

BIG FLAME

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50 Years after the General Strike we still have to

FIGHT TO LIVE

For the first time in 1,500 arrests under the notorious 'Prevention of Terrorism' act, the police in London got a surprise recently, after they picked up and arrested an Irishman. See story on page 3.



FIFTY YEARS ago this month in 1926, three million workers were on general strike. After nine days of hard and growing struggle, the 'leaders of labour' the TUC called it off. For no other reason than they were scared of the workers power.

Ten years ago in 1966, another so called labour leader, Harold Wilson, conducted a vicious witch hunt against the striking seamen. Workers were denounced as 'conspirators' for just fighting for a living wage and against the tyranny of conditions at sea. The TUC then just looked on.

Today, 1976, is one more year in the long saga. At a time when working class living standards are taking a dive, Len Murray and all the rest are haggling over peanuts: three or five percent! At a time when Healey and Callaghan are presiding over 1½ million unemployed, Jack Jones tries to tell us that this is 'our' government. And at a time when that same government is slashing all social spending, Hughie Scanlon stands by and nods.

Faces change over 50 years. But the working class fight to live goes on as ever: against the employers; against the capitalist governments (Labour or Tory.); and against their henchmen in the unions.

Demonstrations

This is why May 26th could be so important. This is the national day of action, called by last month's Confed Assembly on Unemployment. The Assembly of 3,500 trade-union delegates, called for stoppages and demonstrations, and these are already planned for many cities, like Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow.

Action on May 26 could come to nothing. It could be a day when we all demonstrate to help our consciences; to let off steam; to listen to a few lefts denounce the system, and then come up with nothing to do about it.

But it doesn't have to be like this. The 'action' doesn't start on May 26th and it doesn't end there. In every town and city in this country there are workers already in action: on strike and picketing; against speed-ups or victimisation in the factories and workplaces; or in the communities, tenants fighting against cut-offs and higher charges.

Unify the struggles

If May 26 is used to unify and build the struggles that already exist then it won't be a stunt. If the demonstrations for example could be organised with a bit of imagination— assembling outside factories in dispute; marching through working-class communities; making the platform over to workers in struggle— then we'd be achieving something. We'd actually build the struggle against the government, and against the employers and bankers who stand behind them.

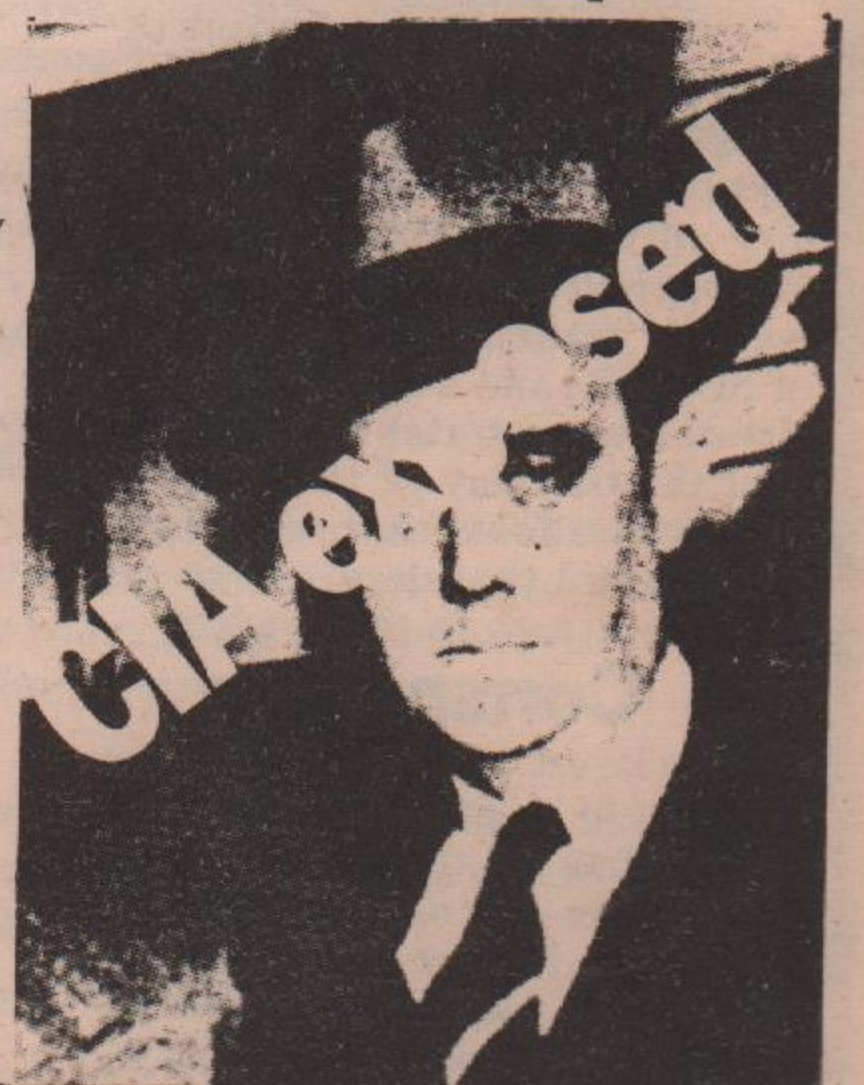
BLACKS TAKE LEAD The Day

4,000 anti-fascist demonstrators assemble in Bradford to prevent the National Front from demonstrating through the immigrant areas. As it turned out, the refusal by the police to ban the fascist procession under the race relations bill, led to a two hour riot. (see story page 2). The week after the police made 10 random arrests in the centre of Bradford against black youths. This was their revenge. More happily, the threatened 'revenge' of the National Front—a motorcade through Bradford the following Saturday, May 1st,—never materialised. Hundreds of anti-fascists were waiting, but the boys in the blue shirts never showed up.

The Fascists

Won't Forget

DIRTY TRICKS IN IRELAND p9



ALL OUT MAY 26th 'DAY OF ACTION'

Fascist National Front try it on in Bradford but..



The writing on the wall. The 'Nazi pigs' assemble in Bradford, but only the police stood between them and a massacre.

BLACKS & ASIANS FEEL THEIR POWER

THE NATIONAL FRONT demonstration in Bradford on April 24th ended in a two-hour riot as local young people protested at the police's refusal to ban the fascists from marching through the largely immigrant Manningham area.

A black maria and a police car were overturned and one set on fire, shop windows were smashed and the police came under a sustained avalanche of bricks and bottles as they tried to protect the fascists from the protesters' justified anger.

For over an hour the streets of Manningham were controlled, not by the National Front, who had come there from all over the country to incite race hatred, nor by the police, but by the youth of the area — mostly Asian and black but also white.

The 900 fascists needed the protection of more than that number of police (with horses and dogs) to get to the local school where they held their rally. The young people, on the other hand were on their own territory and, perhaps for the first time, experienced their own potential power — united for the day by opposition to the common enemy, the fascists and their police protectors.

They showed anger, not just the passive protests of much of the left — an anger that comes from being black in a racist society, from young in a society that offers them no prospects and from living in a working class area with all the usual problems. When the police stood in the way of keeping out the fascists, the police were attacked.

Instead of the usual shouts to passers by of 'Come and join us', there were more active attempts at canvassing support. One bus was stopped to negotiate with its crew its use as a barricade across the Front's route. Another was halted and furious demands made that local passengers

join the demonstration — several did. Some of the white left were aghast at the strength of the protest and attempted to cool things down, but as one black youth said 'You can't understand racism unless you are forced to live with it every day'.

What the demonstration lacked in organisation it more than made up for in feeling and the understanding that fascism must be stopped, not merely campaigned against. The violence that was released was the result of a daily violence against black people and the daily insult to them that the continued existence of the National Front and other fascist groups entails.

Earlier, a 4,000-strong demonstration, organised by Bradford Trades Council, and made up of strong contingents of the local immigrant community and other workers had turned down the opportunity of preventing the fascists carrying out their deliberate provocation to the immigrants. The Trades Council demonstration assembled within ¼ of a mile of the NF and promptly marched in the other direction — its slogans, 'Defend Manningham' and 'Smash the National Front' proved to be just empty words. The political preparation which had gone into mobilising the largest and most representative anti-fascist demonstration the North has seen was simply wasted.

It was left to the 500 or so who broke away at the end of the Trades Council demonstration to attempt to do what the whole 4,000 could have easily achieved — prevent the NF from marching.

LEEDS 'BONFIRE NIGHT' TRIAL NOT FIT TO JUDGE A FLOWER SHOW

JUDGE RAYMOND Dean, himself a convicted criminal, sent 11 of the 12 'Bonfire Night' defendants to prison for a night in an extraordinary attempt to intimidate the defence at the plea hearing in Leeds Crown Court recently.

The 12 were up to hear their pleas in connection with alleged offences last November in Chapeltown, Leeds. On that night two policemen were injured and police cars smashed as about 200 youths, mainly black, took their revenge for years of harassment by local police.



Strong support is growing for the 44 workers arrested in March when the police attacked the last leg of the Manchester to London 'Right to work march'.

The march, organised by the 'National Right to Work Campaign and the International Socialists, had spent three weeks on the road from Manchester to London. The aim was to publicise and strengthen the rank and file struggle against unemployment. On the very last leg in London the police made a vicious attack and arrested 44 people.

Photographs and a mass of evidence can prove that the police did make this attack unprovoked — for no other reason than to get out their frustration against workers who try to stand up to the system. But having the evidence and beating the police in court are two different matters.

That is why the organisers of the march are asking for three things: money for defence costs; support for the independent enquiry of trade-unionists into the incidents, chaired by Vincent Flynn, recently retired general-secretary of SOGAT; and a huge picket of Hendon magistrates court on May 21st, the first day of the hearings. Over 50 trade-union bodies have already said that they will be sending delegations to that picket.

Conspiracy

The latest charges against the 44 include 'conspiracy' — so we know what we are up against. The 44 must be defended by the whole movement. If they are isolated and left to fight alone, they could go down in huge numbers. As Ricky Tomlinson, jailed building worker has said: 'The labour movement must make sure this is not another Shrewsbury trial.'

National Right to Work Campaign
265a, Seven Sisters Road, London N4

The state is pulling out all the stops in its attempts to crush the growing rebellion by black youth. On the day of the plea hearing, extra charges were sprung on the defendants, including a charge of affray.

The use of the charge 'affray' as an attempt to secure prison sentences is clearly demonstrated in the cases of Tony Pyke, Glenville Sherriffe and Danny Cohen. These three older youths resisted the violence of the police trying to get incriminating statements and initially received relatively minor charges. But if they are convicted of affray, then big sentences are possible.

The one white man, who had simply taken a photograph of an overturned police car, has also copped it. Max Farrar is charged with assault, threatening behaviour, affray and incitement. The last charge is the states ludicrous way of 'explaining' the events on bonfire night: the youths only attacked because a local white militant told them to!

But it was in court that the pressures really dropped on the defen-

dents. Judge Dean is known as the most vicious of Leeds judges and, true to form, he denied bail to the 11 who had pleaded not guilty to all of the charges. Dean said he needed time to consider the matter further. 'Don't tell me my job and sit down', he barked at the black barrister who objected.

The show continued the following day when Dean split the defendants, giving bail to some immediately, while leaving others to sweat. Finally he set high securities and stringent bail conditions. He warned them that they would be sent to jail if they committed other offences.

Chapeltown is still waiting for an effective defence group to come out into the open. But a 'Dump Dean' campaign has been launched by the Chapeltown News. The campaign reveals that Dean was convicted of drunken driving and banned for a year in 1973, and it maintains that he has shown such bias against the defendants and their counsel that he is totally unfit to hear the case, which is listed to start on 21st June.

Callous consultants out to bleed workers white

At last the bill to gradually phase private practice out of the health service has been passed. It's not a victory for anyone, though. The phasing out will take place slowly, and only where there are adequate private facilities outside the NHS to replace the loss. So private practice will continue to flourish, and more so as the NHS is run down with the cuts in public spending.

For the working class, who can't afford to pay extra for our health, there's little in the bill for us. The best thing is that the queue-jumping that private patients do will ease off a bit. But this will be at the same time as the NHS is being run down because of the cuts in spending. Private practice outside the NHS is on the verge of becoming a booming industry as more individuals and companies take out health insurance for their employees (white collar) to beat the crumbling NHS.

The consultants accepted the deal — 1,000 beds to go within 6 months and the remaining 3,500 to go slowly. By a majority of 2 to 1, the consultants realised they could still pursue their interest in making money out of people's ill health outside the NHS. But still there are those that are prepared to fight for more: consultants in Berkshire went on 48-hour strike last week and con-

sultants in the North West are proposing lightning strikes. They are the first to cry about patients suffering when ancillary workers go on strike, yet the spokesman for the North West consultants was hard-faced enough to say of strikes against the Government's bill: 'they will deal a crippling blow to the hospital service for millions of people in the region'.

Perhaps recently you've been sitting in your doctors waiting room and have seen the glossy letters produced by the 'Campaign for Independent Medicine'. This is another sign of just who stands to gain from keeping private medicine on its feet. The kind of money spent on this campaign shows what can be made from private medicine, and if you look at the small print you can see who feels strongly enough to back it — the BMA (which collected £50,000 in its 'fund for freedom'), the Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association, the British Dental Association, the Independent Hospital Group (which includes private hospitals and health scheme organisations).

