the working class community continued to make it clear that it was collectively in control of the area.

The only reason the police chief hesitated to use plastic bullets was because they are afraid of the political consequences. A Bloody Sunday on the streets of London would show the whole working class the nature of the British state. The dangers of this for the ruling class are incalculable.

The tougher the police get, the worse the situation becomes since most of the anger that causes riots is directly against police brutality. Even a police force as vicious as the South African one is incapable of controlling mass class anger. The harder the police get, the more their support will dwindle to the minority ruling class whose interests they protect.

ITS A REVOLUTION

The riots often start from a specific grievance against the racism of the police - but they rapidly spread to include whole working class communities in a class war against everything which oppresses them.

The Tottenham insurgents said more sense about what causes riots than all the left and right wing capitalists combined; a New Society journalist was told the following:

"Don't write any of that crap about unemployment and all that. We just don't give a shit, that's all."
THE RIOTS

NOTHING SPARKLES LIKE A...

... Bomb in a Babycham bottle

ABOVE: MOLOTOV ‘COCKTAIL’ FOUND AFTER TOTTENHAM RIOT.

IT'S BETTER THAN THE TELLY ISN'T IT'
said one old lady, walking her dog through the insurgents.

The atmosphere of a riot is not one of terror but of some kind of carnival for those who take part. As well as some of the direct gains made as the contents of shops are freely distributed, there is also the feeling of power and self-confidence gained as people exercise their collective strength and take control over an area.

For example, youths confiscated the tape recorder of a BBC reporter and only returned it when they had discussed what they wanted to say. It's a question of taking control of our lives and our world.

We have some criticisms of the riots. There was a gang of muggers in Brixton, attacking innocent working class people. These scum have to be dealt with in exactly the same way as scabs in strikes. Some of the arson has been stupid, burning shops adjacent to working class houses is dangerous and alienates people from the riots.

SCAB STEWARDS

TGWU and NUPE shop stewards in Haringey organised a 24-hour strike against the riot, and organised a collection for PC Blakelock's widow. We are glad to say that only a few hundred workers supported the strike.

The role of 'community leaders' can be compared to the role of unions. They attempt to negotiate with the state on behalf of a rioting community. The level of the struggle is a reflection of how little respect these self-declared representatives have amongst the rioters. The industrial workers should treat its 'leaders' with the same level of contempt. When Dennis Grant said the police got a bloody good hiding, he was surrounded by Tottenham youths. After that, he changed his mind, under pressure from his fellow Labour Party hacks.

At the moment, the police, police stations, the courts and journalists have all been recognised as enemies. We don't doubt that as the struggle escalates the whole of the state apparatus will be targeted, including the unions and the Labour Party.

If the struggle in South Africa is anything to go by, in the coming years, the 'pigs in the middle' will have an increasingly difficult time holding back the forces of class war which are preparing to raze this society of oppression to the ground.

Another said: "It's a revolution. First South Africa, then Handsworth and Brixton, now here."

"It's better than telly isn't it?" said one old lady, taking her dog for a walk through the insurgents.

The spirit of revolution, of smashing the police and everything which keeps us down and enjoying it, is spreading. There will be more sleepless nights in Downing Street in the near future, whichever capitalist shit happens to live there.

A miners' wife in Yorkshire said: "I take my hat off to those lads in Tottenham, they've got courage. We've been called 'vicious mobs' as well, and we know whose side we're on."

When this attitude spreads throughout the working class, the capitalists will be scared shitless. Industrial strikes and riots together are the road to revolution.
Dear Comrades,

The first Wildcat since the merger seems pretty good. I do however have a couple of minor (or not so minor as the case may be...) criticisms. One- The cover is dreadful!! If you are going for an eye-catching cover then its best to go the whole hog. The photo is okay and the headline is good, pointing out the class nature of the struggle in S. Africa in no uncertain terms, unlike the HCC et al who bleat on like concerned liberals about "Smashing the Apartheid State" as if ending apartheid was going to automatically end exploitation in S. Africa. But what is really cringe-worthy is this "Black Youth" shit. Of course its Black Youth, everybody knows that its black youth, (and coloured and asian and a minority of white students.) ... It looks both stupid and patronising. This is really what you might expect from Socialist Worker.

How about the politics?! I can say that all the articles appeared pretty good at first and I found myself agreeing with most of it. Yea. Although the last Wildcat was hard to beat, this one is still very good.

