

# Big Flame

for  
Socialism

Paper of the revolutionary socialist organisation, Big Flame

15p

NO RETURN  
TO  
BACKSTREET  
ABORTION



BEHIND ALL their talk about the sanctity of life, the Tories stand revealed as hypocrites.

●They know that Corrie's anti-abortion bill would simply force abortion underground, as it was during the Depression in the 1930's when the death rate from illegal abortions rocketed.

#### CASUALTY

●They also know that their welfare state cuts will mean many more deaths because people can't get the medical attention they need or because of the shortage of kidney machines and casualty departments. Even the consultants are warning of the fatal consequences of the cuts.

●They go on endlessly about freedom of choice, but they want to deny it to women over abortion. The right-wing is against abortion as they are against all liberation. They understand that if women control their bodies, they may want to control the whole of their lives.

The Corrie bill and the cuts in public services have one thing in common. To make the working class pay the cost of the Welfare State we won after the war.

#### MOTHERS

In speech after speech, government ministers tell us how vital is the mother's care for her children. "She knows them best and her love, guidance and care are crucial to their well-being," says Patrick Jenkin, Tory Social Services Secretary.

Abortion, the Government believes, releases women from the home and childcare. This increases competition for jobs at a time when the Tories are doing their best to boost the dole queues. It also puts the responsibility for the care of the young and the old on to the state.

Now the Tories want women to stay at home to look after the family so that they can cut the Welfare state and give the jobs to men — who might otherwise cause a fuss on the dole.

In Tameside, health workers have issued an ultimatum to the authorities which pierces right to the heart of the Tories' plans for women. They will occupy the Area Health Authority unless funds are made available to re-open a unit to do menstrual extraction, a simple safe method of doing early abortions. They are supported by the gynaecologist, Dr David Goldthorpe.

In effect the Tameside Health workers have said, if you're against the cuts, you're also against Corrie's bill and for a woman's right to choose on abortion. That's why the march against Corrie isn't just for trade unionists. Although hundreds of trade unionists, like those in Tameside, oppose Corrie, the demonstration on 28th October is for everyone who stands to lose from the anti-abortion bill and the Tory cuts.

## FIVE REASONS WHY TRADE UNIONISTS SHOULD MARCH AGAINST CORRIE'S ANTI-ABORTION BILL:

The Corrie Bill would strictly limit the number of legal abortions in Britain. Two-thirds of the women who had safe, legal abortions this year would have been forced to use illegal methods or have unwanted children if Corrie's Bill were in force. If we don't stop this Bill it would be you or I, your sister, wife, friend or lover who suffers.

- 1 Women should have a democratic right to decide for themselves when and if they will have children and how they will organise their working lives.
- 2 Trade unions should fight for this right just as they fight against unemployment and racial discrimination.
- 3 Those who seek to restrict the abortion law are anti-democratic. They are attempting to impose their moral views on all of us. Those who favour liberal laws are putting the moral decision where it belongs, in the control of the pregnant woman herself.
- 4 The Tory Government supports the Corrie Bill, just as it favours a reduction in the right to maternity leave. They want to force women to say at home and pay with their labour for the dismantling of the welfare state.
- 5 Abortion does not go away if it is made illegal. It goes underground. In the 1930's, the death rate from illegal abortion rocketed. Working class families could neither afford the extra mouths to feed nor the cost of a safe abortion. We all want to preserve jobs and living standards. Let us make sure that this time, pregnant women don't die while we are fighting for a better world.

Support the TUC demonstration against the Bill

OCTOBER 28

12 NOON SPEAKERS CORNER HYDE PARK LONDON

For a woman's right to choose

# Editorial

**BRITISH MOVEMENT** supporters have been spotted amongst the back-to-work pickets at Lucas' in Birmingham. National Association for Freedom activists have put their shoulders behind the strike breaking in the Midlands. 600 workers are supposed to have signed an anti-strike petition at BAC, Preston.

## BLOW

If the engineering strike does collapse, then shop floor strength throughout the industry will have taken a massive blow. Duffy and Boyd, the right wing leaders of the AUEW have done their best to make sure the strike never got off the ground. Thousands of workers thought it a waste of time. What was the point of fighting for a basic many of them had passed by or for a one hour reduction in the working week?

## RELUCTANTLY

So they didn't — at Lucas, Birmingham, at Pressed Steel Fisher, Speke, and in

many other places.

But most workers, often reluctantly, supported the two-day strikes. The employers gauged reactions badly and imposed their lock-out, the strike spread and the workers feelings deepened.

The problem remains. The two day strike isn't the best way of fighting a claim. It's a costly long drawn-out tactic that hits the workers as hard as the bosses. And the claim isn't one that could unite all engineering workers in its enthusiastic defence.

## OPTIONS

There seem to be two options for the future of the dispute. The first is to continue with the two-day strikes, which would create the possibility of a national lock out, leading to either a long drawn out struggle or a shoddy compromise.

The last time there was a lock out in the engineering industry, in 1922, the

engineering union suffered a crushing defeat which set back shop floor organisation for fifteen years.

## ALL OUT

There is a second option. An all out national strike offers the best means of preventing a repeat of 1922 or 1972, and for winning the full claim: £80 basic for 35 hours.

## SICK

Only a strong stomach could have taken the spectacle of the recent Labour Party press conference called to announce their campaign against the cuts. From the gall of people like Roy Hattersley and Joan Maynard, you would have found it hard to believe that it was Labour that practically invented the cuts.

Of course, Labour wasn't trying to destroy the welfare state, like Thatcher's lot. Maybe not, but they certainly prepared the ground pretty thoroughly

for Mrs Thatcher's attack on public services.

## LEAP BACKWARD

"Forward to the '80's, not back to the '30's" The TUC came and went, leaving the usual trail of worn-out platitudes: "vigorous campaign against the cuts"; "vigorous resistance to the Tory labour laws"; "top priority for a shorter working week". No surprise in all this except for the few who still expect the TUC to lead in the defence of workers interests.

Recent history shows that the initiative for fighting unemployment and the cuts will have to come from the rank and file of the workers movement. In fact, often from the people who are poorly represented at the TUC's conference — women, young workers, black people, the unemployed — but who bear the brunt of the crisis. It will be the oppressed who lead the TUC, not the other way around.

## seeing red



AN INTERESTING book has just come out which deals with how the British government treated Jews who were being persecuted by the Nazi government during the Second World War. Written by Bernard Wasserstein, it is called "Britain and the Jews of Europe 1939-45". The book is full of quotes from Foreign Office civil servants, which make clear their contempt and arrogance. There is Roger Makins (now Lord Sherfield) writing in 1938:

"the pitiful condition to which German Jews will be reduced will not make them desirable immigrants." Sir John Suckburgh of the Colonial Office "was convinced that in their hearts they hate us and have always hated us; they hate all Gentiles."

The book also reveals to section an article on "final solution" and concentration camp — the fewer Jews to survive the war, the less would be the problem of re-settlement after the war.

No doubt, it is the sons (and not many of the daughters) of these upper-class swines who are staffing the Foreign Office and Home Office today. They won't be affected by the cuts of the Tory government but they will be decimated when we come to power.

SIR JAMES Goldsmith is spending £2½million on his current project to extend press freedom — the weekly magazine "Now". Like all millionaires, Sir James (Knighthood courtesy of Sir Harold Wilson) is an enthusiastic defender of freedom — his own.

To free himself from the embarrassing attentions of Private Eye, He dragged that prying journal through the libel courts. Asked again in a recent TV interview about his business interests in Hong Kong, he once again evaded the questions.

Sir James has made it clear that no-one will interfere with his notion of freedom. Left-wingers and members of the SWP, should they be discovered in his employ, will, he says, be dismissed.

BY "BENDING" the rules, North Sea oil corporations won themselves £100million tax relief, the Commons Public Expenditure Committee has discovered. No-one knows for sure whether this isn't just the tip of the iceberg. The civil servants responsible have been reprimanded. The oil companies may be asked to pay back the money.

They can count themselves lucky that they weren't social security claimants who had "bent" the rules. Although there's only an estimated £3-4 million at stake annually, the authorities will set spies on suspects in order to bring them to court and put them behind bars.



Patriotic Front picket of Lancaster House Zimbabwe Conference. Photo: Union Place Collective.

## VICTORY TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT!

Picket outside Lancaster House conference on the opening day, September 10th. The picket was followed by a very successful rally and was part of a general flurry of activity by the Zimbabwe Emergency Campaign over the conference period. Among several pickets, meetings etc. the highlight was a major rally at Central Hall, Westminster, with leading Patriotic Front speakers. Meanwhile, ZEC groups are springing up all over the country, several of them on local Big Flame initiatives — and preparations go ahead for a mass demonstration in London on November 11th, anniversary of UDI in Rhodesia.

**DEFEND RUDOLF BAHRO — A CONFERENCE ON THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE**  
12th — 13th October,  
Conway Hall, Red  
Lion Square, London.

In June 1978, Rudolf Bahro, an East German marxist, was put in jail by his own government. His crime was that he wrote a book "The Alternative" that tried to explain why East Germany, the Soviet Union, and the rest of Eastern Europe are not socialist. In his book he put forward a political programme that would have taken power away from his country's

ruling elite and placed it in the hands of factory and enterprise councils. He called for the abolition of bureaucratic privileges, for the rotation of jobs, and for equality of incomes. And so it is no wonder that the East German regime put him behind bars!

## PRISONERS

October 1979 is the 30th anniversary of the founding of East Germany. All over Europe socialists will be organising protests demanding the release of Bahro and other political prisoners in East Germany. As part of

this campaign the journal Critique is organising a conference in which socialists from the major currents of the British and international left will debate the important problems of how to achieve socialism. All of these are problems that Bahro raised in his book. They are just as relevant to socialists in the West as they are to socialists in Eastern Europe.

FEES: £5 for weekend, £2.50 per day. Critique subscribers, students and unemployed £3.50 weekend, £2.50 per day. For further information contact: Critique, 31 Clevedon Rd., Glasgow G12 0PH

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Send to: BIG FLAME, 217 Wavertree Road, Liverpool 7

# paper money

Not a bad month for donations. New standing order from Leeds Big Flame members — £5, and from B.G.C. — £2. From a South London member — £10; from a Sheffield reader £1.65. The Liverpool Big Flame fundraising jumble sale for the newspaper raised £60. Plus £20 from two Liverpool members. TOTAL — £98.65 plus existing standing orders of £23 a month.

A mere £1 a month from 50 of you would transform the situation. Give up 10 ciggies a week or a glass of beer and make out a standing order to: Big Flame Newspaper. Bank: Lloyds, Water St., Liverpool. Code: 30.95.11. Account Number 0008738

# Deadlines

An unusually large number of articles failed this month's deadlines. Several haven't been included.

November Big Flame is out on 25th October. News deadline is Thursday 18th October. The deadline for features is the 12th.

We can't undertake to print articles received after these dates.

I get on well with most everybody on the site, on occasions I have to push myself when I get pissed off with things they say, generally I'm in the mood to explain my reactions, though often it's the most energy draining part of the job. Gradually I'm building up a vocabulary of answers to a lot of their questions and jokes. Barriers break once we've worked together on jobs, started talking, or gained more confidence about being around one another. Occasionally some of the guys wind me right up. Like today these guys where whistling at a woman - I said that if I was that woman the last thing I'd want is to be whistled at".

When Sue left school in New Zealand she got a job on the docks, at the time she didn't see it as radical or political, "Just a good laugh and plenty of booze", when she came to England she worked in catering, but "couldn't handle it, being in doors all day, so I got out and was on the dole for 18 months. There were a lot of tools around the house and I got into using them - messing about really.

I applied for a TOPS course and had to wait a year. Although I didn't have a lot of trouble at the interview (with my offensive approach and a loud mouth) other women I know have been refused, there were no other women on the course with me. The blokes on the course didn't give me a lot of trouble, I acc-

## 'have you ever heard of a creche on a building site?'

epted them easier than they accepted me, I had more confidence in doing the job than most of them. The TOPS chippies I worked with are a pretty passive lot, but I just said what I wanted to. Some women do get real hassles from TOPS supervisors and some have had to get transfers.

When I finished the course I went for about half a dozen jobs before I got one, they just made excuses or offered me low pay. Then I found this keen firm who said I could start the next day. It's good that they are keen, otherwise I'd always be having to prove myself. The blokes I'm working with now never assume I can't do some thing because they've seen me work and they've seen me carrying weights.