Under the heading 'patients before profit' (a better name would be 'profit before anything') the pamphlet goes on to tell us just how private practice helps us all and what a loss it would be to the NHS.

One of the main things they tell us is how the loss of private practice will mean loss of freedom of choice. What choice? Many of us can't make ends meet let alone pay for treatment when we're sick.

Over the last few years, hospital workers all over the country have taken action to get rid of pay beds from their hospitals. They've seen how already scarce staff and equipment are used for the private patients; how private beds are kept empty most of the time while NHS beds are full, with patients being discharged too soon; how private patients have avoided the long wait that most NHS patients have.

Last week catering workers refused to serve meals to the doctors at the Royal Berkshire Hospital because the consultants were on strike against the Government's bill. No doubt this will happen again in other workplaces where the consultants take action against the working class. It's essential, though, for this fight and the fights of hospital workers against the cuts in the NHS to be successful, that all hospital workers (and that includes nurses) understand and know what's going on — that they don't fall for divisions between grades, departments and unions. In the end we want to see a health service that caters for working class needs, that doesn't have to co-exist with a parasitic private sector. We need to get together more than we are doing — now!

NO HIDDEN REDUNDANCY HERE

LIVERPOOL DOCKS ALMOST CAME TO A HALT because of a strike by 300 shoregangers. The strike by the shoregang (a vital link between ship and shore) was in protest over two things: one the shipping bosses' refusal to replace three jobs made vacant. Secondly, the threat of a further 17 redundancies, a fact conveniently unreported by the bosses press.

POWER

This action shows the power of the shoregang's position. 2,400 dockers went on to fall-back pay, 5,600 containers and three timber boats were diverted from the port. The strikers had the support of other port-workers like the tugboatmen.

PRESSURE

Under pressure from the shipowners and the Dock Board behind the scenes, who were faced with paying £300,000 a week to dockers in fall-back pay, the men returned to work without winning their demands.

STEP FORWARD

This action was a step forward at least because it showed the power of the 'less militant' sections of portworkers, who are beginning to take a stand against the 'creeping redundancies' which have been turning the port into a bosses' delight.

We think

THE MOCK battle between Chancellor Healey and the TUC leaders about whether the next 'pay code' should limit wages to 3 or 5 percent, is one big Whitehall farce. They say that both sides are 'confident of reaching an agreement' and we're bloody sure they are! Lifelong pals can't be falling out over pennies. And the difference is only pennies. For a £40 wage, it's a question of a £1.20 or a £2.00 rise. Big deal!

Given how close a man like Jack Jones is to the government, it's difficult to believe that there's any real arguments between them. You don't have to be much of a cynic to wonder whether it's all a put up job, to make us imagine it wasn't all worked out months ago. But whatever wheeling and dealing has been going on, one thing is certain. No figure is getting a mention that comes near to what the working-class needs. Three percent. Five percent. It's all a wage cut when inflation is running on at 15-20 percent.

Tax cuts

But say the TUC and the government: 'We'll be arranging tax cuts to compensate. But unless we all limit our wage packets, there'll be more inflation more unemployment, so everyone will be worse off in real terms. Don't price yourself out of a job.' Jack Jones has even gone further. If we don't stick this government, he warns, society as we know it could be destroyed.

The point about tax cuts is plainly disgusting. Its peanuts anyway. And when it comes down to it, the government can only offer us this now because they have been cutting back so heavily on their social spending. There only promising to give back to us as crumbs, the loaf they have robbed off us in health, education and other facilities. And we're supposed to be grateful!

Who decides

And what's all this about inflation and pricing ourselves out of a job? Who decides when the price is too high? Answer: the capitalists. First of all they see what profits and dividends they want to rake off. Then the bankers and money lenders get given their interest on loans. (£3.5 million a year!) Then there's the huge salaries and expense accounts for the big chiefs. (Peter Parker took a wage cut when he became the new £23,000 per year head of British Rail.) And then they have the gall to tell us that we are grabbers! The class that produces all the wealth gets told that that if we try and have some more of it, then the system goes into crisis. Well OK. But blame the system not the working class.

Not responsible

If it was a workers' controlled economy, we'd only need the money and wealth to live on with a bit extra to service and develop the machinery we were using. If we weren't having to feed the profit margins, the bankers interest, the lives of luxury, the useless advertisers who only come with capitalist competition, and all the rest-- then we'd all be well off. Without that causing inflation or unemployment. That's why we say we won't be held responsible for the crisis in capitalism. It's not our system.

*No incomes policy under capitalism. Break the freeze. Reject the budget!

Rumbling

There's already a lot of rumbling against the government's wages policy. And a lot of dissatisfaction with the union leaderships for pitching so low. Inside the NUM there are moves for the £100 per week. And skilled sections of the AUEW in the Midlands have already struck for restoring pay differentials. This is one of the pressures that the unions and Healey are trying to cope with at the moment.

But the fight against the wages policy will not be an easy one, and it will definitely not be won through the struggle for differentials. At a time of economic boom it was true that the differentials of the skilled workers did act as a beacon by which other sectors pushed up their wages.

Unity or nothing

But the situation is vitally different today. Its unity or nothing. The bosses and their press are challenging us with every argument they can think of. 'What about the lower paid?' 'If the 'stronger battalions lay off, they'll be tax concessions for everyone,' etc. In this situation, any group that tries to go alone as a 'special' or 'more powerful case' is doomed to isolation and failure. And the fight to restore differentials falls right into this trap. We can only beat a determined capitalist class with our unity. And we can only build unity by fighting in a way that relates to the needs of our whole class. T&GWU workers will never be won to support the AUEW over narrow, craft interests. But without support, no one will win anything.

Same problems

The same problems face the miners in their demand for £100. It's a just demand and we hope all the miners adopt it. But if the miners are going to win the general support they need for their struggle, then their demands have to be made part of a united, working-class programme for struggle. In the past the miners have won support, and have given it. Like when they came out for the nurses in 1974. But no-one can rest on past victories. Inside their union and out of it, they will have to show that their fight is only one front in a general battle. A general battle for the needs of the whole class, in or out of work, against inflation, against the crisis, against the government.

Dont wait

We're not saying that the miners or anyone else has to wait until everyone is ready to move; though priority should be given to joint action. But that the main thing is that when the miners move, there is a chance for everyone else to follow. And that means a campaign around the vital points of political unity:

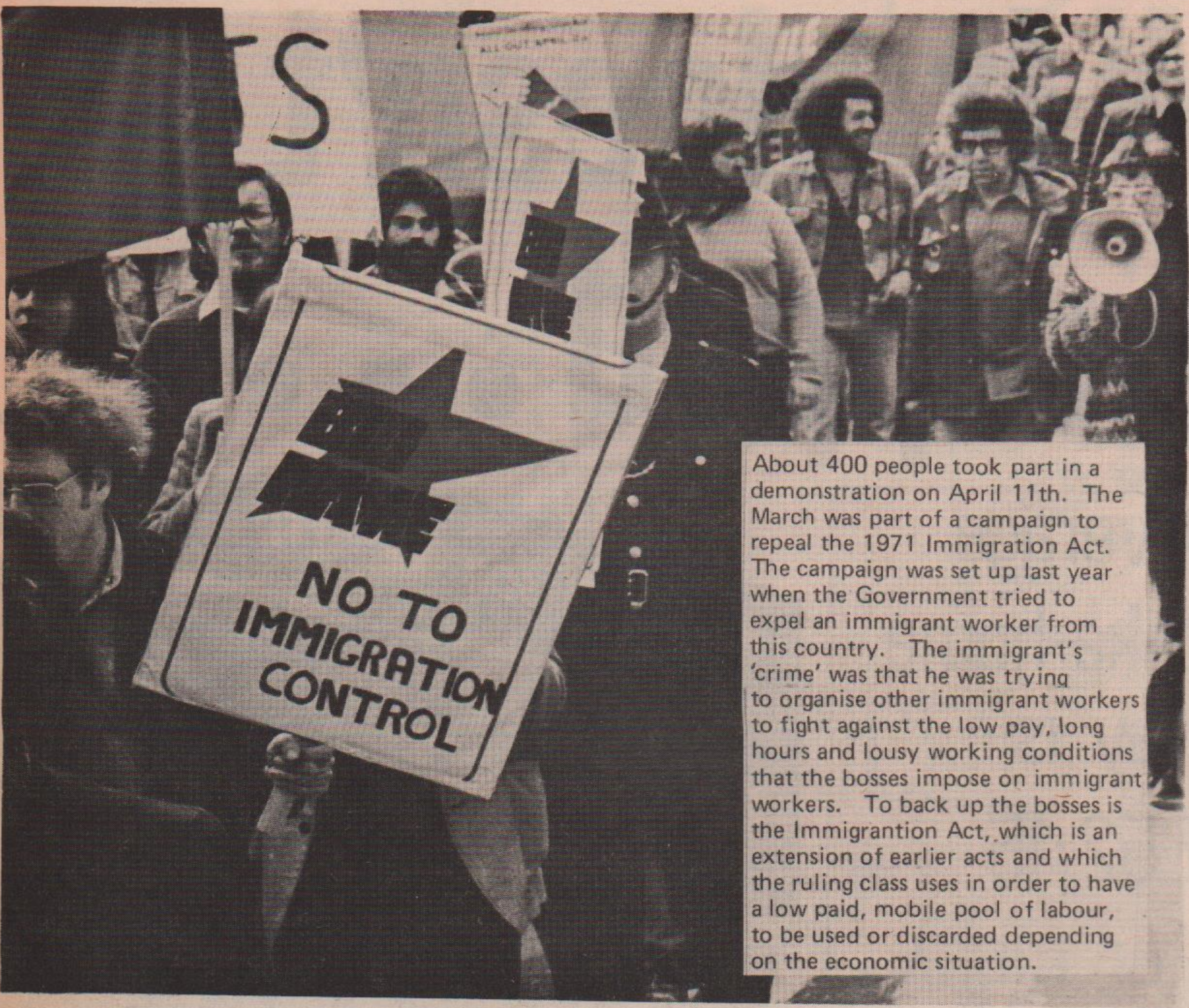
*An adequate guaranteed income for the whole working-class, including the unemployed and housewives. Our need to live exists all the same whether or not we are in waged employment.

*Equal flat rate rises for all, adequate to the rate of inflation.

*Equal pay for women now!

*All incomes to be automatically protected from inflation through automatic rises with the cost of living.

*35 hour week. Cut the workload for those with jobs. Give a chance to the unemployed to get off the dole queue.



About 400 people took part in a demonstration on April 11th. The March was part of a campaign to repeal the 1971 Immigration Act. The campaign was set up last year when the Government tried to expel an immigrant worker from this country. The immigrant's 'crime' was that he was trying to organise other immigrant workers to fight against the low pay, long hours and lousy working conditions that the bosses impose on immigrant workers. To back up the bosses is the Immigration Act, which is an extension of earlier acts and which the ruling class uses in order to have a low paid, mobile pool of labour, to be used or discarded depending on the economic situation.

National Women's Liberation Conference has 'GIVEN ME NEW STRENGTH'

'It was great. All those women together. Determined to break down their isolation. To fight the system that keeps women powerless and competing against each other. Being there, experiencing the fantastic atmosphere, has given me new strength to come back to the estate where I live with more confidence and determination to fight with other women for what we need.'

A report from the womens Liberation Conference by a woman in Big Flame.

object, a skivvy or a second-class citizen.

But to win that we will have to end this system which is geared to profit making and which puts all people in a very poor second place. And to beat this system, we will need a strong womens movement that makes sure that the needs of women are fought for. That means the women

in Newcastle and the women who never even heard about Newcastle, working together.

The Womens Liberation Movement, as seen in this conference, has a lot to offer in terms of the experience, strength, determination and sisterhood that it has built up over the past few years.

TERROR ACT: The day the police got a shock

At 7.00 am on Tuesday 27th April, police with dogs kicked down the door and burst into the home of Vincent Plover, an Irishman living in West London. His family, sisters, and five small children were herded into one room, Vincent into another. While some of the police detained them for the next four hours, others ransacked the house.

Finally Vincent was taken to Harlesden police station. That Evening at 9.00pm his brother-in-law was arrested while he was at work and taken to the same station. Neither of the men was allowed to make even one phone call (as allowed for by Judges Rules), they were not allowed to see their wives or a solicitor. Vincent was eventually released on Wednesday afternoon, his brother in law is still being held. In neither case have any charges been made.

NONE OF THIS IS AT ALL UNUSUAL...it has happened 1,500 times in the past 18 months, nearly all the victims being Irish. They have all been held under the "Prevention of Terrorism Act" which allows the police to:

- detain you for up to seven days without charge
- to forcibly fingerprint and photograph you, and keep them forever.
- to deport you without trial or charge.

Out of the 1,500 arrests only 26 people have had any kind of charges made, and these could have been dealt with under existing laws.

WHAT IS UNUSUAL IS THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME THERE HAS BEEN AN ORGANISED PROTEST against this Act and an arrest under it. At 6.00 pm on the Tuesday night a friend phoned this number

01 603 8654

GET THE TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND NOW!

ON THE weekend of the 24/25th of April the National Womens Liberation Conference was held just outside Newcastle. At least 1200 women were there from all over the country.