Solidarity,
D. (Coventry)

THIS LETTER HAS BEEN CUT SUBSTANTIALLY DUE TO LACK OF SPACE. WE WELCOME ALL CORRESPONDENCE, WHETHER CRITICAL OR OTHERWISE.

No Thank You, I've been stoned enough already today!

Wanna score?

Wildcat's basic principles

1. We are for the abolition of capitalism by armed revolution on a world scale. We are for the destruction of the money/market/wages system which exists in every country in the world and its replacement by a classless society, in which goods are distributed according to needs and desires. Our lives will become continuous adventures of unrestrained enjoyment. We exist to actively participate in escalating the class war toward this end.

2. We are against all forms of capitalism: private, state and self-managed.

3. We are actively opposed to all ideologies which divide the working class, such as religion.

4. We are actively opposed to all divisions in the working class whereby one section oppresses another, such as sexism and racism.

5. We are against all expressions of nationalism, including national liberation movements such as the IRA.

6. The working class (wage labourers, unemployed, housewives, etc.) is the revolutionary class; only its struggle can liberate humanity from scarcity, war and economic crisis. We support independent working class struggle, in all areas of life, under capitalism, outside the control of the trade unions and all political parties.

7. We are against trade unions because they are part of the capitalist system, selling our labour power to the bosses, and sabotaging our struggles.

8. We totally oppose all capitalist parties, including the Labour Party and other organisations of the capitalist left. We are against participation in fronts with these organisations.

9. We are against participation in parliamentary elections; we are for the smashing of the capitalist state by the working class and the establishment of organisations of working class power.

10. We are against sectarianism, and support principled cooperation among revolutionaries.

Cleaning up the Streets

The riots are only one part of a growing offensive by unemployed workers.

Remove the SCUM

The DMB's 'super snoppers' - the Special Claims Control Unit Members (or SCCC) are sent round the country to intimidate claimants, but recently the boot's been on the other foot.

When the SCCC went to Castlemilk in Glasgow, an anti-snooper group went into action. They pocked the HISS office and poked workers there not to cooperate with the SCCC. The SCCC found themselves followed and photographed. They suffered a number of unfortunate accidents involving flat car tyres and broken windows. After three weeks of fruitless searching they admitted defeat and left.

We hope, for good.

In Hackney, London, claimants toured housing estates with the snooppers announcing their presence with megaphones. HISS clerical workers went out on sabbatical when they arrived. Police opposition stopped them from even going to another Hackney office.

In Tottenham, pickets and demonstrations meant another unpleasant and fruitless trip for the SCCC.

In Lepton homeless claimants vented their anger against local councillors. Council meetings had to take place under police guard.

Stamping on Smack

Liverpool has been called Smack City because heroin addiction is so common. The dealers there are doing very well selling heroin to unemployed kids.

But there is growing community resistance to the pushers. Recently an 'Anti-Smack Squad' involving 250 youths ripped apart dealers' houses in Torteth and attacked the pushers. Local people refused to give evidence against them. The police knew that control was being taken from them, and that one thing leads to another. Merseyside's Assistant Police Chief warned that "taking the law into their own hands can only lead to public disorder." Police 'order' means daily harassment for the residents of Torteth, with the heroin pushers still doing well. If we kick the police out, we can start to control the areas we live in, on our terms.

No pushers, No SCCC. No pigs.

(Info on SCCC from Counter Information, a free newsletter available from Box 01, 43 Candlemakers Row, Edinburgh.)
Over the past few months violent attacks on working class blacks, Asians, gays and their homes, and meetings have been on the increase. The bastards who carry out these attacks must be violently and vigorously opposed where ever they peddle their hatred. Where ever they organise then so must we defend ourselves and our communities.

The leftist response to these attacks has been typical, they have resurrected the ever diversionary tactic of the anti-Fascist front. The reasoning behind the front is simple, to unite both opponents and supporters of capitalism under the banner of anti-Fascism with one of the main aims being recruitment of new members to the organizing parties.

By compromising with liberal and radical defenders of capitalism these fronts have always ended up helping maintain the system that maintains the prejudices that they are supposed to be fighting. In other words, they may have very different to that of the individual bigots or organisations, but take no action against the real cause.