Learning to use your body is easier at 16 than at 25. Manual work can be difficult if you start out at 25 - when your body has developed, it's easy for me because I learnt that sort of thing when



I left school. This goes for men just as much as for women, a lot of guys don't know how to use their bodies sensibly.

Most women start out in local councils, it's often easier to get work with them and the work is steadier, so they can work inside their unions on a firmer basis, and it is easier to organise in council work. But at the same time, they're undermining themselves, often only taking home £50 a week,

they could easily be taking home much more doing this kind of work.

Working in unions is a lot about passing motions, but union recognition for us is essential. There's a woman I know who tried to get in touch with a union and the guy at the end of the phone just laughed at her.

'Women in Manual Trades' is mainly helping women to get into traditionally male dominated

trades, producing films and leaflets aimed at school leavers, but we've all got full-time jobs so there are limits to what we can do, and lots of necessary campaigns. Have you every heard of a creche on a building site? But it's a very supportive organisation to be in. ¶

The views expressed in this interview do not necessarily represent those of 'Women in Manual Trades'



## PIC'of the month

Sue Shearer, a chippie on a building site in the Elephant and Castle, South London talked to Robert Rizla, (in N. London BF) about her work.

All photos by Carlos Augusto (I.F.L.).

# Action in Hackney

Last month over 1,000 local people marched through Hackney, east London, in a Day of Action against the cuts. A half day strike was called by the NUPE district shop stewards committee and Hackney Council Joint Works Committee with the support of NALGO and AUEW members.

They're organising what could be the biggest mass campaign in East London for many years in opposition to the Tory spending cuts, but also to maintain jobs and improve services.

When I tramped the streets of Hackney six years ago looking for a hospital portering job, a walk up the Kingsland Road took you past St Leonard's and the Metropolitan (now closed); further north to St Matthew's, the German Hospital — both threatened with closure, and the



Hackney which is to lose all acute beds. I got a job then — at the Queen Elizabeth's Hospital for Children, but I wouldn't rate my chances these days!

## RUN-DOWN

The Day of Action showed one of the key strengths needed in building up the campaign, the understanding that a united working class fightback will be a winner. United means people being aware of the connection between worsening health facilities and the rundown of local

schools — the ILEA propose to shut five of the eleven schools in the area. It means exposing the Tory anti-abortion Bill and the way it fits in with closure of state-run abortion clinics — the local NAC group was out arguing the case. It means taking into account the nursery workers, children and parents. In the words of a worker at Beatty Rd Day Nursery "We're on the march because the St. Leonard's cuts affect us and the kids."

## CONTEMPT

The Labour government gave us the thin end of the wedge but the Tories are using the "thick" end with a blatant contempt for working class people that is awakening anger.

Locally, in spite of the pressure put on the AHA to refuse to carry out the spending cuts and the resignation of the council's two AHA delegates, the AHA has given the go-ahead. A borough-wide Hackney Health Campaign for Better Services has been launched and is organising an east London Delegate Conference on October 27th.

## OCCUPATIONS

To be effective it must take into account the practical side: making the campaign accessible to the community, helping to get smaller groups off the ground that can spread discussion of the issues — as well as preparing people for mass actions like demonstrations, pickets, occupations. Then, there are the broader questions, just whose health service is it? If it's to be defended, isn't it necessary to control it?

Member of North London Big Flame

## 'AGAINST THE CUTS IN ANY FORM:'

# Lambeth Fightback

"We're against the cuts, in any form" — that's the policy of the new campaign, Lambeth Fightback. They've already persuaded the local Labour group to reverse a previous decision and to fight the cuts.

## TURNABOUT

It was reflected in the Group's decision to support, on a majority of 36 votes to 9, Knight's motion to reverse the present round of cuts and restore them to the level proposed in last year's election manifesto budget.

Since the momentous decision, Knight has pledged a vigorous campaign against the Cuts throughout the borough, leading up to a march on Westminster on November 7, to which he has invited Moss Evans, Alan Fisher, Tony Benn and Arthur Scargill, along with all London Labour parties and all the Health Service unions in the area. The focus that he wants to give to the march appears to be national rather than local and Lambeth Fightback is well aware that a genuine mass mobilization of local people on that march rests on its own shoulders, and has already started mobilizing on that basis. While those active in the campaign against the Cuts in all sectors certainly welcome the Council's decision to get involved,

it is clear that to leave the Campaign in the Labour Group's hands would be political suicide. Knight and his cohorts have given almost every section of the Lambeth community plenty of grounds for distrust and suspicion during their short period of administration, and the reasons for that won't simply disappear overnight.

## NEWSPAPER

Fightback — which plans to produce a regular newspaper on the cuts — knows that Knight's next step may be to push through a mammoth rate rise. But a recent meeting of local groups at Union Place Resource Centre shows he'll have trouble if he tries to take that escape route. 200 representatives of community, tenants, women, black and gay organisation adopted a unanimous stand: No Cuts and No Rate Rises.

by Terry McNiven  
(SLBF/Lambeth/  
Wandsworth ACTSS)

# Their cuts, our lives

WHEN THE elected members of the Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Area Health Authority courageously resigned rather than implement the savage cuts to the local Health Service ordered by Health Minister Patrick Jenkin, the Government was quick to appoint a set of Commissioners to do the job for them. Handpicked, seemingly, for their commitment to the Tories' aims to devastate the NHS, the 'Gang of Five' included three life peers and two senior members of the medical profession.

## CLOSURES IN SOUTH LONDON

Their commitment is perhaps best indicated by the presence of Dame Peggy Nuttall. As a Registrar General with the General Nursing Council, it is one of her jobs to register nurses at the end of their training and, along with the rest of that Council, she has stated publicly that any nurses 'taking part in industrial action' are laying themselves open to disqualification from that register.

## CLOSED

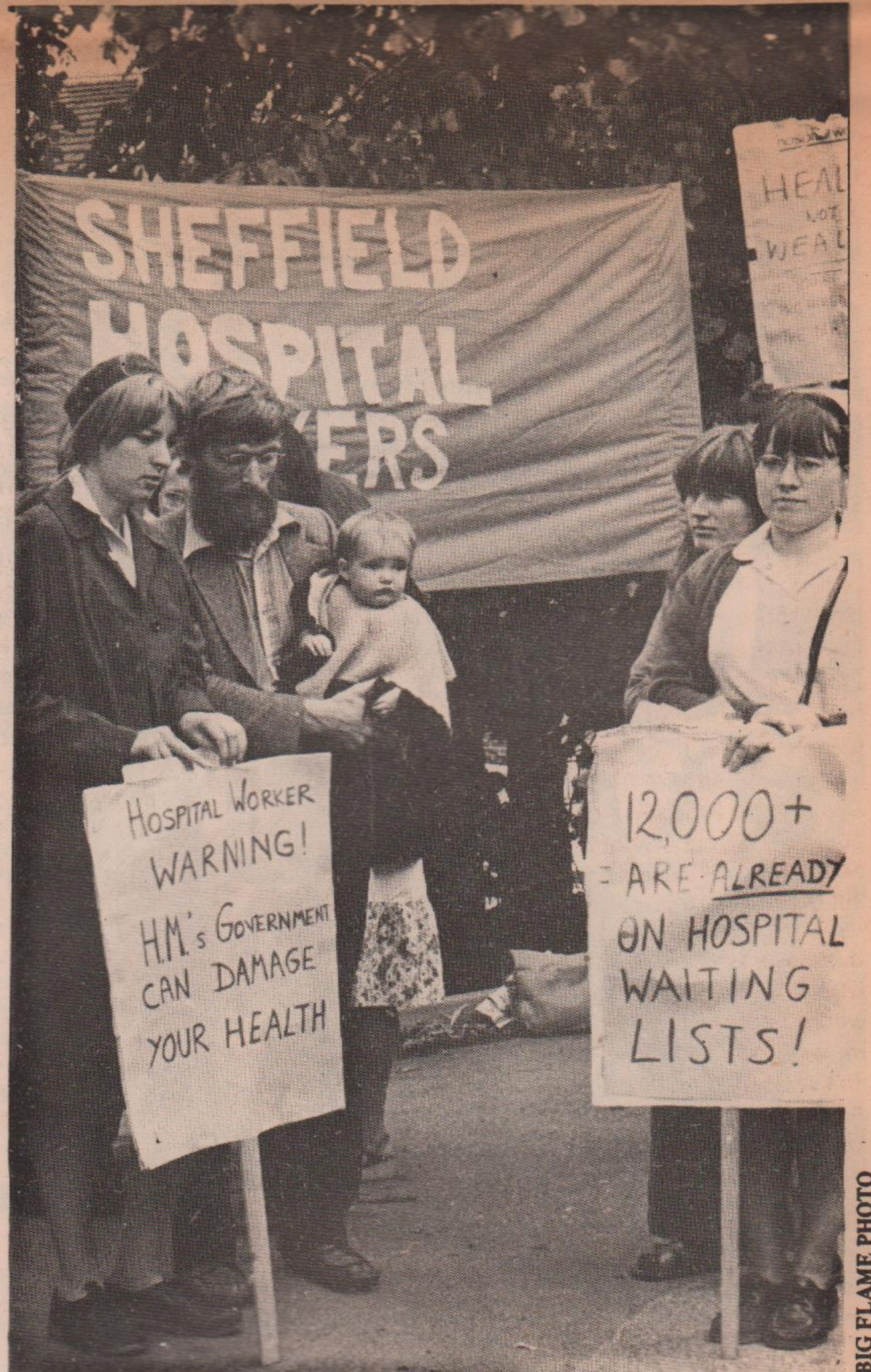
After only two meetings of the Commissioners, the bare facts speak for themselves. Four entire hospitals are planned to close — St John's, Lewisham, St Olave's, Bermondsey, St Giles, Camberwell and Sydenham Children's Hospital. There is to be a 35% drop in open heart surgery operations, a 30% cut in provision of kidney machines (the LSL Area is one of the few in the country to provide these at all), a freeze of all health service posts in the King's Health District (this will probably lead to the closure of Guy's Out-patients Department one day a week). Rumours are rife on the subject of future cuts, if these go

through. They include the closure of the Belgrave Children's Hospital at the Oval and the monstrous suggestion that all but specialist services at the massive King's College Hospital in the Brixton/Camberwell area could be transferred to Guys and Thomas's.

Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham all have above-average quotas of those factors that cause ill-health in the first place, poverty, stress, high unemployment, bad housing, unsafe work, and a heavily polluted environment. Just the sort of area, in fact where people could not afford private medicine even if they wanted it and for whom and by whom the whole idea of free healthcare as a basic right, enshrined, however unsatisfactorily, in the NHS, was fought for and won over thirty years ago.

Workers in the threatened hospitals have been quick to respond when visited the workers at St John's and St Olave's (the first two on the Commissioners' chopping list), there was no mistaking the tone of united defiance in what they had to say. "These are community hospitals", I was told, "they're the sort of hospitals that local people can relate to. We get to know our patients and they really come to appreciate the help we are able to offer them. There's just no way we're going to sit back and watch them close down".

Already workers at St Olave's in Bermondsey have collected 50,000 signatures on a petition opposing its closure and, at St John's, a unanimous decision has been taken to occupy the building from October 1st — the official date for closure — and to work-in there if possible.



Hospital workers in Sheffield called on local engineering workers to support a picket of the Area Health Authority last month. A handful of the striking engineers turned out to

join the protest against a £1,350,000 proposed cutback in Sheffield's Health Services. Later the Area Health Authority voted to implement the Cuts by cutting back on maintenance.

BIG FLAME PHOTO

**KEEP ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL OPEN**

NO HOSPITAL CLOSURES  
NO CUTS TO OUR HEALTH SERVICE  
NO MORE KILLS

Health Cuts Kill

**DEMONSTRATE ON SATURDAY 29TH. SEPT.**  
ASSEMBLE LADYWELL FIELDS AT 11-30  
MARCH TO ST. JOHN'S, MORDEN HILL, S.E.13.

# GIAS UDDIN CASE GOES TO HIGH COURT

ASIAN YOUTH Movement supporters from Bradford joined dozens of local people to picket Liverpool Immigration Office last month. It was one of a series of actions that has won a stay of execution for Gias Uddin, an 18 year old restaurant worker from Liverpool, threatened with deportation.