Women came from Womens Aid Centres, Battered Wives Centres and Womens Centres. Many of the women work in the National Abortion Campaign who are fighting for the right to choose to have or not to have kids. Others work in local Womens Liberation Groups, which may be organising for nurseries or health centres, or may be more of a social get together where women can give each other support in dealing with their problems. Some of the women there are in mixed left-wing groups as well as Womens Liberation.

Many were gay women who refuse to accept that their sexuality has to be tied to men, and are finding the collective power to stand up for themselves against the prejudices and fears of social reaction.

There were also a lot of kids at the conference who had a good time in two well organised 24hour creches run by men and women.

The bookstalls and the workshops (small meetings on specific topics) covered a wide range of struggles and interests: the abortion campaign, crimes against women, wages for housework, the way forward for the womens movement, and the struggle in the hospitals.

Those of us who went from Big Flame talked about the need for the Womens Liberation Movement to make more effort to go out and get involved with all the women who were not at the conference, and wouldn't even know it was going on. There's thousands of women fighting for better housing, for nurseries for better wages and equal pay, against redundancies, and against the extra housework women are supposed to shoulder with the run down in hospitals and schools. They are as much as part of the womens movement as the women who made it to Newcastle.

Women have a lot to win: control over our own lives; less work and more time and money for ourselves; to be a human being and not a sex

Equal Pay – It doesn't come gift-wrapped.....

RECENTLY 'WOMAN'S OWN' published the results of a survey carried out amongst 5,000 of its readers. It asked:

- * Why women did or didn't go out to work.
- * Whether they were getting their rights.
- * What problems they experienced.

For Woman's Own the results were 'an eye-opener in this age of equality'. But for the women who've had to fight tooth and nail to squeeze their equality out of the bosses and other men it comes as no surprise that:

● The Equal Pay Act is useless for most working women. 1 in 10 are still paid less for doing the same job as a man. The average pay packet of a full-time working woman is £33.46 while their husbands is £52.15.

Women working alongside men averaged £38.28, while those doing women's work got £28.99.

● 3 out of 5 who take another job outside the home do so because the family needs the money. 14% of working women are the main breadwinners and take home an average of only £23.82 a week.

● 70% of women in the survey who were looking for jobs didn't bother to sign on, mainly because married women don't receive any benefit. So the bosses can get rid of thousands of women from the workforce and it doesn't show up in the unemployment figures.

● Only 1 in 4 of women who work full-time outside the home have husbands who take an equal share of housework. A third 'help' but only with certain things. A third 'lend a hand occasionally'. And 1 in 10 never do any housework.

A lot of women know that equality doesn't come gift-wrapped from the government. It has to be fought hard for and it often means taking on not only the bosses but also the unions, male workers and husbands.

The Equal Pay and Opportunities Act has given women a chance and arguments to organise at work for a better deal, but they have to seize the opportunities and fight for themselves. Women also have to make men realise that so-called 'equality' in the workplace means very little while there is no equality in the home: while women still have the bulk of housework and childcare to cope with for free. Even if the bosses are forced to give women equal pay for one job they still don't have to pay a penny for the second job that women do to keep themselves and the rest of the workforce going.

Tribunals favour bosses

Under the Equal Pay and Opportunities Act women can take claims to industrial tribunals, but in many cases these have worked in the bosses' favour.

Under the Act women should get equal pay when doing the same or 'broadly similar' work as men, but the tribunals are finding small differences between men and women's work and using these to turn down claims. Like the rifle packers at Parker Hale in Birmingham who were refused equal pay with men on the same job because the men were doing 'a bit of clerking'.

In Krafts, Kirkby near Liverpool, women were doing the same kind of jobs as men but were refused equal pay because they refused to do one job in the factory which the men did. The reason they refused this

job was because it would mean walking across a gantry and facing the sexist comments and ridicule of the men below them.

One of the few successes has been at Doulton Insulators in Tamworth, Staffordshire, where bosses were forced to scrap a job regrading scheme. This scheme had meant that women were paid £18 less than men so the 70 women who work at the factory took the case to the tribunal and won.

But on the whole the tribunals seem to deal with cases in a very narrowly-defined legalistic manner. They won't help women in traditional women's work, like secretaries. And they allow bosses loopholes to avoid paying out.

In the end the only way to get equal pay is by direct action against management. A lot of the recent equal pay strikes have been in small factories and mainly by small groups of clerical workers.

The women have organised themselves to take direct action and have forced men to support them by strike action and on the pickets. When this has happened the bosses' favourite divide and rule tactic has been useless. On top of this, support from other factories has been vital for blacking, financial support and picketing. And the biggest danger has been the threat of redundancy which in one case forced the union to back down and sell out the women who had been determined to stick out the strike (GEC, Treforest, Wales).

Successes

- **GEC, Birlec, Birmingham**
60 women in TASS (engineering staff union) staged two week strike. They disrupted telephones, closed the telex and turned oxygen and acetylene deliveries away, bringing the welding section to a standstill. They've been supported by men on the shopfloor and staff and have won pay increases of up to £11.
- **Wheway Watson, Hillington, Scotland**
11 women in TASS came out after discovering that male clerks were getting £50-54 a week compared to their £22 to £30. The pay deal they won (£6 plus £7 equal pay) won't abolish these differentials, but it's a start.
- **BICC - Magnetic Electrical Alloys, Hamilton, Scotland.**
26 women TASS members won increases of up to £14 backdated to December after a 33-day strike supported by male staff.
- **Clarksons International Tools, Sheffield.**
Women clerks won increases of up to £8 after a two-week strike. They had the support of male staff and shop-floor workers.

Average take-home pay is
£52.15 (for men)
£38.28 (for women)

The picket at Wheway Watson, Scotland



.....you have to fight for it



The picket line at Cockburn's Valves, Glasgow.

Out for £6 and Equal Pay Dubiliers, Kirkby, Merseyside

ONE EQUAL pay strike that might have been sewn up right at the beginning, is the strike at Dubiliers, in Kirkby. 250 manual workers have been out since April 9th: for equal pay and the full £6 all round.

Both issues are clear cut. The £6 is what all workers are entitled to under the Government pay code. £6 in itself is a cheek with inflation as it is, but less than £6 – Dubiliers management have offered £3 – is a sick joke.

The equal pay side of it is the same. Most of the women in the factory do the same sort of semi-skilled work as many of the men. They have been trained to wind, solder, print and assemble. They have to be able to read and work off drawings. And the management classifies them aslabourers! The women are demanding reclassification and therefore equal pay. Dubiliers – by refusing it – just happen to be breaking the law.

So why is the strike now in its fourth week? Well, first, the management have to have everything ram-

med down their throats. But secondly, there's the old problem of union officialdom. The picket is 100%. Dubiliers workers are strong and united. The men, as Dave Williams, the convenor, told us, are as much behind the equal pay fight as the women. But the union officials are playing at tame sheep. Broderick, AUEW area organiser has not even been down to the picket line, and at a recent meeting with the management had to be pulled to one side by the convenor and reminded whose side he was on!

This frustrates and angers the strikers. Though it does mean that they are in a good position now to know that in any fight the only people you can solidly rely on is the rank and file. And they are strong. Management recently offered to pay one weeks wages in advance, if they would return to work. A mass meeting discussed the offer. Verdict: a unanimous no!

All support to D. Williams:
40 Burwen Drive, Liverpool 9 8DF

Still fighting

- **Cockburns Valves, Hillington, Scotland**
45 women and men in TASS have been out for over three months. The 23 women are paid up to £20 less than male clerks for identical work and staged selective lightening strikes for equal pay. When a male clerk was sacked for refusing to do strikers' work 45 came out and have disrupted production with their picketing. They've had no strike pay even though the strike is official, but have had a lot of support from other factories in the area.
- **Heatrae - Sadia Engineering, Norwich**
9 women and 48 men are on strike demanding equal pay for skilled women who are only paid £26-35. First ever strike in this small factory. The management is trying to break the picket by using Securicor to get components through.
- **H J Barlow, Wednesbury**
25 women in GMWU are demanding £3.40 increase to make their pay equal to the 115 male workers. GMWU men are crossing the picket line and the union is doing nothing despite the fact that they've just produced a paper on the need to fight for women's equality. Empty words!!
- **Beechams Products, St. Helens (Lancs)**
400 women workers held a token one day strike to warn management that they weren't prepared to accept a £3 pay rise and wanted the full £6 like the men. It was the first strike anyone could remember at the firm. The women are determined not to be short-changed again and do not intend the fight to stop there.

Union sell-out

- **GEC Treforest, Wales**
400 women in the AUEW came out for £3.45 increase to bring them up to the semi-skilled men. 28 male AUEW members supported them but ASTMS and APEX workers crossed the picket line. Management threatened redundancy, the union caved in and sold out the women, accepting an offer of £2.50.

WOMENS AID

'THEY PULLED ME APART AND PUT ME BACK TOGETHER AGAIN'



April 24th — Demonstration in London against the government's cuts in public spending

ITS CATCHING ON...

THE FIGHT TO STOP THEM WRECKING OUR LIVES

IN A YEAR which we're all supposed to give for Britain, and a year in which a severe wage freeze has stuck, one struggle that has come right to the fore is the fight against the cuts.

Everywhere, everyday the demand is being taken up. 'Stop the cuts.' In the hospitals against the run down of the NHS; in the schools against understaffing and cutback in facilities. From Leeds, to Liverpool to Dundee: women fighting to keep open a public laundry; corporation workers striking to save their jobs and keep up the maintenance of council houses; 50,000 workers out on a one day strike against all the cutbacks.

The great hope for this struggle is the way it begins to unify the working class. Because it ranges across so much of our lives— from fuel, to services, to rents; and because all the cuts can be traced back to one common source (the government's aim to build up the profits of private industry off our backs); then there is a great chance of overcoming the divisions and sectionalism between people. It becomes more and more obvious that we are a class, united in our needs and struggle to live.

When busmen strike to save their jobs, like in Liverpool, they are also fighting for transport facilities for the whole community. When hospital workers ban private patients in their

defense of the NHS, they strike a blow for the health needs of everyone. When women on an estate go out and demonstrate for more school buses, they are also protecting the jobs of the drivers.

And so it goes on. The links are there staring us in the face.

That is why so many 'Cuts Committees' have sprung up throughout the country. Whether that means local action groups like the 'Right to Fuel' campaign in Manchester. Or the wider committees like on Tyne-side. There they have an overall anti-cuts co-ordinating committee with four working parties— on health, education, housing and transport and social services. The committee came

out of a local conference of 350 people last November and is backed by tenants associations, trade-union branches and the trades council.

Every town and city should aim to get similar bodies going. Not artificial talking shops passing one or two resolutions. But genuine fighting groups, solidly based and involved in every struggle in the area. Groups that can unite our strength and lead the fight against government propaganda.

In particular we need organisations that are open to housewives. This will often be forgotten. The most 'obvious' people to build a campaign around are health workers, teachers and public sector workers in general. But housewives, though not formed in easy-to-contact organisations, are a necessary pillar of the fight against the cuts. They bear the brunt, whether it's less nurseries for kids or less health facilities for the sick. They manage the housekeeping when it gets more and more squeezed by higher rents and fuel costs. And they are more often the ones stuck in communities with sagging facilities.

In fighting the cuts we are doing more than just defending what we had. We start questioning the whole idea of what we *should have*. Like the campaigners for abortion rights. They have turned a fight against the James White bill—which tries to limit abortion even more than it is now— into an offensive campaign for 'Free abortion on demand—A women's right to choose!'

This sort of thing can and must spread. The cuts express the crisis. The bosses attempt to re-organise their system, their profit-making by defeating us. In fighting the cuts we challenge the system and are forced to go beyond defence. To ask questions about what is really needed by the working-class, and exactly what is denied us by capitalism.

*STOP THE CUTS

Health maniacs demand more

DID YOU know that you are insatiable? Well you are. We all are, according to a recent government document. Insatiable for health.

The government document was Barbara Castle's last fling at the Ministry of Health. It says that the problem in this country is that people have developed an insatiable greed for health services. The more you give them the more they want. And that is 'unreasonable'. So from now on the government is after building 'preventive services', to stop us getting sick in the first place.

Sounds great! But what does it all mean? Are they going to ban shift-work, introduce the 35 hour week or cut down on productivity drives? That would certainly prevent so many heart attacks, breakdowns and worn-out bodies. Are they going to wage a war against industrial pollution or ban asbestos the killer dust. Ban asbestos and you

Well, actually, no they're not. The only 'preventive services' they can think of are 'health centres, family planning facilities and child welfare services'.

Now what is 'preventive' about health centres or child welfare services is beyond our understanding. The document is also keen on the idea of keeping the sick and disabled at home or in day centres, rather than in hospital. But that gives the game away.

What the government is talking about has nothing to do with 'new attitudes to health.' Or new ways of looking after our health. It's all one big cover up for the fact that they are cutting back on our health period! Barbara Castle's 'interesting' discoveries about our insatiable attitudes to health just happen to co-incide with the government cutting £3,000 million off public spending. Some coincidences!



AT THE beginning of April the National Women's Aid Federation held a national conference in York. The Federation was started last year to link together the groups of women who are running or living in refuges for battered women, or who are struggling to get a refuge started. The Conference showed the strength of the women's aid movement: the number of refuges has doubled in a year and at this conference nearly 30 new groups applied to join the Federation.