ANTI-FASCISM TODAY

Modern day anti-Fascist fronts overestimate the strength of groups such as the National Front and British Movement. Although attacks based on sexual and racial prejudice are increasing, this is not because the organisations on the extreme right are becoming any more active and powerful, but because the state maintains and promotes existing divisions within the working class.

The state wants us to blame bad housing, unemployment and the rest of the shit forced upon us on each other rather than upon the ruling class. Any organisation that attempts to fight these attacks without fighting the state is also diverting people's attention from the necessary struggle.

Next year will see the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Spanish civil war, a war between fascism and anti-Fascism. Here the tactic of the united front reached its peak and it is this that the left refer to when setting up their fronts today. But the situation today is very different to that of the 1930's, the ruling class does not need a fascist state these days, and even so the united front in Spain was worse than useless to the working class in any case.

Obey the law. "The law is for all.

DEMOCRATIC IDEOLOGY

In fact we have only two real choices not between totalitarianism and democracy, but between accepting the specific form of control that capitalist forces upon us at any time or refusing to accept capitalism in any form.

The anti-Fascists hope that "by fighting for democracy the working class will somehow end up fighting for communism, but as Barrot says: "The proletariat will destroy totalitarianism only by destroying all political forms at the same time. Until then there will be a succession of "fascist" and "democratic" systems..."
The present wave of rebellions in S. Africa began in 1983 with struggles around basic needs such as wages and rent. But now it is a question of who rules – in particular who rules the streets, the security forces or the working class.

The struggle has been taken into white areas. There have been attacks on white homes in the Cape, and a full-scale riot in Johannesburg after a black petrol worker was hanged for killing a cop. Recently the black middle class has come under increasing attack as well. A youth group in Soweto passed a resolution that they would try to burn down all houses with more than two bedrooms. (1)

The white rulers had installed black councillors and other collaborators to 'represent' the black population. They have been neutralised by the wave of attacks on them. South African leaders need to find a new 'representative' to replace them. There is only one candidate – the African National Congress (ANC).

Don't mourn, organise!
—SLOGAN WIDELY USED BY SOUTH AFRICAN REBELS.

Leaders tailend rioters

At the moment the ANC is enjoying an unprecedented level of support from the black working class, but this doesn't mean that it controls the struggle, far from it. Its popularity largely derives from tail-ending what the working class has already done. The townships become ungovernable so the ANC says 'make the townships ungovernable!'; white areas in the Cape are attacked so the ANC says 'this is the way the struggle must move', and so on and so on.

But despite all the passive support they've got the ANC capitalists are in no position to seize state power. To do this they'd need a much more developed military apparatus and tighter control over the working class. They know that if they took state power it would cost them their business and that the ANC are not prepared to risk which is why they are so keen to enter into 'dialogue' with white capitalists and negotiate some sort of deal for themselves in a "reformed" S.A. State.

White political pressure prevents Botha from being seen to compromise with the ANC. But leaders of the ANC have met representatives of S. African business, and of the white opposition Progressive Federal Party. At these meetings the white capitalist expressed their desire that Nelson Mandela should be released. White newspaper baron Tertius Nyburgh said he was struck by the 'amazing sense of all being South Africans.' Another businessman said that both sides believed in a 'mixed economy'.

Whatever bunch of capitalists are in power in the near future will have very little room for manoeuvre and the black working class will probably just say 'Nothing has changed', and keep fighting. Even formal racial equality is unlikely to be granted because this would only encourage 'unrealistic' economic demands. In the words of Nelson Mandela:

"We are prepared to maintain separate living until there are enough new employment opportunities and new homes to allow blacks to move into Johannesburg with dignity."

With any form of 'negotiated settlement' off the agenda, the future of capitalism in South Africa will be determined by military force, not by reform. If the balance of class forces starts to tip towards the working class, the effects on the world capitalist system could be dramatic. There would be severe disruption of the economies of most African states and the international banking system. The British economy would be hard hit: about 250,000 workers would be laid off even if Britain just imposed proper sanctions against South Africa.

Revolution

Everyone from Ronald Reagan to the Trotskyist left are trying to convince us that the real issue is not class power but 'democratic rights'. We must totally reject the campaign of moralistic sympathisers who advocate putting pressure on 'our' government to implement sanctions against the 'evil' regime. They just make the same plea as their heads of state: "If something isn't done, things will get really bad." What they really fear is revolution, and not just in South Africa.

Its up to all of us to make sure their fears come true.