Gias, detained as an illegal immigrant, denies the claim that he is not the biological son of his father. But under the powers granted by the 1971 Immigration Act, the authorities don't have to present their case in court. They also have the power of indefinite detention. Not even South Africa goes that far in its war against the blacks.

After three months in detention Gias Uddin was all set for deportation, when unexpectedly, he was returned from Heathrow to the Harmondsworth Detention Centre and told that his case would go to the High Court.

Reports suggest that Mrs Thatcher has taken over the case from the Home Secretary, alarmed by the scale and noisiness of the campaign for Gias' release. Another U-turn could be a prospect.

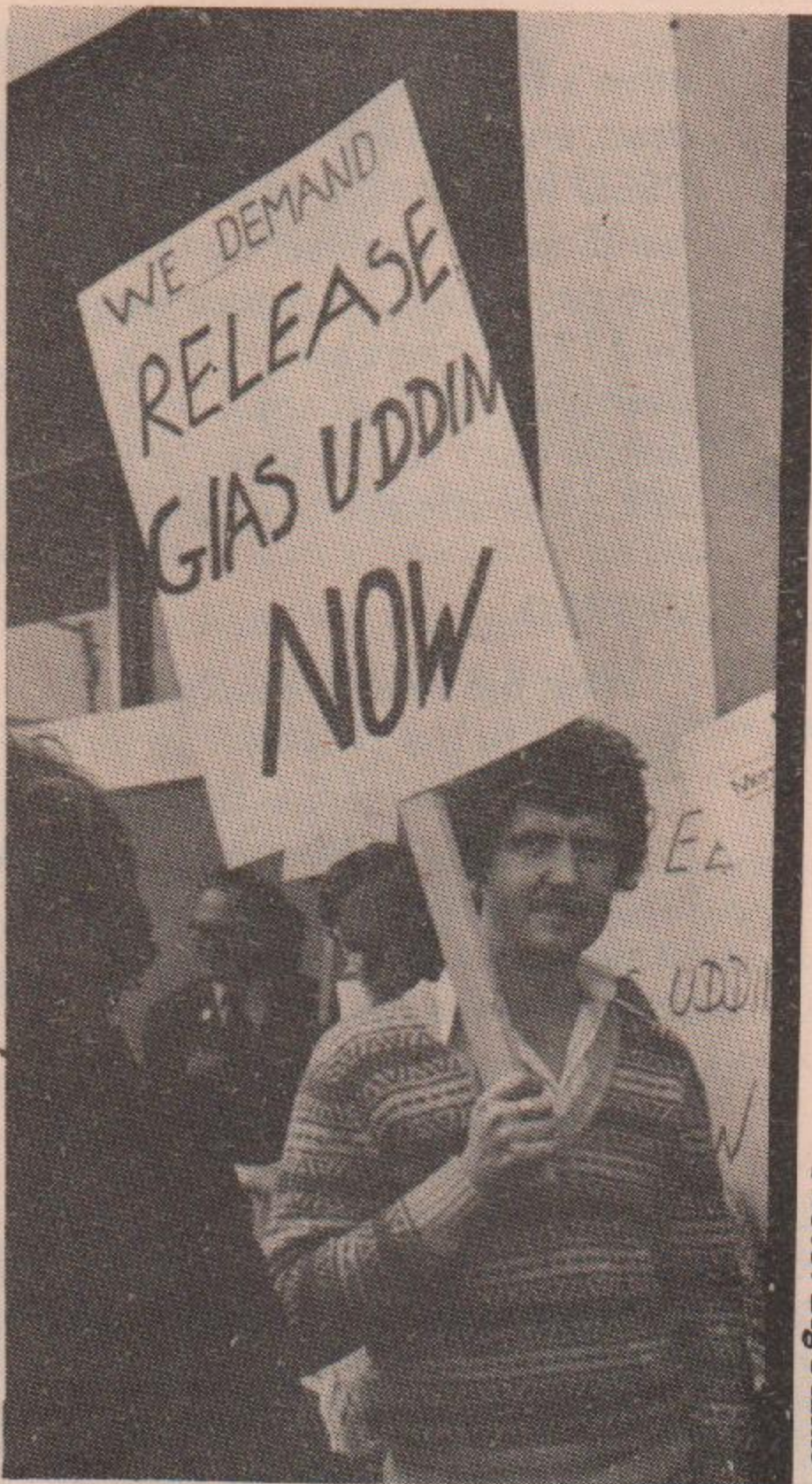


Photo: Big Flame

# Southall Trials

THE TRIALS have started of the black people arrested in Southall, West London on April 23, the day of a National Front meeting at the Town Hall. The conviction rate has been 90% and the sentences very heavy - large fines and two jail sentences already.

The NF meeting was used as an opportunity to occupy the town centre with 5000 police, who right from the start were determined to show Southall's largely Asian population who was the boss. As the day wore on they went on the rampage. A white teacher, Blair Peach, was killed; Clarence Baker, manager of the reggae band Misty, had his skull fractured and many blacks were assaulted on the streets and in police cells. 342 people were charged, the vast majority either members of the local black organisation, the Southall Youth Movement, or connected with the Peoples Unite Cultural Centre. Only two of them came from outside Southall.

77 cases have now been heard with only 8 acquittals. There have been two jail sentences - for one month and for three months. In most cases the evidence consists of the word of the defendant against that of the police. The trials are being conducted in Barnet

where many of the Grunwick cases were also tried. The Barnet magistrates demonstrated then their readiness to accept police testimony - and things haven't changed much. For example Sandeep Sharma was convicted of throwing a brick after a police witness said he threw it with his right hand, when he is left handed.

Southall is a town with a 30% unemployment rate amongst youth and where the charge of SUS is constantly used to harass young blacks. The events of April showed the black community's determination to defend itself. They were adamant that 50 members of the NF shouldn't be bussed into their town for a meeting. So called 'free speech' for the fascists means more incitement to racial violence and a greater threat to the lives of the black community. April 23rd demonstrated that for blacks the threat of state racism - from the police and the courts - is greater than the threat from fascists. The only answer for them

is to develop their own autonomous organisations to defend their community. Since April their main organisation - the Southall Youth Movement - has grown considerably.

Already fines total £3000 and it is estimated that the final total with legal costs will be £100,000. Please organise a collection and send a donation to SYM Defence Fund and Peoples Unite Defence Fund, 45 Lea Road, Southall Middlesex.

**BLAIR PEACH LATEST THE INQUEST** into Blair Peach's death opens on 10th October. The day before - all over the country - police stations will be picketed with the demand for a public enquiry into his death. Meanwhile, an independent inquiry, organised by the National Council for Civil Liberties, will be publishing its report.

Already we have the evidence of a pathologists report that Blair Peach was not killed by a standard police weapon, but more probably "a lead weighted rubber cosh or hose pipe".

Still no charges have been brought despite the questioning of a number of SPG who were at Southall on April 23rd. We must continue to campaign for the SPG to be disbanded and an end to military style invasions of black areas like Southall.

Big Flame Anti-Racist Anti-Fascist Commission

# news

## Playing with Apartheid

BRITISH RUGBY Union Authorities are hell bent on assuring that an apartheid South African Rugby side should tour this country in October. French and Irish governments have recently banned South African rugby sides from their country and there is considerable pressure for Britain to do so via the Gleneagles Agreement of 1977. Despite all these pointers, Hector Munro, the Tory Minister for Sport and one time tour manager of a rugby team to South Africa, can only manage a token letter to the Rugby Union authorities advising them to cancel the tour.

The Rugby Union Authorities argue that South African Rugby is now Multi Racial and point to the fact that the South African Barbarians are of mixed race as proof of 'the great developments, made in South Africa over the last decade.'

The facts are that the white controlled South African Rugby Board has 24 member bodies, 22 white and 2 non white. Of the two non white, one person represents 3000 Asian players and one person represents 3000 black players. If you thought that there were more than 6000 non white rugby players in South Africa you would be correct. Rugby is one of the most popular sports amongst non whites and some 60,000 belong to the SOUTH AFRICAN RUGBY UNION, which is non-racial and has disassociated itself from the tour and has called on all players abroad to refuse to play this so called Multi-Racial side.

### PUPPETS

The touring party itself consists of 8 whites, 8 "coloureds" and 8 "blacks". The non whites are drawn from the puppet organisations that subscribe to the white dominated South African Rugby Board. They are selected strictly on grounds of race and the whole team reeks of the Apartheid system. Some of the best players belong to the non racial SARU but are never considered for selection against

white players either at home or abroad. When British sides such as Cardiff or Middlesex attempt to give credit to the South African regime by touring there, the only non-white teams they are allowed to play against must subscribe to the apartheid South African Rugby Board. Even these non-whites are forced to travel separately to the ground and drink in racially segregated bars afterwards. This fact has been established by both English and Welsh rugby players returning from South Africa this summer.

Meanwhile the majority of the British press continues to ignore these facts and give the impression that all rugby players want the tour to go ahead. Little is mentioned of Cheeky Watson, a white South African trialist and his brother who have been arrested under the Group Areas Act for trying to play non racial rugby and coach black players. Or indeed of Carl Smith, the black lock forward from Cardiff, who refused to tour South Africa this summer with his club for obvious reasons.

The last time a South African Rugby Side played here was in 1969, and they faced massive demonstrations wherever they went. We should ensure that they're even larger this time. Games are scheduled to go ahead at Edinburgh, Hawick, Coventry, Redruth, Exeter, Llanelli and Newport.



FEWER PEOPLE have heard of the British Movement than the National Front, but if anything they are even more nasty.

The photograph below shows British Movement skinheads invading the stage in an attempt to break up the Brixton Anti-Racist Festival on September 2nd.

The other photograph above shows 200 people on a BM march in London in June. This poor turnout didn't deter BM leader Michael McLaughlin from indulging in flights of fantasy in its journal "British Patriot".

"... after three decades submersion in a Niagara of post-war lies, Marxist distortions and forced race-mixing; in the face of every possible obstruction, no less than 1,000 young people of Britain came to London to publicly spit in the eye of those who had tried to seduce their minds... I looked behind me and stretching back for half a mile or more, a long snaking column, in places five or six abreast, wound through London...."

"... this march was symbolic because it was without precedent; it was the birth of a new order arising - it was a baby phoenix, finding its wings and making its very first flight."



Union Place collective



25,000 JOBS TO GO OVER TWO YEARS. WILL THERE BE A FIGHT?

# BL JOBS THREAT

LAST WEEK, Michael Edwardes, the chairman of British Leyland announced proposals to "streamline" British Leyland including plans to make at least 25,000 car workers redundant. Big Flame asked a Coventry British Leyland worker what was behind these proposals and how the unions intended to go about fighting the threatened redundancies.

**Can you outline the main points of Edwardes' statement?**  
The main point is that management doesn't claim any responsibility for their inefficiency - all the way through it's blamed on the workers and the strong pound. The rest - the talk about streamlining - you can read into it what you like. The company claims "we do not have resources to back losers. Where plant loading or performance do not justify modernization, the plants will generally

be phased out. "Yet some of the plants they are closing down are the most modern in Europe.

## MODERN

Take the example of the Castle Bromwich plant. Only a few months ago BL were boasting that it was the most modern paint plant in Europe. Yet they have just announced that 6,700 jobs are to go there. If we look at what they have done in the past, for example with Speke, it's the work force that

they're mainly concerned about. In Speke, the only section that continued to operate was the Press Shop. The reason "the excellent cooperation of the workforce".

At Castle Bromwich, management have left the unions with three options. The first is industrial action, which they argue will accelerate the closure of the plant. The second is complete submission and acceptance of the plan. The third option is to try to change the plan, but this is simply a ploy to divide the workforce, and to play one plant off against another.

So they get the unions to do their dirty work for them and to decide who gets the chop.

Alongside these proposals to get workers to decide on each

other's fate, are productivity deals, an agreement to stop the CSEU (Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions) two day strikes, to reduce labour by 1325 workers and to work overtime. We must argue that the unions must not be taken in by this crude attempt to divide them.

## UNITED

**What has been the unions' response to the proposals so far?**

The shop floor manual unions have formed a sixteen-man committee the four staff unions have elected an eight-person committee and between them have formed a joint emergency committee, which is the first time manuals and staff have united in this way. The

unions have been given until the end of September to come up with an alternative plan, though they are asking for more time. The T and G have agreed to support any plant that resists closures, and are demanding that the Government introduces immediate import controls. The clerical section of the T and G has passed similar motion, though it doesn't include the demand for import controls.