New refuges are opening all the time, for example in Kings Lynn and Milton Keynes, and soon in Carlisle and Hammersmith. But as soon as a refuge opens it's full. As battered women have become less ashamed of speaking up, the extent of violence against women is coming out into the open. A report from one area showed that as many as a quarter of 'crimes of violence' are assaults by husbands on their wives — and this is assaults reported to the police — the actual number is far, far higher.

FAMILY ARGUMENT

Women over the years have had to tolerate being beaten up, often suffering serious physical and mental injury. They have got little help from social workers, housing departments of the police... 'I woke to find him standing on my throat. He again assaulted me by throwing boiling water all over me, and beating me with the handle of a broom. I escaped and called the police, who took him to the police station and then let him go. Half an hour later the police were summoned again, and said that this was only a family argument, and walked away. He beat me again.'

Over the years women have been told that 'It's only a family argument'. If you've no money, or little money of your own, if you have responsibility for the kids, or if the house is in your husband's name, you're stuck.

AN ALTERNATIVE

But now there is an alternative. Women and kids can escape to a refuge, and sort out their housing, start a divorce etc. They can share experiences with other battered women. 'It was wonderful to be able to tell somebody, to be able to get rid of all the stuff bottled up inside of you... I was really down when I came here, and they've pulled me apart and put me back together again'. Staying in a refuge provides the chance to realise that your husband beat you not because of your personal inadequacies, but because of the way that women are seen in this society and because of the impossible strains put on the family. Women are meant to do most of the housework, and probably have a job outside the home as well, manage on next to no money, keep the kids quiet, and be warm and cheerful into the bargain. And when men feel frustrations from their day's work, their wife is the one person they can lord it over. Arguments start over the money, over the fact he's putting his feet up once again, or the fact he's seen you talking to another man. And if there are arguments many men hit out.

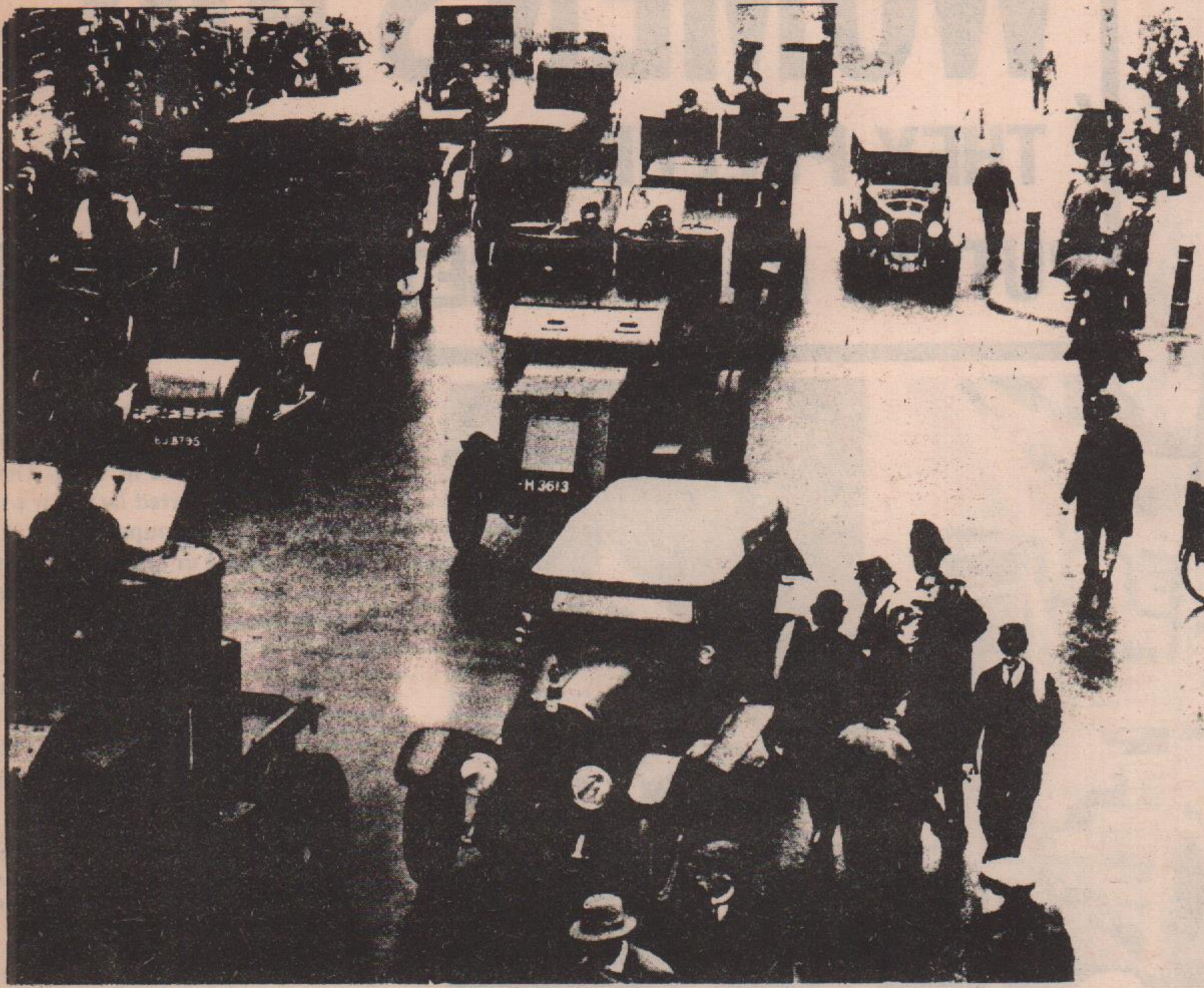
Women's Aid fights for a way for women to get out of this situation. But if this fight is to increase the power of women, it's vital that refuges don't become a sop to a declining welfare state, to provide voluntary labour to paper over where the family is cracking open.

CONTROL OVER OUR LIVES

We must fight for more money for refuges, and make sure that control over refuges remains firmly in the hands of the women who live in them — and not in the hands of social workers or the council. In this way Women's Aid is central to the

1926 GENERAL STRIKE TWO MILLION OUT IN SUPPORT OF MINERS

BUT TUC HAD ALREADY SAID 'WE'RE SCARED OF THE WORKERS'



FIFTY YEARS ago this month, 2 million British workers came out in support of the miners. This was the 9 day general strike of May 1926. 'It is a sin against the obedience we owe to God,' said Cardinal Bourne at High Mass in Westminster Cathedral.

The strike had been brewing for nine months. In 1925 the coalowners tried to cut the miners wages by 10%, and extend the working day by half-an-hour. A general strike then had only been stopped because the government stepped in and gave the owners a 9 month subsidy to avoid the wage cuts.

But the subsidy had only been a ploy to buy time. The government did want to back up the owners. The miners were the backbone of the British working-class, and they wanted them beaten. As the Cabinet Secretary of the time said, 'We regard the present situation as badly chosen for a fight. Conditions will be more favourable in 9 months time.' 9 months time meant May 1926.

But while the government prepared for action, the TUC stood around like lambs.

It was obvious that there was going to be a confrontation in May 1926. Obvious to everyone that is, except the workers 'leaders' of the TUC.

The Tory government went ahead openly with its preparations. As early as September 1925 it set up the OMS, the Organisation for Maintenance and Supplies, which was a volunteer force for 'mugs and scabs' as the miners called them. And in the December, there was a number of local government conferences to discuss 'transport and policing in the event of civil disorder.'

But the TUC did almost nothing. There was a growing left movement in the unions, the CP-inspired 'Minority Movement'; and there were some militant leaders like AJ Cook, the miners leader. These people were very active in trying to organise and prepare. They called for Councils of Action and Workers Self-Defence Leagues to begin immediately. But the TUC leadership always refused to support these ideas on the grounds of 'not showing the enemy what you have got up your sleeve.' (Which means you put nothing at all up your sleeve!)

At the TUC conference in September a motion was put to set up arrangements with the Co-operative Movement to work out food supplies in the event of a strike. The TUC leaders spoke out against. And in doing so, one of them, JR Clynes let the cat out of the bag. 'I am not in fear of the capitalist class,' he said. 'The only class that I fear is our own.'

'We were on the brink of the showdown with the bosses government over the miners, and the solidarity with them was a total feeling.'

(Peter Kerrigan, Glasgow striker *)

Despite the lack of actual preparation, the TUC were committed to support the miners if the coalowners didn't back down. They didn't. So at midnight, Monday May 3rd, the TUC called the general strike.

They had little option. Demonstrations over the weekend had built up a feeling of solidarity inside the working class, and by Monday they were raring to go. Railwaymen, tram and bus drivers, dockers, printers, builders, tugboatmen, engineers and many more, all came out gladly in support of the million battling miners.

Of course it was uneven. For instance in Birmingham, the response was beyond belief for a city not yet known for its militancy. 6000 transport workers out on the first day, followed by strikes in the Austin, GEC, BSA, GKN and elsewhere. Yet on Clydeside, the 80,000 engineers and shipbuilders were not even called out till the last day of the strike. So perhaps the most militant area in the country - 'Red Clydeside' - worked almost all of the general strike.

Once the strike began, Councils of Action were set up in all areas. These brought all the different groups of strikers together, in order to organise bulletins to combat the press lies. (In Liverpool half-a-million bulletins were issued in those 9 days.) To organise the picketing and demonstrations; to work out tactics in relation to the police; and to organise the transport system. In most places this was regulated by the issue of permits. The strike was a very active one with many workers willing to have a go. But as the CP paper said at the time, 'the bureaucratic leaders were afraid and nervous about the situation. They wanted the men just to hang around the branch rooms. They opposed propaganda demonstrations, mass pickets, and everything that was vital to the strike.'

But the rank and file actions did carry on, and at times had some very nice touches. In Hackney for instance, a South Wales miners' choir came up and used to tour the streets singing. Then after these concerts, they'd start explaining to the assembled audience the reasons for the strike and the need for workers solidarity.

'Of course, pickets in several clashes were not entirely defenceless. They used stones and any-

thing else that came to hand to protect themselves.'

(Peter Kerrigan, Glasgow striker*)

Most people know the story about the Plymouth strikers who played football with the police. Its supposed to show how 'friendly and reasonable' it all was beneath the strike. It was nothing like that!

Under the Emergency Powers Act, hundreds of strikers were arrested for nothing more than printing material in favour of the strike. The press - controlled by a certain Winston Churchill - knew no bounds in what it would lie about or distort. It is said that even the King thought Churchill was sinking too low. And certainly Churchill even censored the news when the Archbishop of Canterbury made a speech urging the coalowners to back down.

The police were often brutal in their attacks on pickets, and the working-class suffered. But they also fought back. It was not a time for pacifists. For instance an eye-witness of an incident at the Elephant and Castle tells how a bus, driven by scabs and guarded by mounted police, was attacked with stones. 'Running fights took place with the police. The

bus was halted, the passengers dragged out and a great crowd of men overturned the vehicle which caught fire and began to blaze away. There were casualties everywhere.'

Class war, in 1926 or now, is inevitably violent. The gloves have to come off if the working-class is serious about fighting back.

'We were all in a state of confused shock. The whole feeling was one of gloom.'

(Bob Davies, St. Helens striker *)

By the 9th day of the strike, the workers were still solid. That day, the 12th May, 80,000 Clydesiders had just joined the strike for the first time. The OMS had not succeeded in creating mass scabbing. Some unemployed workers, as well as students and sections of the middle classes, had been blacklegging. But the National Union of Unemployed Workers had done a fine job in keeping many of the unemployed in active support of the strike.

So there was havoc when out of the blue the 1pm news report said that the government and the TUC had found a settlement and the strike was over.

'There was much discussion in low tones, as though some calamity had happened - which indeed it had. Some said that we might have won, but not many could believe that. Some suggested that we continue on strike until we knew what had happened, but this was opposed on the grounds that having come out united we should should return united. (Bob Davies *)

In fact the TUC had capitulated in every way. Nothing had been won. The miners had not even been consulted on the 'agreement'.

The TUC used the shock and confusion to carry the return to work. It had been on the cards all the time. The more the strike dug in, the more the governments authority had been challenged, the more the working class became active - the more the union officialdom got scared. This wasn't trade-unionism and bargaining between gentlemen. It was getting to be something more. Working-class power. So they called it off.

But the back-to-work happened. The rank and file had really begun to control their struggle, but only begun. They resented and mistrusted their 'leaders', but had not made a clean break with them. Even the young, militant Communist Party, in the front of organising the grass roots struggle, had still given backing to the idea of 'All power to the General Council.' When the TUC backed off, there was horror, but nothing big enough or prepared enough to step in.

Six months later, 45,000 railwaymen still hadn't been taken back-on.

The day after the strike officially ended, there was in fact 100,000 more on strike than before. This was in reaction to the victimisations that the employers tried on. Everywhere the bosses used the strike's collapse to single out the militants. Wages were cut, and 'open shop' agreements enforced to ram home the bosses victory.

Of course the miners suffered most by the collapse. They carried on until November, but then were forced to submit and face the very bitter recriminations and victimisations from the coalowners. Between May and October workers still gave support to the miners. Levies were organised and money raised. For instance in Glasgow, as late as October, a concert organised by the Trades and Labour council raised the sum of £443.15s for the miners.