The main problem is that we still don't know exactly what is happening in each plant, and we need to centralize the information so that we can have an overall picture of what's going on.

## Big Flame Interview

**What position are the unions in to lead a fightback?**

The main problem is that the unions in British Leyland have lost almost all credibility. In every plant they've been involved in Joint Management Committees, which have basically acted as rubber stamps for management. They endorsed the last round of productivity deals and redundancies proposed in 1977 and there is no doubt that their participation in the JMC's has led to a dampening of militancy, and so also to an erosion of wage levels. The current agreement with management on participation has just come to an end; TASS and ACTS have rejected management's new proposals and it seems likely that the other unions will follow.

**But what about the Midlands reputation for militancy?**  
Management is very much aware that Midlands' militancy is geared to wage demands and not to broader perspectives of struggle. In a confidential report they wrote: "It remains true that the memory of high wages is vivid and that for many Midlands Leyland Cars' employees the restoration of high pay appears to be a much higher priority than the retention of jobs." There is no doubt that such sectionalism must be overcome if the closures are to be fought.

## DECIMATED

**How can you see this being done?**

We must obviously coordinate our activities, and hold mass meetings in all plants concerning both the closures and our current claim for £24 across the board.

**What do you think the immediate effects of the closures would be in a town like Coventry?**

In Coventry 7000 jobs would be lost through the closure of Canley plant and part of Tile Hill. These are just the jobs directly affected by the closures and there are many other jobs that depend on the big car factories. Liverpool has been decimated, and there you can already see the effect that mass unemployment has had on families: high crime rates, alcoholism, higher suicide rates etc. It seems to be the towns that are famous for their working class militancy which are most being attacked by the Tory Government, as they were by Labour before them.



Talbot workers on the march (Coventry Evening Telegraph)

# ELEVENTH HOUR AT TALBOT

by a TGWU picket

THE TALBOT workforce is as solid as ever. Despite every manoeuvre of the management, union official and local press, we stand firm, for a rise worth having.

On September 17th, five days after George Turnbull (ex-Leyland, ex-tax exile) threatened to shut the Ryton Assembly plant, a mass meeting voted overwhelmingly to reject his blackmail. Ten days earlier, the Stoke workers had voted heavily to stick it out.

This show of strength is the more remarkable considering the quality of some of the leadership given and the layoffs earlier this year. Almost half the Stoke workforce have been laid off since January 25 this year due to the Iran situation, with most working 14 days in six months.

## PHONEY

As for the leadership, it's hard to know where to start. Duncan Simpson for example, AUEW convenor at Stoke, denies all knowledge of any secret meeting four weeks ago with the Company. At this non-existent meeting, it is denied that an attempt was made to cook up a phoney "productivity" scheme.

When something along these lines was floated to the Stoke Stewards Committee it was thrown out, showing how out of touch Druncan is.

Next on the scene were the Lord Mayor and ACAS. On Monday 10 a ten hour meeting took place with the Ryton convenors and officials. The Talbot proposals were in two parts.

Firstly, the company proposed a £4 incentive bonus guaranteed for two months and gradually run down over the next four months to nothing. By this time, it is claimed the bonus will be earned.

## FLEXIBILITY

What really stopped a deal, however, was not this pathetic deal, but the strings it was wrapped up in which included:

1. Total flexibility on a DAILY basis bet-

ween different FACTORIES.

2. Management having the right to speed up tracks and machines where production has been lost, whatever the reason.

3. Scrapping the five minutes washing up time.

4. Working through breaktimes to make up lost production.

Pat Fox, the Ryton TGWU convenor, hinted at the unions being "flexible" on such a deal. Given the solid support for the strike, any such flexibility is a betrayal of the membership.

The collapse of these manoeuvres led local official Andy Smart to introduce a new gambit - the involvement of the national union officials (is this a vote of no confidence in himself and other local officials?). It is quite clear that Brothers Evans and Duffy are unhappy at the amounts of cash going in strike pay.

These national officials will settle at any cost. The likely lines are a revival of incentive schemes as the only extra on top of 5½% already offered.

The delegations around the country seeking blacking and collections have had an excellent reception. The strength of the brothers and sisters on strike is obvious to one and all.

The dangers are simple. Will the double-shuffling behind our backs over-ride our sacrifices and confirm our status as the lowest paid car workers? Or can we overcome these tactics and the Company's shutdown threats with united action? The last eleven weeks have shown we can win.

# ENGINEERS' LEADERS ON THE SPOT

NEARLY EVERYONE expected some kind of a deal in the engineering dispute on September 18. After 6 weeks of one and two days strikes, and with production severely affected, the intervention of the conciliation service ACAS seemed well timed to produce a compromise settlement. But it was not to be.

## HARDENED

An AUEW Shop Steward in Sheffield explained it like this: "Duffy (the AUEW president) went to that meeting with his tail between his legs. He'd have liked to call the strikes off, but couldn't come away without something to show to the members. The employers Federation could see the strikes weakening if the two-day stoppages continued, and so hardened their position".

Had the unions gone for an all-out strike early on in the dispute, when they had overwhelming support, there is little doubt they would have got a quick settlement. Instead the Confed leaders took the classic 'middle road', hoping that token one and two day strikes would be enough to get at least part way to the full claim. And the left has not been well enough organised to push the leadership into backing an all-out strike or calling it themselves.

## PRINCIPLES

As the dispute dragged on, it increasingly became a question of principles - a common implementation date in April, and a commitment to 35 hours by 1982. But according to the Guardian, Duffy and the other leaders are prepared to drop even the hours claim in return for an extra 2 days holiday.

Not surprisingly, a lot of engineering workers are getting fed up. "The lads are saying that it's been going on so long we ought to go all out for 35 hours now and a higher basic rate still". (the original claim for £80 basic went to the employers in February and was formulated in 1978).

## EGG

The way the strike has been handled has also been affected by forthcoming elections in the AUEW, Terry Duffy has to

restand for President next year and doesn't want to be seen with too much egg on his face. Bob Wright who's the Broadleft candidate for Assistant General Secretary this year, and may challenge Duffy again next year, is however playing a very low key role. The failure of the Broad left to follow up their excellent initiative in July in calling a national shop stewards conference and combining the campaign for an indefinite stoppage through official channels with an unofficial campaign amongst the rank and file has helped to leave engineering workers very vulnerable to a sell-out.

There appear to be only two options left now - either a continuation of the two-day strikes - and growing demoralisation; or, an all-out indefinite strike - the only way to win the full claim.

*Footnote: many engineering firms have been laying off workers as a result of the 2 day strikes. 600 workers at GEC in Sheffield had an answer to this, they occupied the plant - 24 hours a day - and then contacted other GEC workers for a joint approach to the management.*



THE ENGINEERS strike has taken almost everyone by surprise. The right-wing leadership of the AUEW, Duffy and Boyd, wanted to shadow-box their way through a claim for shorter hours, longer holidays and an £80 basic. The employers expected a re-run of previous disputes - token action, followed by a quick compromise settlement. Instead, the union leaders have got a real live struggle on their hands.

## ST. ALBANS

"At first, management didn't take us seriously, but now all the engineering shops have stopped dead they are getting very worried". It's the first time in its 30 year history, that the Marconi plant in St Albans has had pickets on the gates. There are pickets outside another St Albans engineering factory, Eleco Ltd.

"Eleco has been going since the first world war and this is the first time it has seen a strike".

At Eleco the issues are clear. Some workers are getting £15

under the £80 basic demanded by the unions. At Marconi the main quarrel with the management is over the 39 hour week demand.

## PRESTON

At the British Aircraft Corporation's Preston works, the fight is to reduce the working week, increase holidays, and so save jobs.

Wherever you go, the impressive feature of this strike is that thousands of workers who have never taken action before in their lives, as in St Albans, are digging in

their heels on the shorter working week. Duffy has ruled out a 35 hours week for this year and even hinted that the 39 hour week demand could be dropped in return for maybe another day's holiday - but the strength of feeling for the strike only seems to get stronger.

## MANCHESTER

As elsewhere, local employers have taken a harder line than usual. At GEC, Trafford Park, 1200 hourly paid workers have been laid off following a dispute over bonus payments by 750 pieceworkers.

Even more drastic action at Adamsons Containers where redundancy notices have been issued to 45 workers, including the entire shop stewards committee!

The workers have walked out to defend the jobs and have occupied the offices of the Engineering Employers Federation. They produce a regular strike bulletin.

## WIVES

The wives and girlfriends of the strikers have also been involved in picketing the factory and in approaching the managing director and arguing with him.

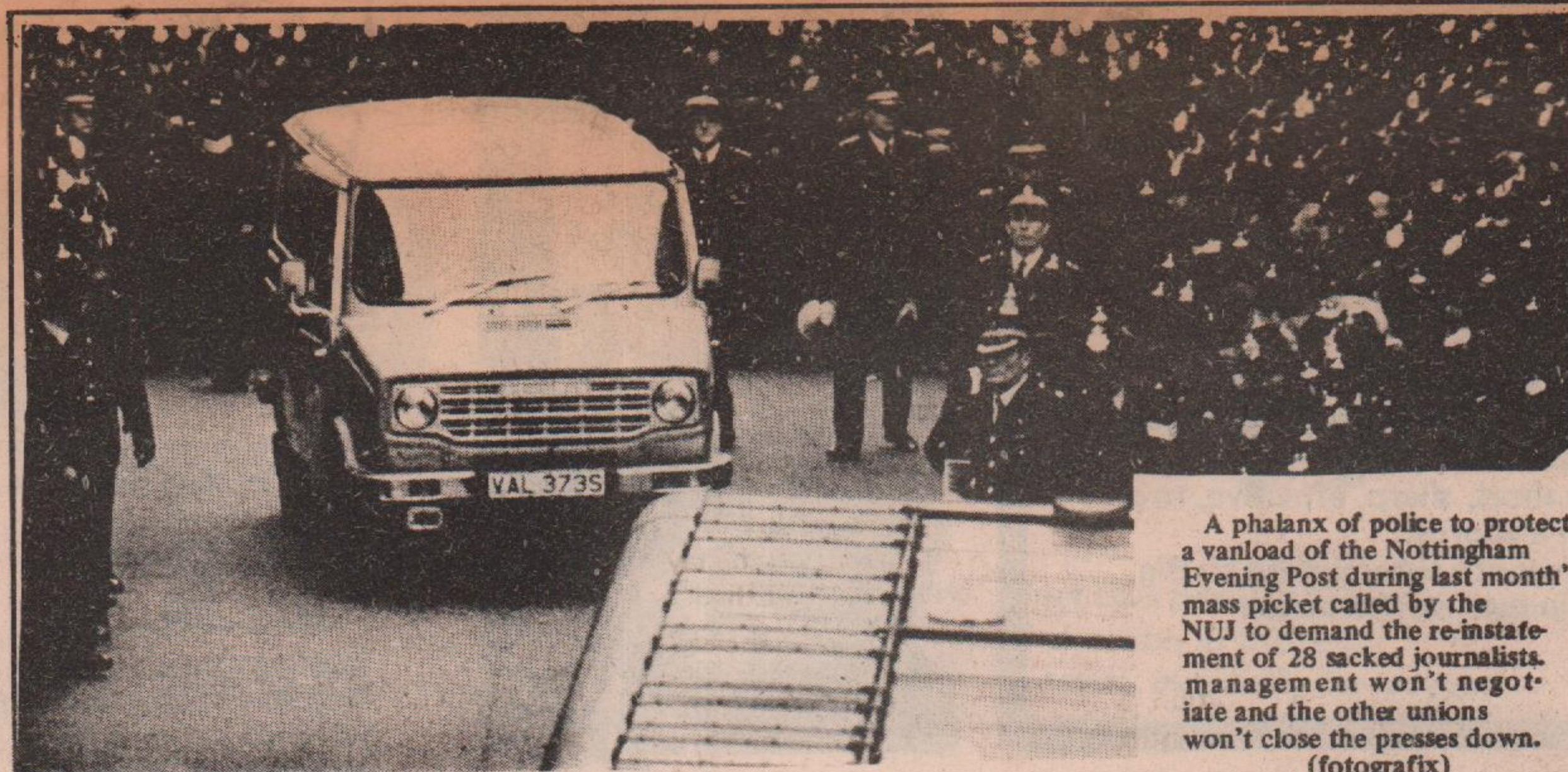
## JOBS

The victimisation of the shop stewards is the reason for this strike and as such it should be supported. But this dispute also raises questions about what workers' reactions to redundancies should be. We have seen in British Steel and various other companies the way a lot of workers snatch the redundancy money out of their employers' hands without realising they are not their jobs to sell.

## ADAMSONS

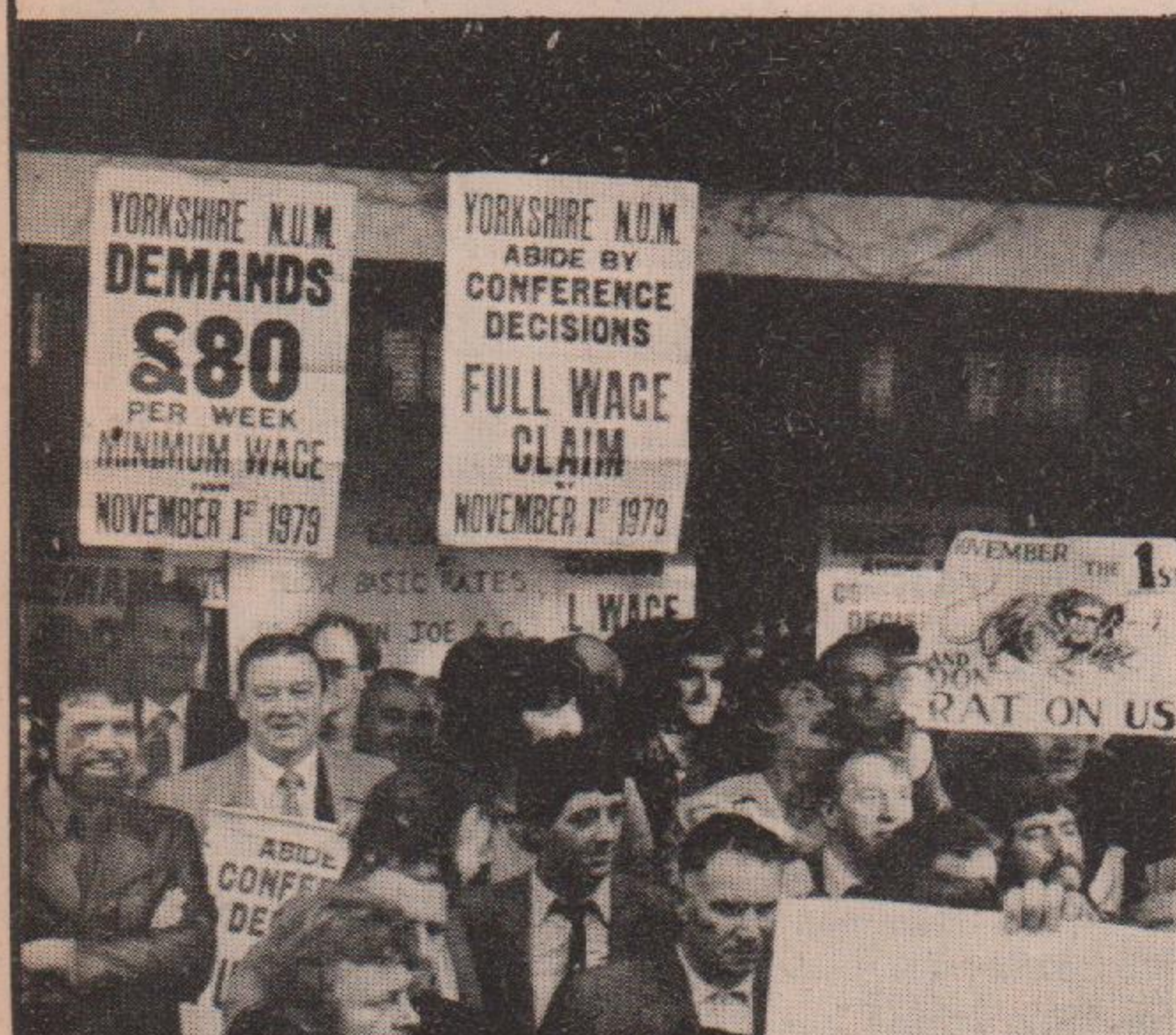
When Adamsons Management first announced that because of falling orders the workforce would have to be rationalised the union accepted a 6% annual wage increase because of "the financial difficulties" of the firm. When management announced that there would be redundancies the union did not fight, they actually volunteered for redundancy. It was only when the company insisted on including the shop stewards in those to be made redundant that the fight started.

Send donations and messages of support to:  
Adamsons Strike Committee  
5 Brooklands Road  
Off Station Road  
Reddish, Stockport



A phalanx of police to protect a vanload of the Nottingham Evening Post during last month's mass picket called by the NUJ to demand the re-instatement of 28 sacked journalists. management won't negotiate and the other unions won't close the presses down. (fotografix)

## miners press for £80 basic



Yorkshire Miners picket NUM leadership. Big Flame photo.

FOR THE second time this year the miners are 'negotiating' a pay claim. In March they meekly settled for 9% and kept faith with a Labour Government on its death bed. This autumn the situation is very different. A Tory government can expect no misplaced loyalty. The deepening of the oil crisis and the low coal stocks leave the miners in the strongest position for years.

## PRESSURE

Potentially the stage is set for a fight for the claim and yet nothing is happening. Only the Yorkshire area is putting on the pressure. The Executive of the union was lobbied by 3000 Yorkshire miners on the 13 Sept... no other area bothered to mobilise. In Yorkshire the union at branch level is doing nothing... the 3000 who went to the lobby were all committee men; only those 'in the know' even heard about it. A lot of work needs to be done in Yorkshire before the majority of miners are prepared for confrontation.

## CLOSURES

Nationally the miners are still suffering from the dual effects of the productivity scheme and threat of closures. With the

huge wage differences that now exist in the industry it's difficult to mount a national campaign. Closures are on the cards in all areas and in South Wales, in particular, there seems to be some demoralisation.

## INEVITABLE

To a large extent the outcome of the November claim lies with the Coal Board and the Thatcher government. The NUM are determined to win something worth having this time and they want it from NOVEMBER. Yorks area is making the £80 basic the priority. It's a demand that can unite large sections of mineworkers and also give a boost to low paid workers in other industries and in the public services. If the NCB and Thatcher prove as inflexible as the Engineering Employers, then some form of confrontation seems inevitable.

# OUR RIGHT TO ABORTION

All in all, if Corrie's Bill becomes law, most abortions that are now legal would become illegal, there would be more late abortions because there would be fewer places where women could get abortions because the price of private abortions would double overnight and the provision of day care clinics in the NHS would be delayed indefinitely with the excuse that they would no longer be needed. In other words, a few rich women would be able to pay for safe abortions; the rest of us would have to resort to backstreet butchers again. The threat to women's lives and health is obvious.

## ABORTION WORLDWIDE

Corrie's attack on Abortion rights - the 6th in Britain in 10 years - is not an isolated phenomenon. It has taken most of this century to win liberal laws, starting in Russia, Sweden, Denmark and Eastern Europe (1920-1950's) and moving from Britain to the United States and other parts of Europe and the Commonwealth (1960's-1970's). But even liberal laws define abortion as illegal except in specific circumstances. No country in the world has eliminated all legal and medical restrictions on abortion, mainly because a woman's right to choose has never been recognised as a valid right.

## CHURCH

The countries which have liberalised their laws have

done so under pressure from women and their supporters but always with immense counter-pressure being exercised. This counter-pressure has mainly been initiated by the Church and its supporters and is now being linked to right wing groups who see political capital in opposing abortion rights or any rights for women in a period of economic crisis. These people have linked up internationally with the intention of destroying all the rights to abortion women have gained. They can be found on every continent with their propaganda translated into many languages. Their funding is generous and the ears of right-wing politicians are being turned, as Corrie's have been in more countries than just Britain. It's no coincidence that the Corrie anti-abortion

Bill was drafted by a member of the Pro-Life coordinating Committee.  
BACKSTREETS

New Zealand passed a law in 1977 similar to Corrie's Bill. If you need an abortion there now, you must go either to Australia or the backstreets. Australia is now working on reintroducing restrictions. In the United States, where abortion had become a private matter between a woman and her doctor, there have been major restrictions, particularly for poor women. Dutch women are currently fighting a restrictive Bill in their Parliament. And although women in Italy have got the legal right to abortion it is practically unobtainable due to tremendous pressures on doctors not to oppose the Church. These are only a few of many examples.

The British Abortion Act of 1967 was the first in a major Western country to give women widespread rights to abortion. If it goes, other countries will be influenced and follow. The cards are stacked against us defeating this Bill - which is all the more reason why everyone must join the fight against it.

Caroline Lespinasse



## Corrie: A Grave Risk to our

EVERY YEAR, about 130,000 women have legal, medical abortions in Britain, including about 30,000 foreign women from countries like Ireland, Spain and Italy where a safe abortion is more difficult or impossible to get. If Corrie's Bill passes, we can expect that the vast majority of these abortions will either be done for illegally for high prices, or not at all.

Of the several sections to the Bill, the one receiving most publicity will actually affect the fewest women. This section reduces the time limit for having an abortion from 28 to 20 weeks. At the moment, only 1% of abortions occur after 20 weeks and these are usually the result of medical emergencies. Support for this section has been whipped up by false horror stories in the press, all of which have been officially discredited. It should be noted that the World Health Organisation has recently come out against any time limits.

The more vicious and serious sections of the Bill involve amending the 1967 Abortion Act drastically. Section Two alters the

grounds for allowing an abortion so that "risk" to the mother's life, health or mental health becomes "grave risk" and "serious injury". It also deletes the phrase from the 67 Act that allows abortion to be performed where the risk is greater with birth than if the pregnancy were terminated. This is not playing with words. Up to 12 weeks, abortion is always safer than continuing a pregnancy - this means that anyone requesting an abortion up to 12 weeks is legally entitled to it under the 67 Act. With Corrie's amendment, 79,000 women every year would no longer be entitled to have an abortion legally.

Section Three needlessly strengthens the already strong conscience clause contained in the 67 Act by deleting the requirement that medical staff justify their refusal to help a woman requesting an abortion.

## LICENSING

Section Four alters the licensing laws in the 67 Act. At the moment, all clinics are required to be licensed by the DHSS; a license is granted based

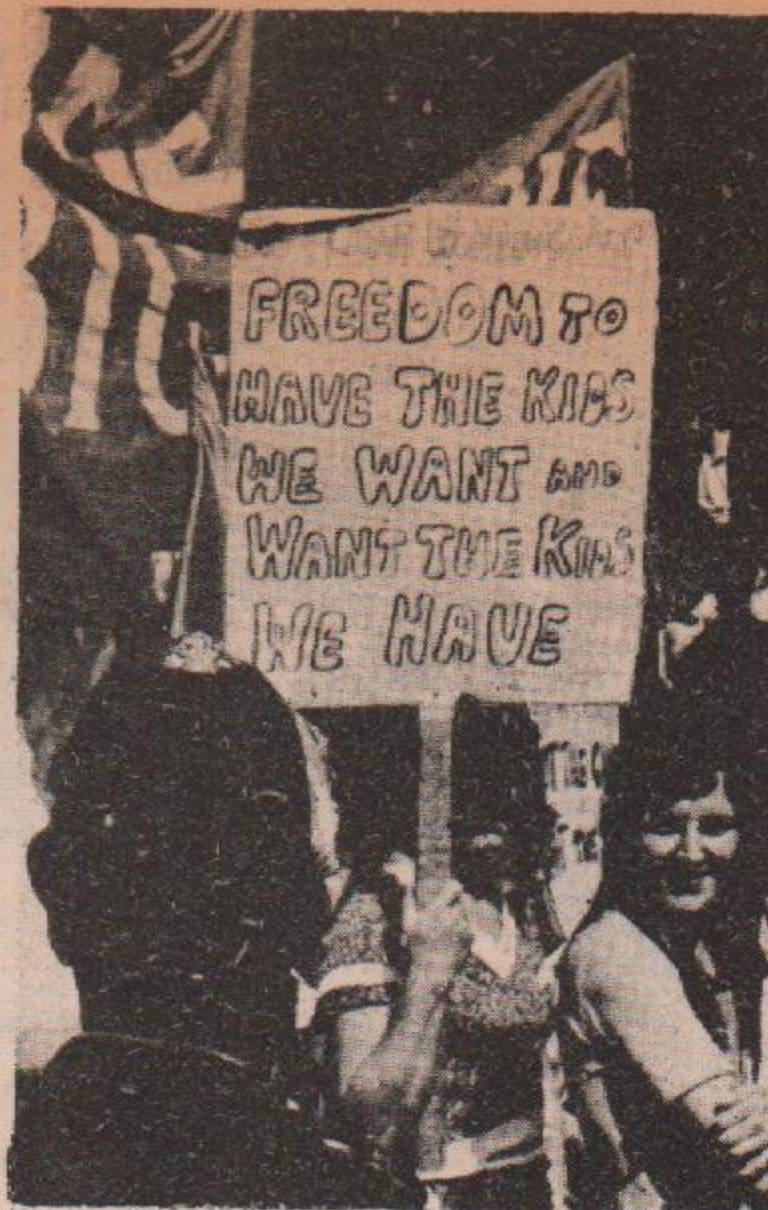
## NATIONAL MARCH AGAINST CORRIE OCTOBER 28th

WE ARE fighting for more than the right to have an abortion, we are fighting for the rights of women to control our own bodies, our own lives, to have the right to choose. These possibilities should bring us joy, so let's sing!