But it was all over. The working class had not been sufficiently prepared to take on the bosses in a showdown. It would be 45 years before the miners ever again emerged in their traditional role: the backbone of the British working-class.

*A lot of the information, and all the direct quotations in this article come from the book '1926. The General Strike', Lawrence and Wishart, London 1976.)

GENERAL STRIKE CANCELL

"VICTORY FOR COMMON SENSE."

National Rejoicing Over the Dramatic Decision.

MINERS TO REFER IT TO DELEGATES.

At one o'clock yesterday the message was flashed over the wires:

"STRIKE CALLED OFF."

Above: a typically disgraceful press reaction at the end of the strike. One million miners at least weren't rejoicing. They had another five months to battle on in near starvation. Below: a scab inspects damage on a bus attacked by strikers.



THE STRUGGLE WORLDWIDE



LEBANON



A CLASS WAR

WE'VE SEEN a lot on the TV about the civil war in Lebanon. They've shown us the Holiday Inn and the centre of Beirut getting blown apart. And it's all been put over as another 'terrible' religious war. We're supposed to be sitting at home, thinking 'how stupid' and 'it wouldn't happen in a civilised society'.

But the same people who lied to us about Vietnam, and then Portugal, are now lying about the Lebanon. In this article we describe the basics of the true situation in that country....

For many years Lebanon has been the financial centre of the Middle East. Its capital, Beirut, had a 'European' centre where bankers from all over the world wined and dined and made deals with each other.

On the backs

But agreement between the Christian and Arab financiers and politicians took place on the backs of the toiling Lebanese masses who faced a near starvation existence in the countryside; or an equally hard existence in a Beirut shanty-town or refugee camp, where 600,000 Lebanese, Palestinians and Kurds live. This situation soon started to crack with the arrival of the Palestinian resistance movement whose members began to agitate and organise amongst the Lebanese masses — mainly with Moslems but also with Christians from the villages of Dhour Choueir, Mtein and Amioun.

'Make it hot'

Lebanon became the main sanctuary of the Palestine resistance movement. Their agitation against imperialism and the treatment of arabs in Israel also threatened the 'stability' of the Lebanon itself. It threatened to inspire the Lebanese masses to rise up themselves against their own exploiters. So, about a year ago, the US and Israel put pressure on the Lebanese to 'make it hot' for the Palestinian resistance movement.

Army fell apart

But in the fighting that followed the Lebanese army was unable to defeat the Palestinians. As the Palestinian resistance went onto the offensive the Lebanese army fell apart and a large majority formed into the 'Arab Lebanese Army' (under Khatib) which supports the Palestinian resistance. At the same time, the left-wing political forces in Lebanon decided to join in on the side of the Palestinians to use the opportunity to gain political concessions.

Right wingers

These forces are fighting an alliance of right-wing political forces, (the supporters of President Frangie, the National Liberal Party) and military forces, (the Phalangist Kateeb, the fascist Guardians of the Cedar) who are receiving money from the US and French imperialists.

Syria

Also involved are the Syrians, who in the beginning supported the left but who have now decided to use the situation to consolidate their own position in the Lebanon. They have been told by the US and Israel that if they continue to help the pro-Palestinian Lebanese left there will be no chance of a Syrian-Israeli deal over the Golan Heights, the territory Israel took from Syria in the 1967 War.



Left-wing militiamen and 'deserters' in the 'Arab Lebanese Army' together in Beirut.

The war in the Lebanon is a war between classes. Between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots'. It has religious overtones, because there has always been a system of discrimination. The power structure has always favoured the Christians, but there are thousands of Christians in the South and the Christian Armenians in Beirut - the poor Christians — who are fighting alongside their Moslem Brothers and sisters.

Limits on victory

In the latest round of the fighting, the left forces were on the verge of total victory over the right wing. At that point the Syrians refused to hand over ammunition to the Palestinian resistance so the left was forced to agree to a temporary cease fire. In any case the left forces know that there are clear limits to how far they can push their luck. The Israelis have made it quite clear that they will intervene if Lebanon is taken over by pro-Palestinian forces and the US Navy Sixth Fleet plus 1,700 Marines are cruising off the Lebanese coast. One of the Palestinian leaders, Yasser Arafat, has said 'America says that its fleet can arrive on these shores within 24 hours. They are welcome. And we will sink them in Lebanon as they were sunk in Vietnam'. These are fighting words but the progressive forces in Lebanon know that their only hope lies in successes that are sure, not spectacular. They are using the cease fire to consolidate their gains.

Argentina's silent but bloody coup

REPRESSION IN ARGENTINA during the weeks following the 24 March coup has been most savage in the factories, with rank and file trade unionists and factory delegates bearing the brunt of the military offensive.

The situation is not the same as it was in Chile in 1973. General Videla and the Argentine junta replace an extremely corrupt and anti-popular government, but the intention is the same as it was in Chile: to make the working class pay the full cost of the economic crisis, which has affected every country in Latin America over the past three years.

Workers struggles, to defend their jobs and their living standards, have been dubbed 'industrial subversion' by the new military rulers, who have banned strikes and all trade union activity.

Learnt from Chile

The generals have learnt from Chile. In order to minimise international reaction, there has been no indiscriminate killing, and no public parade of prisoners in the sports stadiums of the capital.

Killings and arrests are daily occurrences, but they are undertaken discreetly by death squads, who take off their police or army uniforms before going out on their murderous rounds. More than 200 workers have been murdered in this way since the coup. Hundreds more are held in prisons around the country.

News black-out

But journalists are now forbidden to print any news of the killings and the kidnappings. Any lawyer or other person who attempts to publicise the situation is liable to a visit from the death squad.

The army's stated intention is to isolate the armed revolutionary organisations, which led popular resistance to the last military dict-

atorship from 1966 to 1973, from their social base in the working class.

The army knows that the current ban on all political activities may actually provide the armed organisations with new support as they are now the only effective opposition, but the army believes that this can be countered by repression.

.. even fly-posting or leafletting a factory requires armed support

Both the Montoneros and the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP) say that their first task today is political, to secure their rearguard among the people. But the reality of the situation is that all political work today — even fly-posting or leafletting a factory — requires armed support.

Military dictatorships have been defeated before in Argentina, and this one too, will eventually fall. But this one is more ruthless than its predecessors and the struggle is likely to be long.

South Atlantic Treaty

The Argentine coup, like the Chilean and Brazilian coups, should not be seen in isolation but in the context of the US global strategy. With every country in the southern half of Latin America under the control of right-wing dictatorships, the next step is likely to be a South Atlantic Treaty Organisation based on an alliance between Argentina, Brazil and South Africa.

Anyone interested in more information concerning the struggles of the Argentinian people should contact: 'The Argentina Support Movement', 1 Cambridge Terrace, London NW 1.

AT A MEETING of the Desmond Trotter Defence Committee in Brixton, London, on April 3rd it was announced that Patrick Johns, Prime Minister of Dominica, had reprieved Trotter from his death sentence.

Desmond Trotter had been sentenced to death for the alleged shooting of a police officer. But it was obviously a frame up from the start. The real 'crime' that the authorities wanted him for was his politics. Desmond Trotter is a revolutionary socialist. He refused to accept the terrible poverty of an island with 50% unemployment. He helped taking over and cultivating waste land, and was active against oppression throughout his country.

He said at his trial: 'All land available in our country should be made over to those willing and dedicated to work it. And the results of our joint labour should be shared among us according to our needs.'

In a more recent speech, the Dominican Prime Minister admitted that it was the international reaction that had pressurised him into this decision. There has been worldwide protest including weekly picketing of the East Caribbean Commission in London.

The defence lawyers in Dominica and a group here in London are at present meeting to discuss how best to start proceedings to secure Desmond Trotter's release and compensation for the elaborate frame-up he has suffered.

Desmond Trotter is still in jail — and although ill, his spirits are as high as ever. It was his letters that helped the London Support Committee get the campaign going.

A recent letter: 'Babylon uses fear of loss of life — loss of jobs to keep people down. What is there to fear? They can never take life's spirit. It is not me they want to kill. They seek to eliminate the spirit

DESMOND TROTTER: 'They seek to eliminate the spirit of rebellion'

MEETING. London School of Economics. June 4th 7.30.

Organised in defence of Desmond Trotter, to prepare a petition for his immediate release, and an enquiry into his arrest and trial.

Elections in Portugal

NOW DANGER OF COUP

IT IS CLEAR that the 'strategy of tension' of the right-wing has not paid off. Right-wing bombing and explosions have not prevented the working-classes including the Southern peasants from voting Socialist, Communist or Revolutionary left. Although the socialist vote is a vote for social-democracy and therefore against workers and peasants power, it is still too left for many on the extreme right. So having tried and failed with the 'legal' way, there is a danger that the right-wing attempts to seize power through a coup.

The new government will be dominated by the Socialist Party. Because the Socialist Party is split internally it cannot form a coalition with either the communists or the PPD*. The government will have to include some military and will probably govern without the Communists opposing it. Communist consent is essential since they control the official trade-union movement. The President-

trying to unite around the candidature of Carvalho, the Socialists will support Costa Gomes if he decides to run, the Right will support another officer.

Support

Isabel do Carmo

Isabel do Carmo, leader of the PRP* and editor of their paper 'Revolucao' is being fined £500 for articles in the paper that offended the military. Isabel do Carmo was also fined under the fascist regime of Salazar for 'offensive journalism'.

The PRP urgently need money to pay the fine. Send what you can to:

Big Flame,
'Revolucao Fund'
317 Bradford Road,
MANCHESTER 10.

PRP: Revolutionary Party of the

HOW MUCH ARE OUR KIDS WORTH?

Assistant Playleaders demand a better deal



60 TO 70 PEOPLE, including many women and kids, lobbied council members at Hammersmith Town Hall on 21st April. This was just the latest stage in the campaign to get a better deal for assistant play leaders in Hammersmith.

Proper conditions

Assistant play leaders are demanding proper conditions of service and to be included in one of the two bargaining units recognised by the Council — ie. for white collar workers or manual workers. Apart from anything else this will mean proper trade union negotiating rights for these workers for the first time.

The condition of assistant play leaders was first brought up with the Council in June 1975, after the playleaders, the women and men who actually run the local Adventure playgroups, One o'Clock Groups and

Arts and Crafts Centres, won the right to be part of the pay and conditions of official white collar categories (called APT&C).

This brought pay for playleaders in charge up to an average of £50 a week. But the 32 assistant playleaders, although they do substantially the same work, are still paid at the rate of £32.40 a week (£22 after deductions) for a 36-hour week!

In a word, assistants are demanding PARITY with the playleaders. But the differentials between playleaders and assistants has widened so much, that the assistants now need £16 just to catch up on the scale.

Labour council's provisions useless

Up till now the Council's response has been to suggest a number of provisions including:

- Saturday and Sunday to be part of the normal working week.

- No extra payment for working Bank Holidays.
- Sickness benefits only after 6 months continuous service.
- No payment of London weighting.
- Payment pro rata at the rate of £32.40 for a 36-hour week.

If accepted, these provisions would — apart from anything else — deny assistant playleaders both the general right to trade union representation on either of the bargaining structures recognised by the Council, and also the specific right to a periodic review of pay and conditions...and this at a time of 20% inflation!

Real work

In our society, looking after children is not considered *real work*. It is assumed that mothers 'take care' of children, somehow, somewhere, with very little assistance in playspace or facilities and *no pay* for what is, after all, one of the most valuable jobs in any society.

The fact that minding children is considered merely as 'women's work' accounts for the fact that *everyone* concerned with the care of children — nursery nurses, baby-minders, nursery teachers, playground and playgroup workers are among the lowest paid workers in the country. And on top of this, playing, or organising play is looked down upon, and the people who do it are considered shiftless or just casual — not like a 'proper' job.

Crying out to be changed

This really needs thinking about. After all, what kind of society are we living in which makes one of the most important things in life — care of our children, of other human beings — the lowest paid and most downgraded of jobs?

ANSWER — a society which values profits and products which produce profit *above all else*.

A society which forces playworkers to beg for just a basic wage, is crying out to be changed from top to bottom.

(Thanks to Hammersmith Branch of NALGO for much of the information for this article).

Editorial Not good Enough

We want to make some comment on the editorial on Jeremy Thorpe in BF 37 which talked about homosexuality.

Many people believe in other people's freedom to have sexual relationships with whoever they want so long as they keep it quiet and private. BF must go further than this and actively support the struggles of women and men to have relationships with people of the same sex.

We believe that an important aspect of our struggles as socialists and feminists involves changing our personal lives and finding ways of forming relationships which are not exploitative, oppressive and guilt-ridden. Lesbians and homosexuals, when they are open about their sexual preference, challenge many of the dominant attitudes that capitalism tries to force on us and accept as 'natural'. It challenges the role of the family by asserting that sexuality and and friendship are not tied to marriage, reproduction and child-bearing.

A major limitation of the editorial was that it confined itself exclusively to talking about male homosexuality and did not mention the struggles of women to define their own

sexuality and choose to have lesbian relationships.

It may have been 'nothing for men to go with boys' in Ancient Greece but this is a poor justification for homosexuality, particularly since in that period it was the preserve of the aristocracy and was highly exploitative. Also everyone is aware that men have sexual desires and this is openly talked about. But when women talk about their sexuality or come out as lesbians this challenges the myths about women's passivity and dependence on men. Many men and women feel threatened by this and react violently.