## BIG FLAME MARCHING SONG COMPETITION

We want you to floor us with songs to sing on the march. The next edition comes out just before so get writing. Songs for a march need to be short, sharp, effective, to a popular tune and always with a chorus.

The prize will be a free six month subscription to Big Flame, and the songs will be judged on the march - the most popular one wins!



# A Woman's Right To Choose

Recently, I was certain I was pregnant. My local health centre has supportive women doctors who are active in the abortion campaign, so I knew I could go and talk with them. I felt very foolish when I first thought I could be pregnant as I felt it was my fault and that I should've known better.

I do "know better" in that I know unprotected intercourse can result in pregnancy, and I know all about different methods of birth control - including the fact that I feel terrible on the pill and have backache, heavy blood loss and cramps using an IUD.

## MISTAKE

When I got pregnant I had left my diaphragm at home, discussed this with the man I was sleeping with and trusted him to be responsible. That turned out to be a mistake, for although we had sex without penetration at the last minute he ejaculated between my legs. I was angry at the time but didn't

think about the incident till a few days later when I started to feel sick and my breasts hurt. I knew I didn't want an unplanned pregnancy and I knew I didn't want to wait for a positive pregnancy test before I did anything as that would've turned making a decision into a complete dilemma.

I had to wait four days, before I could see a doctor. For most women it's weeks. I went with a woman friend, and I knew the doctor would be sympathetic, leaving it to me to decide what to do.

## EXTRACTION

In very early pregnancy an IUD can be fitted which prevents the

fertilised egg from implanting itself in the uterine wall, or shortly after a period is missed the contents of the uterus can be gently sucked out in a process called menstrual extraction. Either can be done instantly, with the minimum of fuss and inconvenience if the facilities and medical staff are available. I was lucky that both were.

I decided to have an IUD fitted so that I didn't have to wait any longer, although I knew from before that it would probably hurt.

It did, and I felt an overwhelming surge of rage at the man concerned, and the power that men have over women's lives. My friend and the doctor sat with me as I wept my way through a cup of tea. Despite the anger, I felt immensely relieved that I had done something, that friends had been so supportive and that I had not had to face any judgemental pressure or delay from the medical profession.

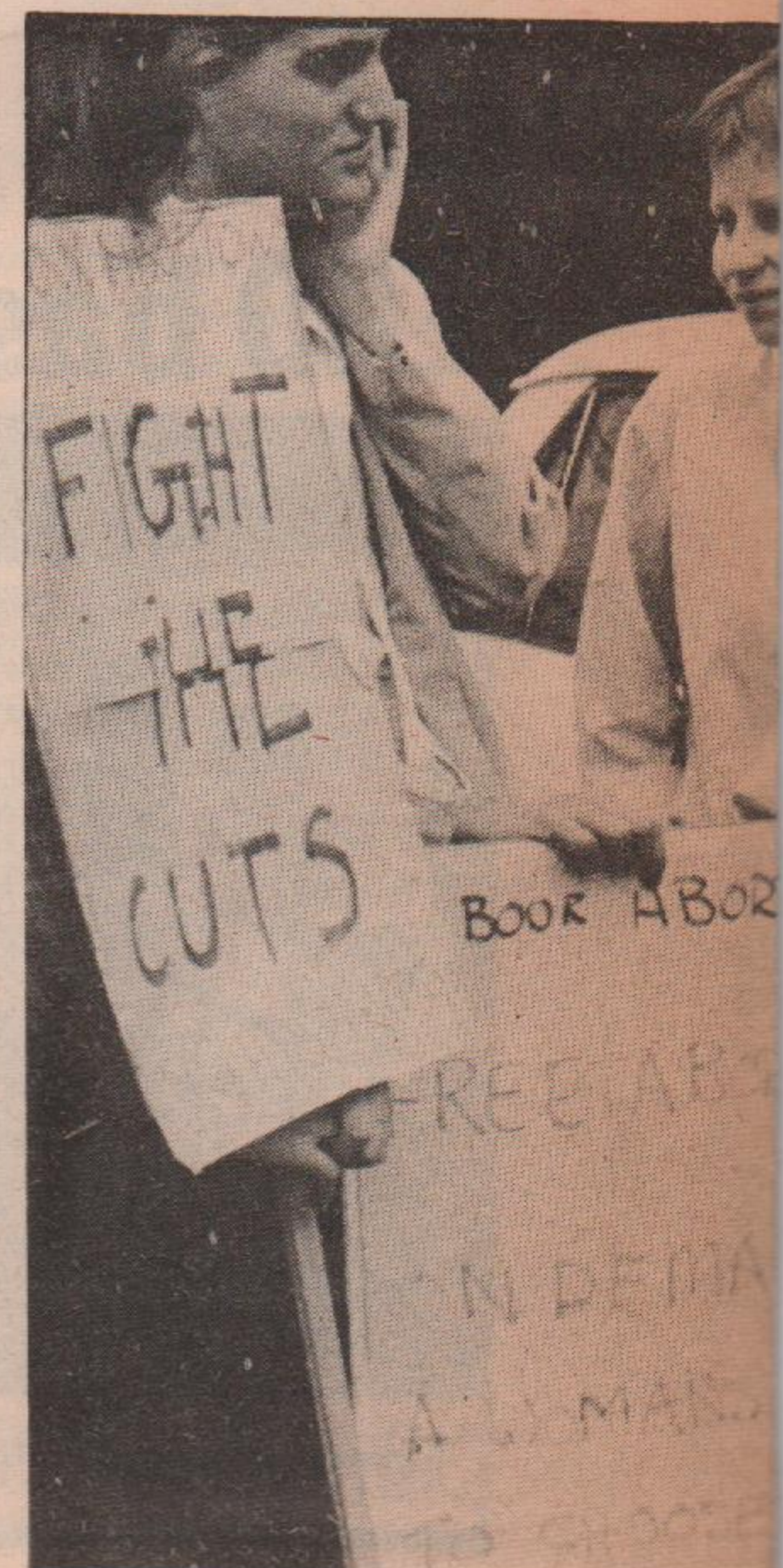
## CHOICE

That experience and the few weeks weeks before my period started weren't fun. But at least I'd been in a position where I was able to choose what to do - and I know for most women that choice just doesn't exist.

I don't know how I'd have coped with waiting to miss my period and then waiting for test results and waiting yet again for doctor's appointments.

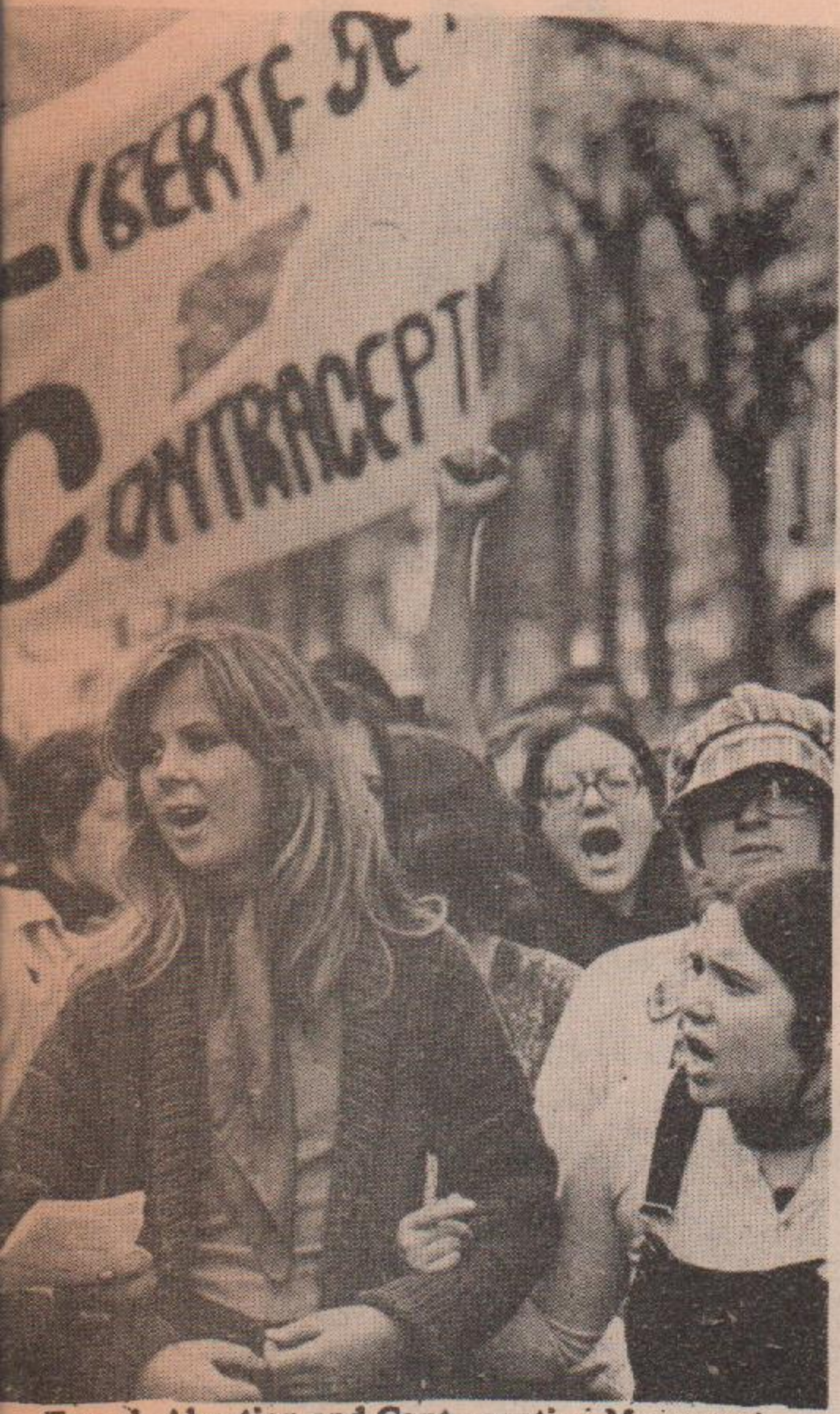
## PRESSURE

But I know that no women should be forced to go through that kind of pressure and that the medical profession should exist to serve our needs. While we have to defend the 1967 Abortion Act from attacks like the Corrie Bill, we also have to demand something better and for a woman's right to choose, like I had.





# Women Worldwide Decide!



French Abortion and Contraception Movement

## Health

on technical standards of medical care, as it should be. Corrie's Bill would make it illegal for one organisation to offer pregnancy testing, counselling and operations together. The immediate effect of this Section would be to close the two major charity clinics - PAS in London and BPAS round the country. These two charities do 25% of all abortions in Britain and one of the reasons why their services are so excellent is that they offer all three services under one roof. Without them, women whose abortions might still be legal will be forced to seek expensive abortions in private nursing homes or resort to backstreet butchers.

### PROSECUTIONS

Section Five increases the opportunities to prosecute illegal abortions by increasing the time period for bringing charges from 6 months to 3 years, grants anonymity to the person(s) bringing charges against a woman or doctor, and increases the maximum fine of £100 to £1000.