It is a struggle for women to find this self-identity and fight their oppression, particularly their role within the family. In BF we must actively encourage and strengthen the growth of women's power and ability to control their own lives.

Women's Liberation and Gay Liberation are a vital aspect of the struggle against capitalist oppression. The fight to gain control over all aspects of our lives is an essential part of the struggle for socialism.

In Sisterhood,
Gay women in BF.

These ideas are not socialist!

THE RECENT COLUMN IN THE PAPER — 'SOCIALIST IDEAS IN ACTION', which has looked at Lucas stewards' plans for making alternative products and Swan Hunters stewards' plans for running nationalised shipyards differently: is very worrying and gives a wrong impression of Big Flames politics.

The ideas raised are important, especially the Lucas stewards' challenge not only to what is produced but also to how things are produced. But the article's uncritical and selective quoting of huge chunks of these 'plans' confuses how useful they are to workers now. The whole point of the plans is that they are not 'socialist ideas in action' as they are not put forward as the immediate means of solving workers needs through an anti-capitalist strategy.

The Lucas document, in the bits quoted, is unclear about whether the destruction of capitalism is necessary before such plans for re-organisation of industry could take place.

It is also disturbing that where the actual Lucas document talks of 'corporate plan' the article leaves out the word 'corporate.' The Lucas stewards presumably meant their

plan to be agreed to by both management and unions — that's the meaning of 'corporate'. That point should have been discussed, not ignored.

The Swan Hunter plan is much worse, as it puts forward the illusion that workers can further their interests through 'workers control' under capitalism. While it is good to see a challenge to traditional nationalisation, which leaves power in the hands of bureaucrats and the state, it has to be said that power remains in those hands because a nationalised industry is still run on profit motive lines in a capitalist economy. If workers are part of 'controlling this, they would, especially in an industry like shipbuilding, probably be participating themselves out of a job. The plan encourages this — it talks of 'The shipbuilding industry, if it is to become viable...' 'Viable' today means only one thing — profit-making at the expense of jobs, wages and conditions. BF's comment is to say 'The major question hanging over the report is whether it has sufficient support among shipyard workers to make it more than a pipe-dream.'

Hopefully, it won't have this support. Swan Hunter workers need to concentrate on building their own independent power, refusing to participate in taking responsibility for a declining capitalist industry. In future

we hope this series in the newspaper starts to distinguish a bit more between useful ideas for the future and harmful ideas for the present.

Central Branch, Liverpool Big Flame.

BIG FLAME IS...

BIG FLAME IS A REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST ORGANISATION. Socialist because our aim is to build a society which the working class, the majority of the people, run in their own interests. Revolutionary because we believe we'll only reach that goal by completely

changing society, not by patching it up or by piecemeal reforms. At the moment the working class produces the wealth and the ruling class takes it. In a socialist society we will get all the wealth and the power to control our own lives.

WE STAND FOR GENUINE MASS INVOLVEMENT. Every struggle must be controlled and run by the people concerned. We want to put the means of struggling — propaganda, information, ideas and organisation into the hands of the majority of the people. Not just a handful of militants, however committed. Only when people join together and fight do they work out where their interests lie and use their imagination to achieve them.

CAPITALISM OPPRESSES THE WHOLE OF OUR LIVES. We are not only exploited at work, we also have to pay high prices and rents; make do with bad housing, schools and hospitals. And it not just those sections of the working class with great economic power, like the miners or

engineers, who can fight. Housewives, hospital workers, the unemployed have all proved they can fight — and win!

THE RULING CLASS TRIES TO DIVIDE OUR CLASS BY SKILL, SEX, RACE AND AGE. It encourages divisions...skilled and unskilled, black and white, women and men, old and young... to prevent us fighting for our interests as a whole. We recognise these divisions, but try to develop unity among the working class against the common enemy — capitalism.

CAPITALISM IS INTERNATIONAL. The struggle for socialism in other countries attacks capitalism internationally and helps the fight in this country. For countries dominated by imperialist powers, the fight for national liberation is a progressive fight and usually inseparable from the struggle for socialism. This is the case in Ireland, a country oppressed by Britain for 800 years. We support these struggles and try to spread information about them.

WE TRY TO BUILD A MARXIST MOVEMENT FOR TODAY'S NEEDS. We try to learn from the various Marxist traditions, but we firmly believe in the need to create a politics and organisation which grows out of today's situation.

We believe that Big Flame's job is to help the whole working class understand and learn from its power, and so strengthen that power. We see the need for a revolutionary party of the working class that will lead the fight to defeat capitalism, but such an organisation can only be built out of the struggles of the whole of our class.



We fight for higher wages, shorter hours, a lighter workload and for full pay whether there is work or not.

We oppose incomes policies, productivity deals, redundancies and speed-ups.

We encourage links between factory and community struggles, the opening up of factory occupations to the community,

and the taking of rent and housing struggles to the workplace. We back the fight of council tenants, private tenants and squatters against rents and for decent housing for all.

We support the struggle for state-paid community-controlled facilities like nurseries and playgroups, which provide a better life for our children, and are part of the struggles of housewives against their unpaid labour in the home.

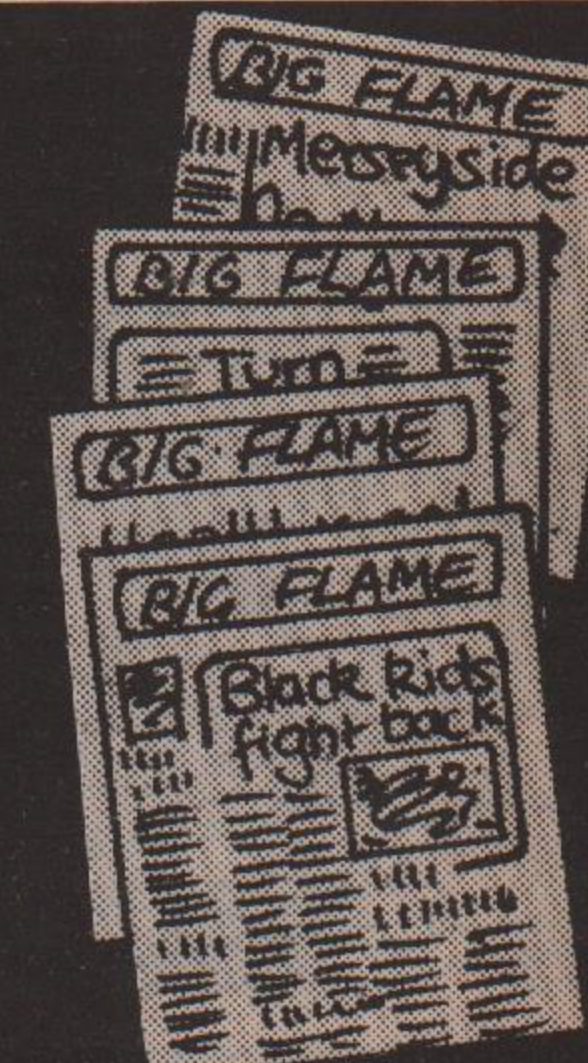
We fight against sexism and racism and support the independent organisation of women and black people for their own power.

We support struggles for sexual freedom. Freedom from the law and freedom from social prejudices. In particular we support the independent gay organisations.

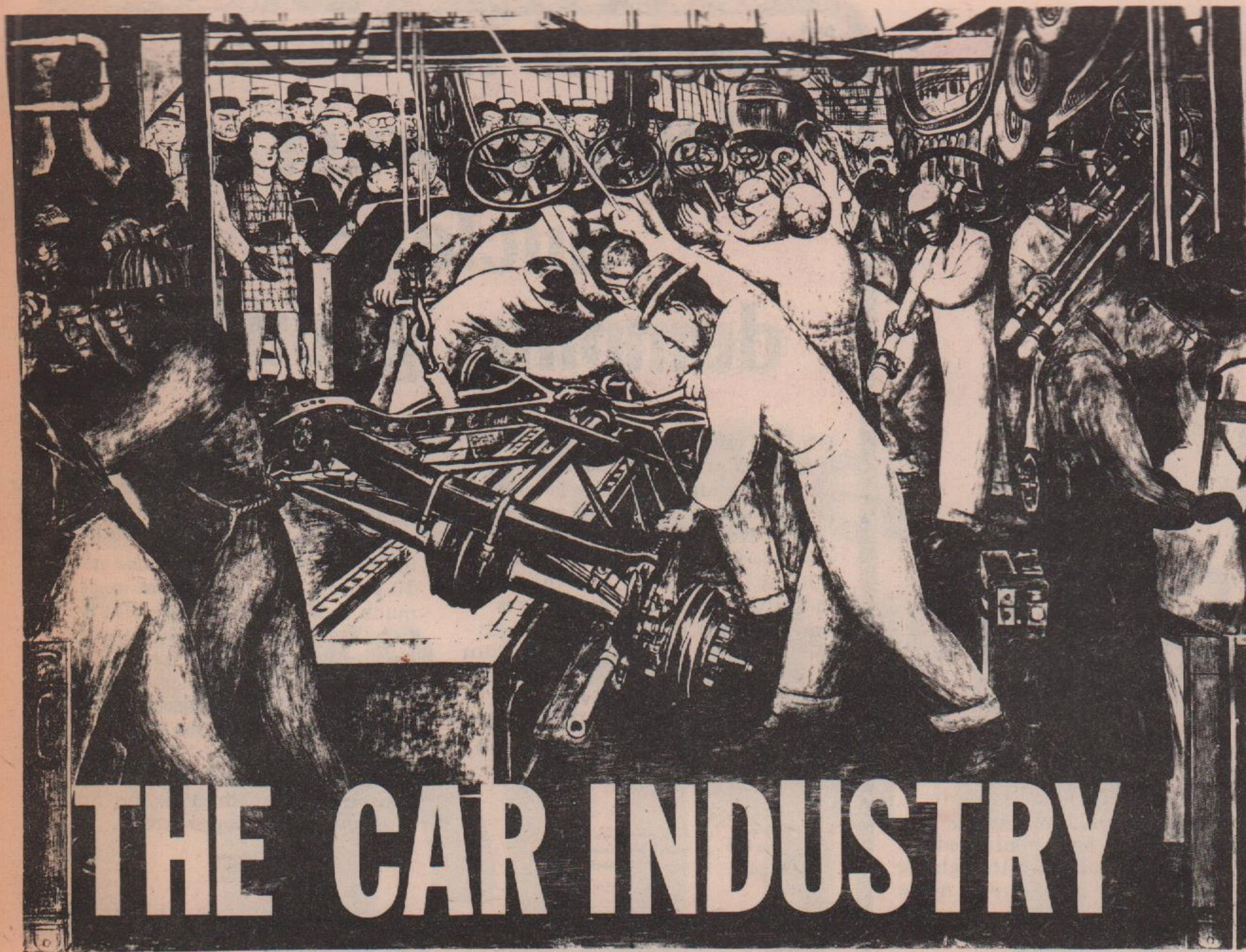
We oppose British involvement in Northern Ireland, and support demands for troops out now, for self-determination for the Irish people as a whole, and for a united socialist Ireland. Against the army and the British state we give basic support to all the republican and socialist groups fighting in Ireland, whatever criticisms we may have of their political strategy or tactics.

We support and work in the National Abortion Campaign, the Troops Out Movement, the Portuguese Solidarity Movement and local anti-fascist committees.

We want people who agree with us to work with us and join our organisation.



As well as a national paper Big Flame produces three regional editions; in London, Liverpool and Manchester. Copies from 632 Books, 632 Bristol Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham.



THE CAR INDUSTRY

UNITY THE ONLY WAY

IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS we have seen a whole spate of strikes in the motor industry, most of them involving small groups of workers like the British Leyland toolmakers. Predictably, the press has attacked the workers involved as 'wreckers'. Once again the 'greedy carworkers' have been paraded in front of the public eye in an attempt to show them up as a 'selfish and unpatriotic' bunch. But what is the real story?

AT BRITISH LEYLAND it is against the background of the introduction of Measured Day Work (MDW) and the Ryder Report that we should try to understand recent events.

MDW is an attempt to rule workers by line speeds and stop watches, and cut out local shop floor bargaining. The Ryder Report pushes this even further by demanding a general bargaining unit for the whole of British Leyland. Nationalisation has meant no more than a change of management and 'workers participation' is the very thin icing on the same old cake. THE AUSTIN LONGBRIDGE PLANT (BIRMINGHAM) ILLUSTRATES WHAT'S GOING ON AT LEYLAND.

Last summer there, management were talking in terms of redundancies. They reduced and softened up the workforce, through natural wastage, increasing discipline (foremen hanging around, sacking people leaving early etc.), voluntary redundancies, mobility etc. For, example, 25 workers in No. 5 Machine shop were given a choice of moving with their jobs to Coventry, or joining the dole.

With limited recruitment fewer workers are being made to work harder. Management have littered the plant with demands for higher productivity and threats of withdrawing investment.

£6 PAY POLICY

The £6 pay policy has eroded differentials for skilled workers and stopped the promised pay rise for the SU Carburettor toolroom. Traditionally, craft sections have made the breach for other sections to leapfrog through. There have been defeated parity disputes by toolmakers at Rover plants, Triumph Coventry, Tractor and Transmissions and Longbridge at Birmingham. All these struggles confronted the £6 policy.

At Longbridge a Friday lunch-time meeting of toolroom workers voted three to one in favour of strike action. They claimed parity with demonstrators and staff status. As a Big Flame Longbridge Bulletin said last autumn: 'The claim for parity is now in procedure, but it is likely to flare up again since procedure won't lose the feeling generated by the claim.'

Then High Scanlon stepped in and

ed from London recommending a return to work. The AUEW District Secretary led the return calls at the mass meeting the following Wednesday. The vote for a return was overwhelming. But on Friday, as one toolroom worker put it: 'The feeling was very strong. People knew that this would happen and we were taking on the £6, and that we'd be isolated. A lot of us didn't want bullshitting with promises, but unfortunately that's all we got.'

As the wheels of the Ryder Report rationalisations roll on, management and the union leadership seem to be taking workers for the same ride. The drive to lessen bargaining units, 'to prevent unnecessary disputes' as management put it, took a step forward at Longbridge. Grade 7 indirect workers voted a resolution calling on the Works Committee to seek one craft bargaining unit throughout the combine. Only about 9 voted against. One operator said, 'It's like sticking the dagger in with his cloak over it. Our feet are more firmly stuck in the mud than ever, and in a couple of years people will really regret this decision. Some workers thought being in the same unit as, say, Rover machine tool operators would bring them more money. But as recent strikes showed, the £6 limit will put paid to that.'

SECTIONAL AND MASS STRUGGLE

IT IS IN THE VERY NATURE OF THE CAR INDUSTRY — the pace of work and the organisation of production — that ensures that struggle never ceases, despite the big set-backs of recent months.

At the moment there seem to be two main trends for struggle:

- 1) 'Sectional struggles' for higher wages through the use of differentials.
- 2) Mass struggles.

Both of these forms of struggle have their merits, but it is only the mass struggle that can have any hope of producing demands that can be taken up by the whole of the working class. And that is what we need at the moment.

The skilled workers' disputes in Leyland are two-sided. On the one hand you have a group of workers who say that £6 is not enough and are willing to fight to get more, despite the threats of the Labour Government and union officials. On the other hand here is a group of workers demanding more but using the argument that they are worth more than other workers.

This attitude has been successful in the past because the skilled man acted as a 'beacon' for the mass of carworkers —

followed suit. In the 1950s and 60s it was successful because industry was booming.

In British Leyland these struggles have remained important because of the situation of resisting MDW and defending 'custom and practice'. And since the unions nationally have capitulated in every way to the bosses, individual groups of workers are going to see the only alternative in going it alone.

But the needs of working class struggle now are different to those of the 1960s. To win enough money to keep up with inflation you have to take on the government and the union leadership. You cannot do that on your own and hope the mass of workers will support you, especially when you argue that you should have more than anyone else.

MASS STRUGGLE

The other kind of struggles, the mass struggles, have been less publicised, but these are the struggles, that despite their limitations, have the possibility of taking the whole fight forward.

When we say 'mass struggle' we don't necessarily mean 20,000 people walking out the gate for 12 months! For instance, on Friday April 23rd the underbodies section at the Ford Halewood Body Plant failed to turn up for the short Friday night shift — the mini-shift. They acted as a section but they were expressing the feeling of the mass of the workers — End Friday night working and For a 35 hour week. The action of the underbodies section was the first organised expression of this feeling this year. They have now given the lead for a fully formed mass struggle against the mini shift. Similar struggles have occurred at regular intervals at Halewood in the last couple of months; fights over working conditions, the lead content of the atmosphere, ventilation, for a guaranteed 40 hours pay etc.

At the moment the struggle is hard. Examples like those from Halewood are few and far between, and even at Halewood there have been no decisive victories. At British Leyland, Fords and Chrysler, the most important thing is to strive for maximum unity amongst the workforce, — for the maintenance of shop-floor organisation, for more money and less work and in places where 'workers participation' has been implemented we must fight for no secrecy, report-backs and open elections.

Car workers have to unify around the demands:

FOR A LARGE ALL ROUND PAY RISE, GUARANTEED AGAINST INFLATION.

FOR A 35 HOUR WEEK.

FOR LESS WORK AND LESS ON THE DOLE'

CIA EXPOSED

Dirty Tricks in Ireland

THE CIA are becoming more and more involved in the war in Ireland. This is according to 'Liberation' the French newspaper which was at the centre of a storm earlier this year, when it published names and addresses of CIA agents in France.

CIA involvement in Ireland is linked to the growing US investment in that country, particularly the oil industry in the South. The CIA is out to make sure that the Irish struggle doesn't lead to a 'Cuba' in Europe, where US interests get confiscated.

The CIA began by infiltration: first the 'Northern Aid', the US based support group for the Provisional IRA, and then organisations in Ireland. In 1972, the official IRA discovered four CIA men who had infiltrated their political wing in Limerick. Later that year, the Provisionals unmasked another agent, posing as an American 'Trotskyist' come to Belfast to help.

In 1973, a CIA-backed "socialist organisation" the National Caucus

of Labour Committees, were offering their 'services to the IRA.

Liberation names the present CIA agents in Belfast as Peter Spicer and Alan Roy. Spicer is responsible for liaison with the extreme-right loyalist groups, like the UVF and Red Hand Commando.

The CIA's second tactic is to directly influence British policy. It is said that they do not trust Britain or the Southern Irish governments. And through their involvement in the Institute for the Study of Conflict' (a British military intelligence front) they have helped to push British military tactics. In particular, Liberation claims, the CIA were very keen to see 'Operation Motorman' the destruction of the no-go areas in Belfast and Derry in 1972.

So next time there's an unexplained explosion in Northern Ireland, it's not only the SAS who need thinking about. It could be the dirtiest bunch of them all, the CIA

Journalists' Conference

THE NATIONAL union of Journalists Conference at Buxton has given resounding support for a Labour Movement Conference on press ownership, control and access.

The 28,000 strong union has been attacked under the bogus press freedom issue by all manner of right wing hacks; the Tories, the Guild of Newspaper Editors, The Newspaper Proprietors Association, and Newspaper Society, the House of Lords, and the right wing Manifesto Group in the Parliamentary Labour Party, for demanding a basic trade union right.

The second string to the newspaper bosses campaign has been to encourage the anti-trade union Institute of Journalists, which is scabs charter, to smash existing NUJ closed shops.

The NUJ is recognised and affiliated to the TUC as a bona fide trade union, and the Institute is repudiated by both the TUC and print unions.

The management want to undermine hard won NUJ negotiating and bargaining rights; break NUJ job control and organisation, and use IOJ scabs to bring in new print technology with the least resistance on the proprietor's terms.

The IOJ campaign, hand in glove with the bosses, was prompted after provincial NUJ members showed their teeth for the first time during a hard-fought and bitter wage contract dispute in 1973.

The NUJ conference instructed its national executive to "give every possible assistance" to chapels (office branches) fighting for 100% membership shops by "refusing to cooperate with non NUJ journalists."

Delegates gave a standing conference ovation to the 35 strong Barnsley NUJ branch for asking the town's trade union bodies to black

IOJ journalists, and resisting with great "courage" the attacks of "hostile newspaper proprietors posing as defenders of press freedom."

Support the Labour Movement Conference on Press Freedom. Black the Institute of Journalists.

CONFERENCE POINTS

May 26 Day of Action, called by National Labour Assembly on Unemployment, massively supported by delegates and union national executive.

Delegates condemned the "continuing suppression of the press and broadcasting networks in Portugal since the revolution" after speeches praising the fight of workers at Radio Renascenca and newspaper Republica for direct working class control of the media.

Conference overwhelmingly rejected call for introduction of paid overtime, after hearing that more than 1,000 journalistic jobs have been axed over the past year.

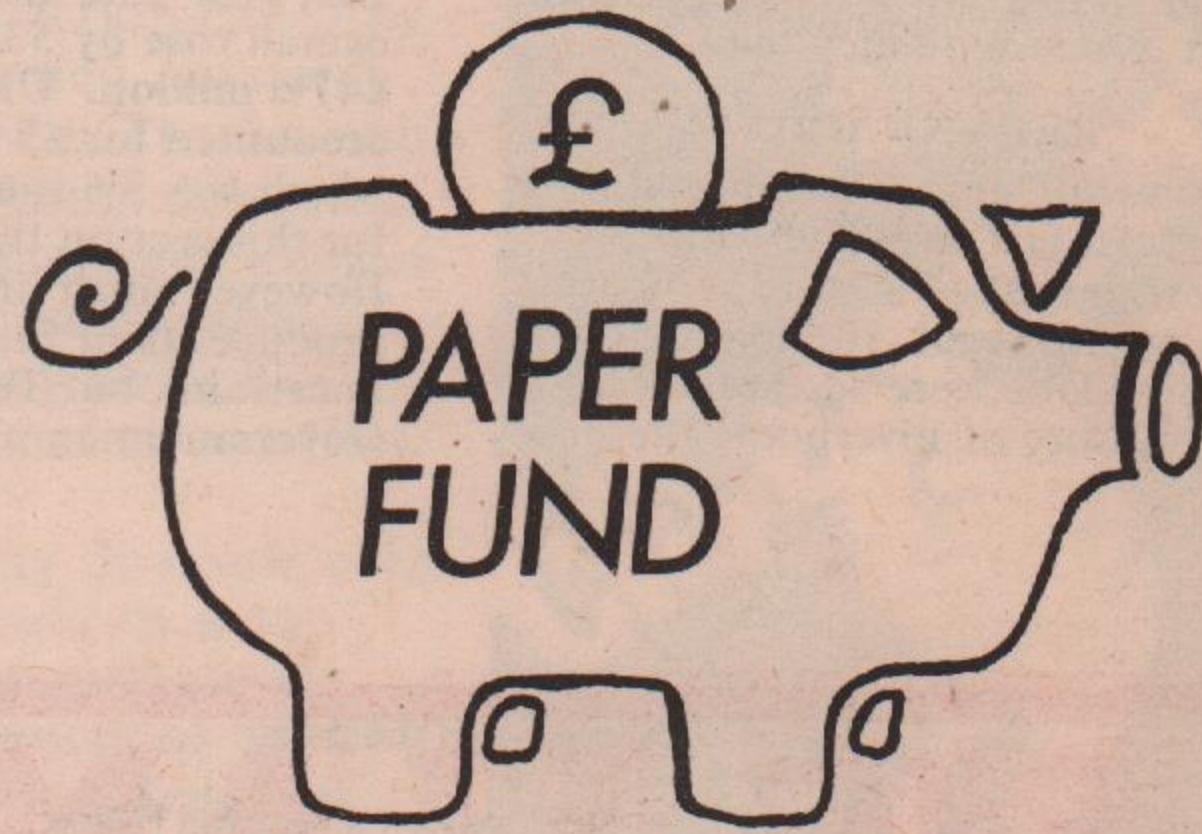
Conference "welcomed" TUC and Labour Party Conference move to support demand for free abortion on request and condemned attempts to further restrict availability of abortion.

NUJ delegates called for resignation of Press Council Chairman Lord Shawcross, who has used his position to publicise his reactionary, right wing and anti-trade union views

BIG FLAME groups and readers of the newspaper obviously aren't used to responding to appeals for money. Last month brought in only £10 for the £500 appeal. And all of that came from Manchester Big Flame.

Big Flame doesn't pretend that we are the 'only' paper on the left, or the 'only' weapon that militants have — as some other papers extravagantly claim. But we do think we produce a good newspaper, which can become very good. It's a newspaper, which carries the political line of our organisation, but carries much more: News, reviews and reports from all parts of the working class movement, nationally and internationally. Already we have a number of correspondants, specialists in their field, who have offered us their services.

So we need to expand. But we can only do that if we keep afloat now. That means £55 at least a month in donations to cover the hidden costs: telephones, stationary etc. £500 by January 1st 1977. Please support us. Send money.



BIG FLAME

To beat the Front we have to fight all their prejudices

GAYS AGAINST FASCISM

DESPITE THE FACT that Bradford is the main area of National Front activity in the North of England, their presence has also been felt in most other towns. On November 22nd last year, for example, they marched through Dewsbury, a town in Yorkshire with a large immigrant population.

In February they tried to force their way into a 'Right to Work' meeting in Bolton, but were successfully blocked. And in Sheffield the Trades Council has recently taken some sort of initiative by organising the stripping of fascist propaganda from the streets.

But simply barring them from working class meetings or ripping down their posters, essential though this is, does not threaten the NF or other fascists. The anti-working class nature of their policies and actions needs to be clearly exposed, and mass working class opposition (like that in Bradford on April 24th) must confront them whenever they rear their ugly heads.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

In Leeds there are ten NF candidates standing in the local council elections on May 6th. There are also a large number standing in Bradford, while in Leicester the NF is contesting every seat. A large vote could give them the confidence to intervene in working class struggles and to march through Leeds and other cities, stirring up race hatred, as they have in Leicester and Bradford.

One of their candidates in Leeds

is a well-known ex-Labour Councillor, who may well draw a substantial 'personal vote'. Another of their candidates, a woman, has added to the simple anti-black propaganda by being a particularly staunch opponent of abortion. The fascists are, and always have been, violently opposed to the liberation of women. They hail 'the family' and 'motherhood' as sacred concepts. What is really sacred for them, of course, is that women should function merely as baby-producers and (unpaid) servants.