THE INTERNATIONAL Campaign for Abortion Rights was formed out of proposals made at the Socialist Feminist Conference in Paris 1977 and began to meet in 1978. In April 1979 the bi-monthly co-ordinating meeting changed the name of the campaign because we are fighting not only for abortion rights but also for safe, available contraception, against forced sterilisation and, in fact, for women's right to control all aspects of our own fertility. The new name is the International Contraception, Abortion and Sterilisation Campaign (ICASC) with the slogan "Women Decide". The name is as complicated as the issues we are organising around.

The research, testing and sale of all contraceptives is firmly in the hands of drug companies. The companies are interested in cheap, mass-produced drugs and devices at high profit to themselves. They are not interested in women's comfort, health or lives. Depro-Provera is only the most recent example. In general, no contraceptive is both medically safe and highly effective at the same time.

In most rural areas of the world, choice and availability of contraception is an unknown luxury.

In Ireland it's impossible to get the pill. In Denmark women are suing the drug companies because of thrombosis caused by high-dosage pills. In Bangladesh the pill may soon be for sale alongside cigarettes and sweets. In the USA an IUD called the Dalkon Shield was invested inadequately tested yet sold widely round the world. The number of deaths it has caused due to massive internal infections is not yet known.

### ABORTION

Women's right to abortion is officially recognised nowhere in the world. Control and punishment are still in the hands of doctors,

the Church and Government.

Until 1800 abortion was not distinguished from other methods of birth control by law or practice. In the 19th century one country after another passed laws against abortion and the struggle against these very repressive laws dates from that time. In the face of ostracism, prison, pain and death, women have chosen abortion when they felt it was necessary and always will. The attempts to stop us have been a total failure historically but they go on. The struggle against legal and medical restrictions varies widely from country to country

### STERILISATION

White women in the developed countries usually have to fight with their doctors if they want to be sterilised. But minority women in the developed countries and all poor women in the Third World are constantly in danger of being sterilised without their informed consent. Population control policies are based on the belief that the fewer poor people there are, the less chance there will be of political unrest. Under the guise of eliminating poverty rich countries withhold economic aid from Third World countries unless they accept mass "family

planning" programmes. This is not family planning as we know it. In rural South America and Africa medical teams go from one village to another injecting women with depo-provera. In India people were given radios if they agreed to the operation and were often killed if they refused. In Puerto Rico 38% of women of child-bearing age have been sterilised. Why did they "agree"? Many did not know the operation was irreversible; for most it was the only available form of contraception.

### THE CAMPAIGN

Control over our fertility is one of the most basic rights women can fight for. The drug companies, the population controllers, the Churches and Governments operate on an international scale - we need an international campaign if we are to fight effectively, as difficult as this is. We intend to expose and stop the deaths, the forced pregnancies, the forced sterilisations and the permanent damage to women's health and lives.

The first aim of the Campaign is to encourage the building of national campaigns in countries where they do not yet exist, to develop links between existing national campaigns and create an international support network for national actions.

The second aim is to collect and exchange information in order to initiate national and international actions. At each co-ordination meeting, workshops meet on 1. drugs and drug companies, 2. anti-abortionists, 3. fertility control and conditions at work, and 4. involv-

ing the labour movement in our work.

A quarterly bulletin is to be produced by the British ICASC group with a first issue in December. Its aim is to publish the information about what is happening in different countries. We have also begun planning an International Conference for some time in 1980.

ICASC was initiated in Europe and Europe is still its centre. We hope that out of the Conference, international meetings will take place regularly on every continent. A continental conference in Latin America is already planned.

### IN BRITAIN

The British ICASC group is based in London. We hold monthly forums send speakers round the country to talk about the Campaign (please invite us) and have organised actions in support of campaigns in other countries when requested. We are currently organising international support against the Corrie Bill.

Since the aim of ICASC is to encourage the formation and development of national campaigns, we have become a subgroup of NAC. We are hoping to bring together the different single-issue campaigns in Britain around all aspects of fertility control.

The Campaign is small but growing. We need women to join. We meet every Wednesday at the NAC office, 374 Grays Inn Road, London WC1 at 7.30.

By a member of ICASC and of North London Big Flame



women decide!

## Before '67

PEOPLE TALK about "back street abortions" This is the nightmarish account of an illegal abortion in the days before the 1967 Act made things easier, especially for women who couldn't afford a private operation. The writer now lives in Leeds.

### TRAPPED IN A NIGHTMARE

I was 17, and still at school. I was taking my 'A' levels, and had a provisional place at university. When my period didn't come one month, I just couldn't believe it. It felt like the bottom had dropped out of my world. Everything I had worked for and longed for was snatched away, and I had nothing to look forward to but a bleak hard life as a single parent struggling on Social Security. We lived in a small town where everybody knew everybody's business, and things like abortion were unheard of. You couldn't even get a pregnancy test. I couldn't share my secret with anybody, least of all my parents, who had made such sacrifices to keep me on at school

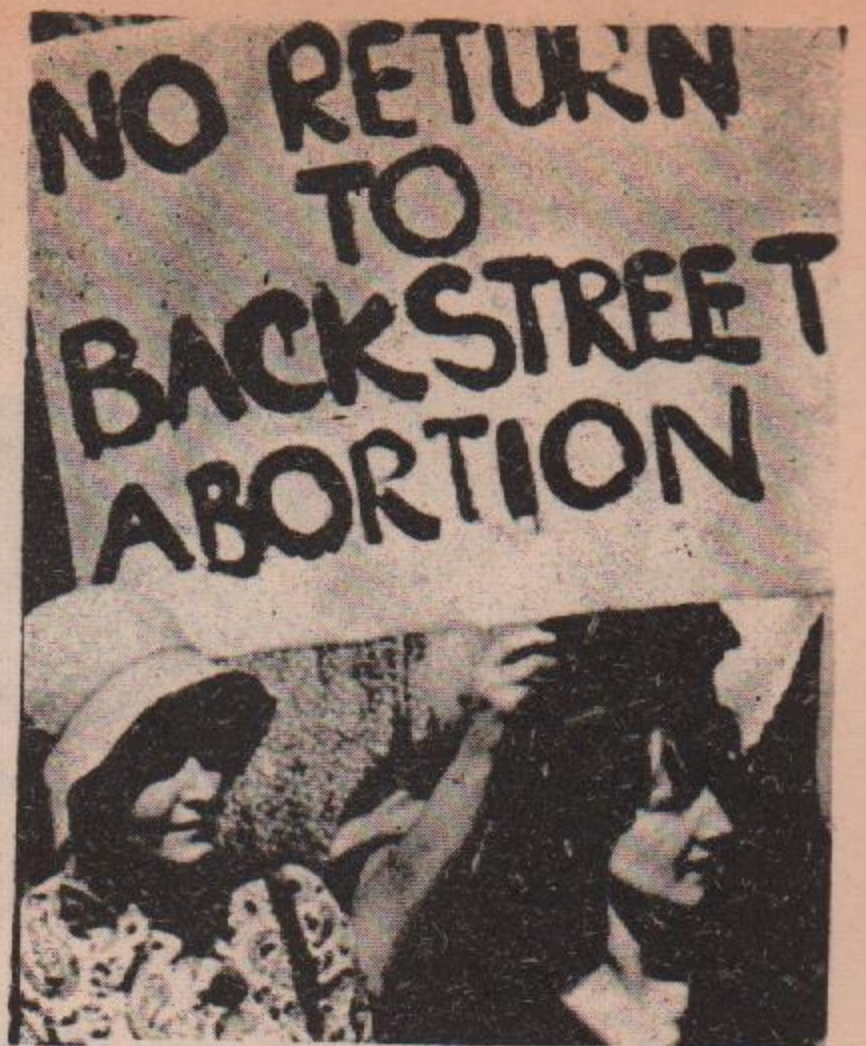
### RECIPE

As it happened, my boyfriend was working as a porter in a local mental hospital, and one of the in-patients told him a "recipe" that was supposed to bring on an abortion if you took it early in pregnancy. You had to take a combination of drugs in large doses: one was "stilbestrol", now considered to be extremely unsafe; I've forgotten

the name of the other, but it's one they use in treating Parkinson's disease because it causes strong muscular contractions, especially in the throat and uterus. My boyfriend stole prescription forms from the hospital and faked a doctor's signature. He had to steal a hyperdermic syringe, too. We got the drugs from two different chemists. Then we went back to his bedsit.

### CONVULSIONS

My boyfriend had never done an injection before, but he practised a few times on an orange before he stuck the needle in my arm. I took the pills. After a few minutes the drugs started to work. The stilbestrol made me vomit uncontrollably. The other drug made me start to tingle all over, then to twitch, then suddenly my whole body started contracting violently, like a convulsion. I was terrified. I dragged myself to the bathroom and slumped over the bath. The violent spasms in my throat made me feel as though I was choking on my own vomit. I thought I was going to die. It went on and on, the convulsing and the vomiting, till I was weak with exhaustion. It seemed as though I



was trapped in a nightmare for eternity.

### TERRIFYING

In fact the effect of the drugs lasted for a couple of hours. I was left drained and shaking. After it was over, I washed myself down, and we went and got something to eat. I expected my period to come on that night, but it didn't. So I went back and we went through the same horrible terrifying procedure the next day. And the day after. Then on the third night my period came on. I bled and bled. And I was so happy. I really believed I'd been incredibly lucky. I suppose in a way I was, because that year one of the girls in my school put her head in the oven and gassed herself rather than go through with an unwanted pregnancy. But that's not the end of the story. The police found out about the hyperdermic and the drugs; it was in all the papers; my boyfriend got a year's probation and a criminal record.

The funny thing is, I don't know to this day whether I was really pregnant or not. The one thing I'm certain of is that no young people should ever have to take the risks we took just in order to satisfy somebody else's notions of morality.



BIG FLAME PHOTO

# Merseyside Police

## MORE THAN THEY CAN EXPLAIN AWAY

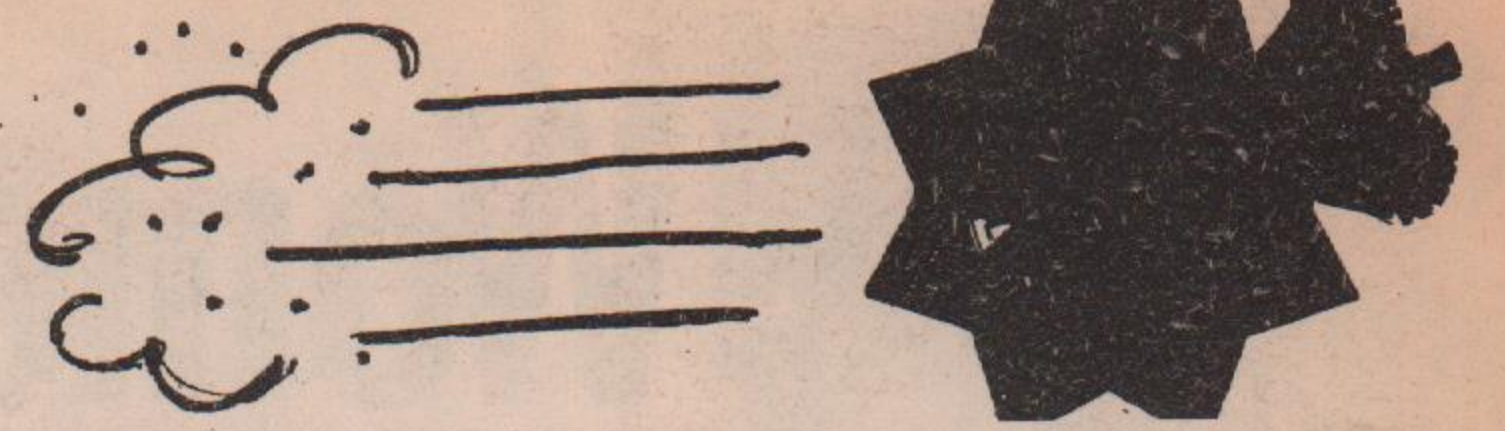


Photo by Derek Massey

Michael Cavanagh from Kirkby shows his scars following injuries sustained while in the custody of his friendly local bobbies.

"THIS CAN'T happen again" says the poster. The Michael Cavanagh Action Committee, with massive support from the people of Kirby, is fighting to make sure it won't happen again.

Michael Cavanagh is the 18 year old from Kirkby Merseyside, who was arrested outside the Peacock pub for playing a game of pitch and toss, beaten and kicked by the police, left for 3 hours in his cell while he and the other prisoners screamed for a doctor for him, and eventually bundled out of Kirkby Police Station to make his own way home. Michael collapsed outside his house and was rushed to Walton Hospital where he underwent an emergency operation, losing his spleen and one kidney.