GAYS

This relates to their hatred of gays (homosexuals), who they see as a threat to the 'family', and who can also be used as a convenient minority around which to conjure up fears and divisions.

This aspect of fascism has been seen over the last two years in Leeds, with the NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC AND FREEDOM MOVEMENT. On many occasions bricks have been thrown through the door and windows of the Gay Liberation Front office (in Woodhouse Lane), especially during the period when the fascists managed to recruit some 'skin-heads' from the York Road area.

What makes the fascists really angry is that, not only do people admit that they are gay, but that they actually oppose fascist demonstrations and meetings. The NDFM, which was always violent but never very large, collapsed about a year ago, mainly because of a battle on the Town Hall steps with about 300

anti-fascists, many of whom were gays.

Since then, the remnants of the NDFM (now called the British National Party, and still confined to Leeds) and the still quite weak National Front, have continued their anti-gay policies, although the NF do not quite make such a noise about it.

At a gay disco, for example, in January, a fascist got in and smashed a glass in the face of a member of the Gay Liberation Front. More recently, on the night after the NF march through Bradford a brick was thrown through the window of the GLF office. (About 60 gays had been on the demonstration, many of whom had travelled from Leeds). Although such attacks are obviously carried out to intimidate anti-fascists, according to the GLF, just the opposite has happened. They have proved to gays that the threat of fascism is real and shown the importance of fighting it.

THREAT TO US ALL

It is not, however, just gays and blacks who are threatened by fascism; they seek to build an authoritarian society in which none of us will have any freedom or control over our own lives.

In order to publicise the real nature of the NF and to help co-ordinate anti-fascist activities, an East Leeds Anti-Fascist Group has been formed. It can be contacted by phoning Leeds 782851 or 457177

Friends of the Earth rally: 'North-west a nuclear dumping ground'

ON SATURDAY 24th April, 'FRIENDS OF THE EARTH' held a rally outside the nuclear reactor at Windscale. Over 1000 were there.

The North West is fast becoming a centre for nuclear power and the nuclear fuel industry and this is in a situation where very little is known about the dangers of these nuclear sites. When a small reactor at Windscale caught fire in 1957, high levels of radio-activity were detected as far away as DENMARK. This means that in the event of an accident, conurbations like

into the Irish Sea. Windscale pours six times as much radioactive waste into the sea as all the country's nuclear power stations combined.

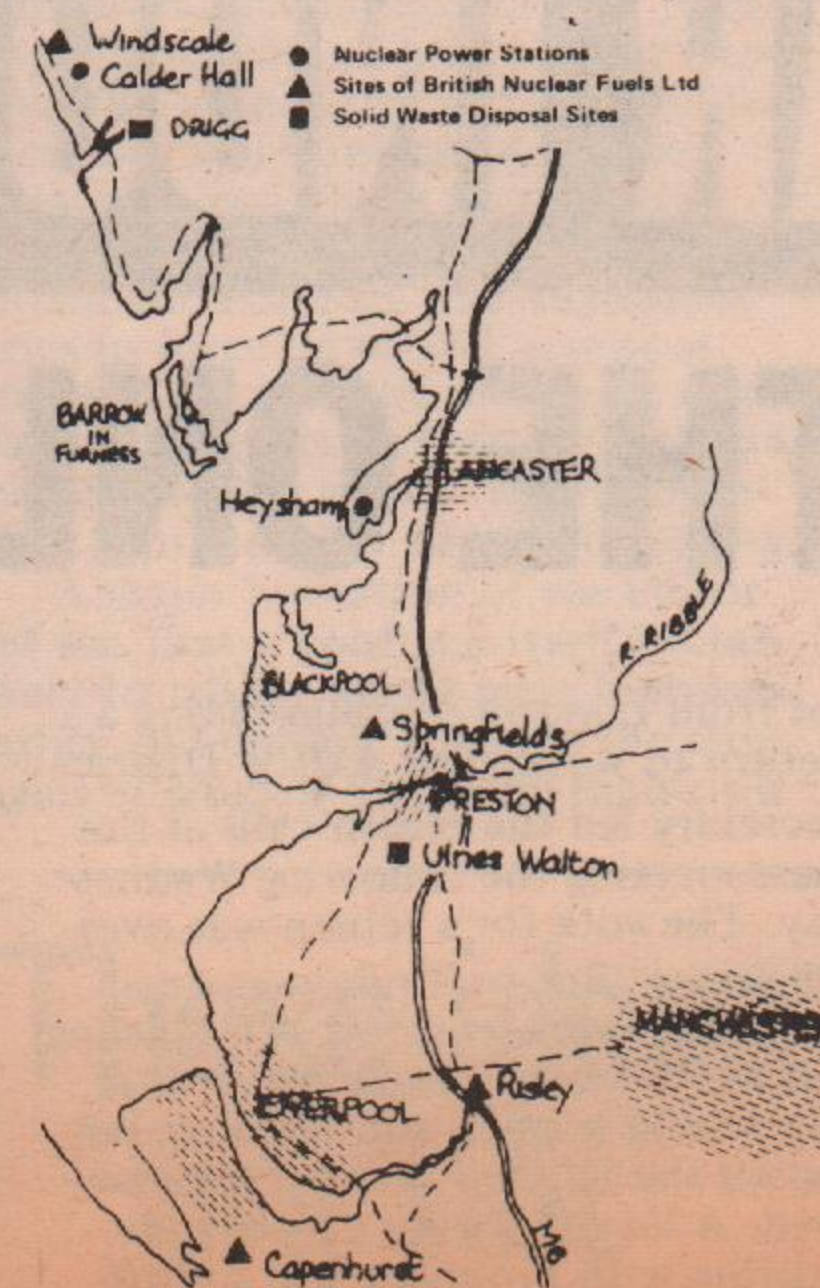
BNFL plans to invest £900 million in Windscale over the next 10 years. This investment means much more nuclear waste will have to be transported, stored and discharged into the environment. The recent deal with Japan is only the beginning. These plans will mean 2000 construction jobs for the next five years only. The unions have given their approval to these plans because of the jobs, but this is a short-sighted approach.

HOPE

There is hope that it can be fought against since it comes at a time when there is a slow, growing awareness within the trades union movement of social/environmental issues, i.e. new employment should come from us useful and satisfying jobs, and not just jobs created for industry's sake. Among the examples of this in this country are the demands by the Lucas Aerospace unions for work of this nature and the refusal by the union in Birmingham to destroy one old building (a Victorian Post Office) simply to be replaced by a modern structure

We seem to be slow to learn however. In Australia, 'Green Bans' as these union positions are called are widespread, and in France the Socialist Trade Union (CFDT) has taken a strong lead in opposing any further expansion of the French nuclear power programme.

It is clear that the backing the government is giving for the nuclear power programme means that less money will be available to spend on coal. And this means less jobs overall since compared with nuclear power, coal needs many more workers. It is an essential part of the government's strategy to make miners less important to the economy.



Manchester and Liverpool will have to be evacuated!

Another source of danger is from the British Nuclear Fuels Ltd (BNFL) near Preston and Chester. Nuclear material is constantly being transported from one site to another in lorries and trains. Liquid waste from these plants is disposed of into nearby rivers and solid waste is buried at Ulfes Walton near Leyland. 'Low level' liquid waste is discharged

Record profits won't stop Tates sackings

While 2,000 men and women employed at Tates Liverpool factory are being kept in almost total ignorance about their future, negotiations continue between the British Sugar Corporation, their backers, the Government and Tates bosses.

In the Love Lane factory employees sickness cards are being checked back as far as 1966 to find out 'whose health is badly affected by working in the industry'. We ask, is this the start of a redundancy list?

REDUNDANCY

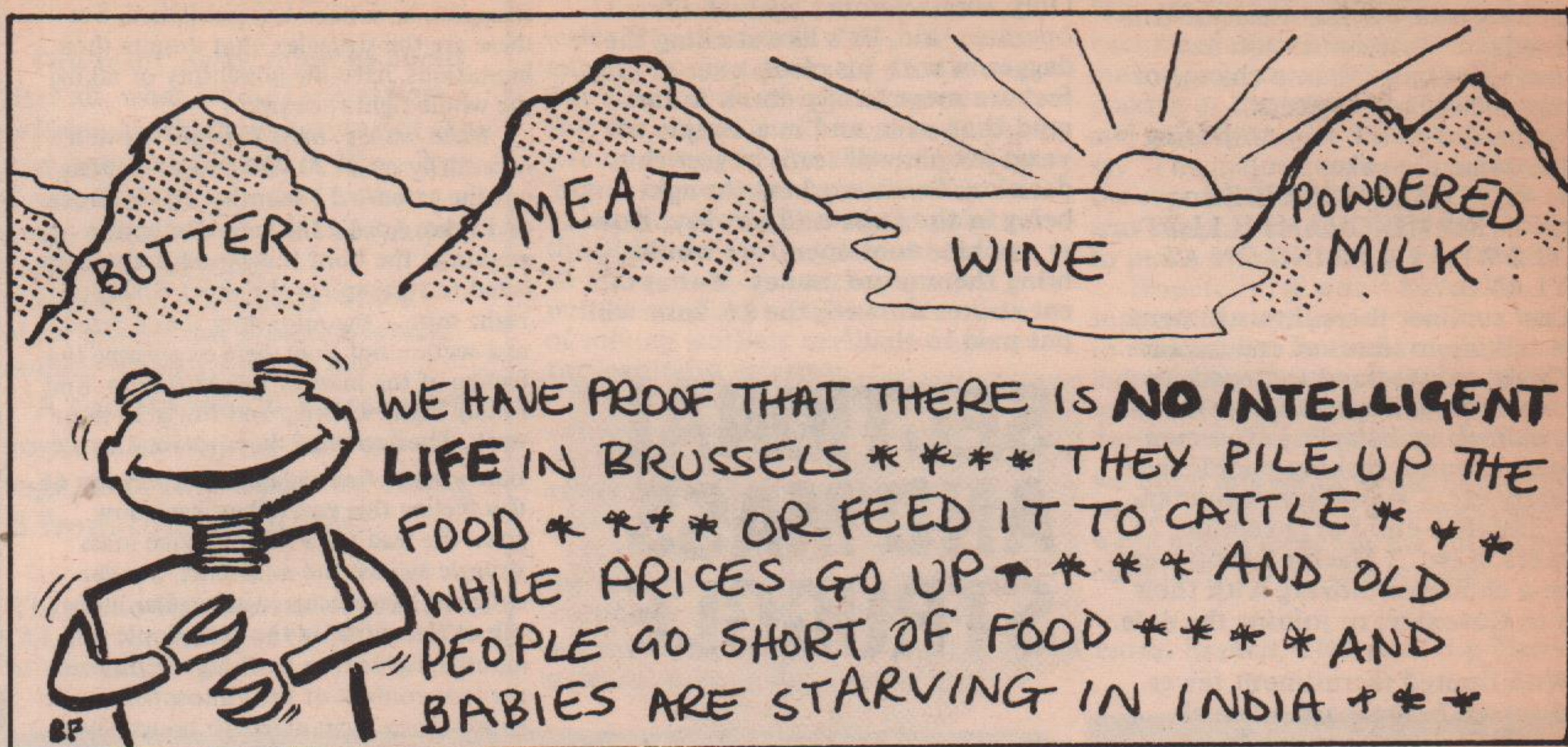
Meanwhile, local boss, Freddie Clark, at last answered workers questions asked at a mass meeting 2½ months ago! He said, 'If Option One were adopted (i.e. the closure of Liverpool) there

would be a case for a complete shutdown in the Autumn of this year.'

Whatever the future, redundancies are in store. Clark said, 'we must be slim, very efficient and above all cost effective. We have too many people to produce what is required of us so it is inevitable that there will be shrinkage'.

RECORD PROFIT

Last year Tate and Lyle's profits overall rose by 53% to a record £47½ million. UK refining accounted for £7 million of this which was 3½ times more profitable for this section than last year. However much profit the workers produce, their future is 'still uncertain', but Tates and the Government aren't worrying.



EEC dumps 1 million tons of powdered milk ITS ALRIGHT FOR COWS

ONE MILLION tons of powdered milk which could have found its way into our kitchens is being used as cattle food instead. All because of yet another Common Market arrangement to keep prices up by stockpiling or diverting foodstuffs from the shops.

MILK FOR COWS

The powdered milk is being passed on to farmers as part of a subsidy because of the rising price of soya, which is a main ingredient in cattle foods. Farmers who use a certain

amount of soya are given powdered milk instead of money as a subsidy. By regulation this milk must go into the cattle food.

This scheme is being organised in Britain through all major cattle feed companies like BOCM and Bibbys. Although workers in Bibbys object strongly, this is the result of yet another 'food mountain' which is the only thing the Common Market seems able to produce.

DISGUSTING

While pensioners and children suffer

lack of adequate food, while Labour Ministers and Trade Union leaders continually tell us to pull in our belts and use 'restraint', we are expected to put up with the disgusting profit-grabbing spectacle of beef mountains, butter mountains, and now a powdered milk mountain. All created, according to Common Market officials, to 'prevent prices falling below an acceptable level.' Acceptable to whom???

BIG FLAME

£2.00 per year Britain and Ireland. £2.50 per year Overseas

£1.00 per 6 months

£1.50

NAME AND ADDRESS,

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