### INQUIRY

So it's because of his appalling injuries that you've heard of Michael Cavanagh. But police brutality is part of everyday life in Kirkby. The Action Committee has taken a petition around Kirkby, demanding a full independent public enquiry into Michael's case. Nearly every one of the thousands of people who've signed it have experienced, either themselves or through a relative or friend beatings from the police.

The Jimmy Kelly campaign from Huyton has contacted and supported the Michael Cavanagh Action Committee. Jimmy Kelly was a Huyton man who died as a result of injuries he sustained while under

police arrest. A busload of from the Jimmy Kelly Committee joined hundreds of Kirkby people in a march through Kirkby at the end of September demanding an independent public enquiry.

### ELECTED

The Michael Cavanagh Action Committee has also held 2 public meetings of over a hundred people. Local MP Robert Kilroy-Silk came to the East one. A committee has been elected which includes 1 delegated members of Knowsley Trades Council, and Michael's father as Chairman. Although still unwell Michael is involved in the campaign. Michael, his father and the rest of the family are clear why they're doing it. 'It's too late for Michael, he's lost his kidney and spleen, all we can do is get justice for him, but we want to make sure it doesn't happen to anyone else'. There's a lot of women involved, many of them with daughters and sons Michael's age. Young people themselves form a large part of the Action Committee. Everyone knows it could be themselves or their children next. That's why we've got to stop the police getting away with it.

*The Michael Cavanagh Action Committee and the Jimmy Kelly Campaign need your support. Please send offers of active help, donations etc. to*  
 Michael Cavanagh  
 Michael Cavanagh  
 Action Committee  
 11 Wyelin Road, Kirby.

*by a supporter of the action committee*

## I was all for the police before this . . . .

"I WAS all for the police before this, now I don't have any respect for them."

Mrs Elsie Lawrenson, 45, a teachers assistant, is typical of many of the witnesses to the beatings administered by Merseyside police in and around the Yates' house in Prescot, near Liverpool, last August.

The Prescot case is one of many coming to light in the wake of the killing of Jimmy Kelly in Huyton over the summer.

Police brutality is a daily occurrence in any big city and is nothing new to the people of Merseyside.

### PLANTED

In fact, there's no shortage of well documented cases over the last few years - thanks to the efforts of the now defunct community paper, Liverpool Free Press ("the news they don't want you to know"). Nearly ten years ago, there was the

Jimmy Rogers case. Stopped one night in the city centre and planted with drugs, Jimmy was able to clear his name because he was the coach to the police basket-ball team.

### FRACTURED

The police tried hard to get Jimmy Kelly buried before anyone could discover he hadn't died in police custody from an innocent heart failure. The police pathologist obligingly failed to notice a fractured jaw and numerous bruises. But the Kelly family's own inquest report shows beyond doubt that Jimmy Kelly was murdered by the police. Now even local Tory councillors have joined in the Kelly Campaign's demand for a public enquiry. One of the cases brought to light by the publicity surrounding

Kelly's death was the beating received by Michael Cavanagh, in nearby Kirkby. Another mistake by the police. They released him from custody apparently unaware that he was a hospital case, despite the clamour from other prisoners in the cells at the police station to call a doctor. Michael lost one kidney and his spleen as a result.

### ASSAULT

As in Brixton, or the East End of London, or Liverpool 8, all areas where black people are used to police brutality, the normal practice in Kirkby is to charge anyone arrested and beaten up with assault on the police. Having failed to do that in Michael Cavanagh's case, the police have left themselves without their usual defence.

All this is deeply embarrassing for the police. As Councillor Margaret Simey (the only member of the police committee with any bottle) says, "the chief constable is in a right political pickle." Ken

Oxford is the highly ambitious chief constable of Merseyside - he was short-listed for Strathclyde when McNee went to the Metropolitan, although why a man with a drink problem should want to go there is a bit of a mystery - who recently told a TV interviewer that he expected martial law in Liverpool by the 1980's.

### BREAKDOWN

Oxford believes that unemployment and moral decay will cause a complete breakdown in law and order. In practice, many of his subordinates act as if that situation had already arrived.

Encouraged by the connivance of the senior ranks in such practices as beatings with wet towels and burnings with cigarettes, terror squad methods have now spread beyond the areas that have traditionally been toughly policed, to quiet cul-de-sacs in Prescot - and to families like the Yates, whose only misdemeanour was making a complaint about noisy neigh-

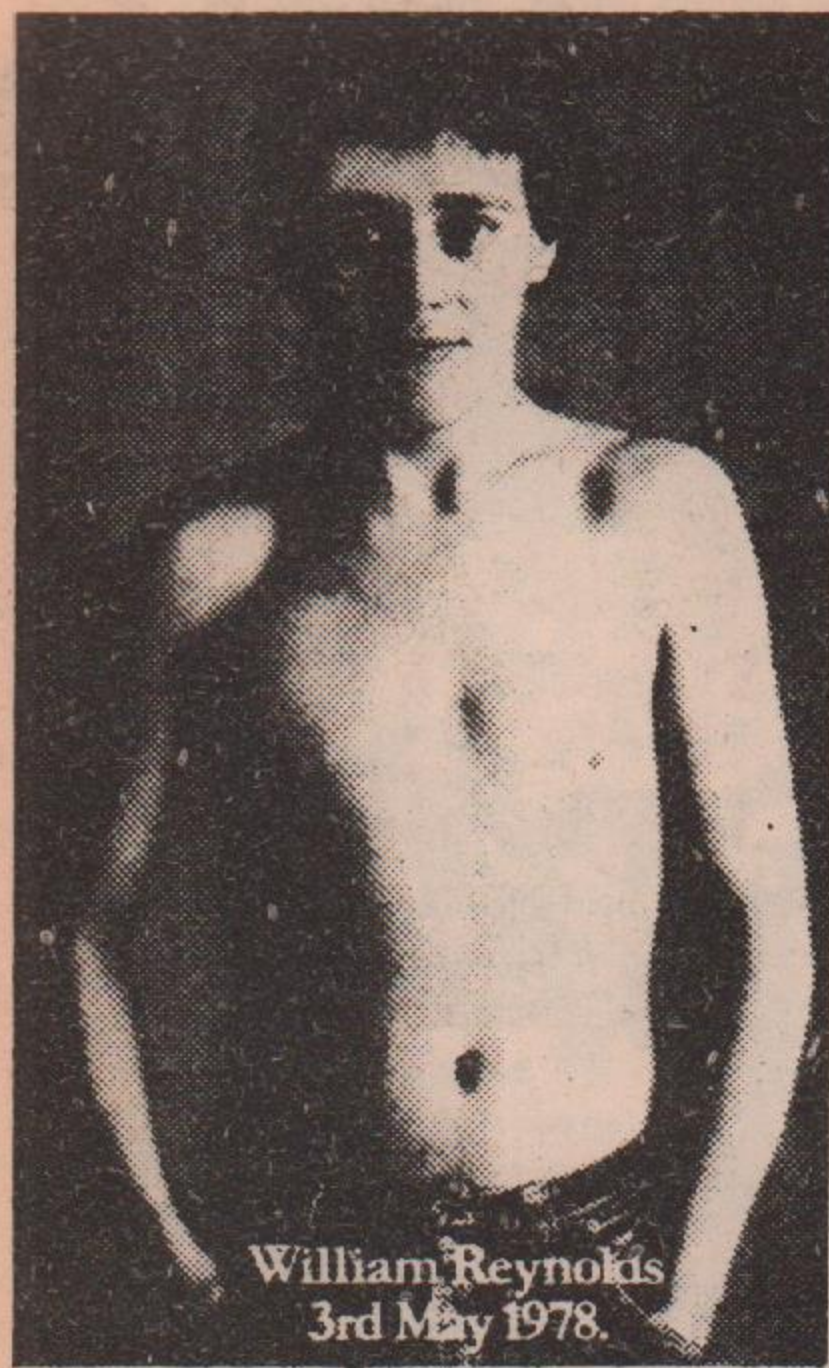
bours. (the police seem to have got the house numbers confused).

The police hate to prosecute their own. It's bad for morale. Beating prisoners is so widespread that it can only appear as victimisation within a force when policemen are charged with assault. But murder is slightly different. Little Towers, killed by the Northumbria police, was a big man, a boxer. Blair Peach, killed by the SPG in Southall was felled in public, but positive identification of his attacker has been difficult.

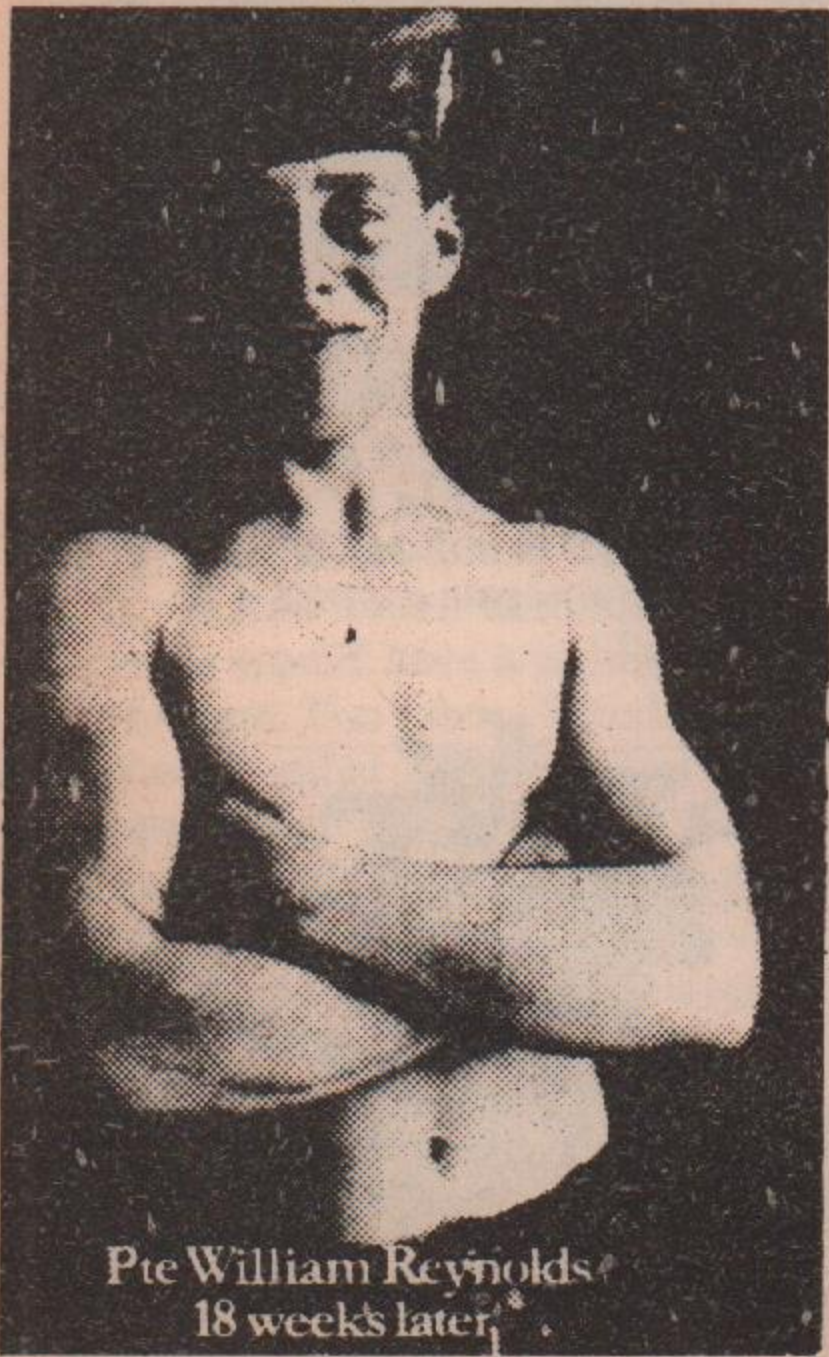
Jimmy Kelly was a quiet man. He was beaten to death in police custody.

Ken Oxford has thought and thought again, but he can't see a way out of this one. For the time being, things are quiet in Kirkby and Huyton, but police attitudes haven't changed. Where the people are getting stuck from a sick economy, the police will also do their bit to keep them down. AL

# Ex-soldiers want end to war



William Reynolds  
3rd May 1978.



Pte William Reynolds  
18 weeks later.

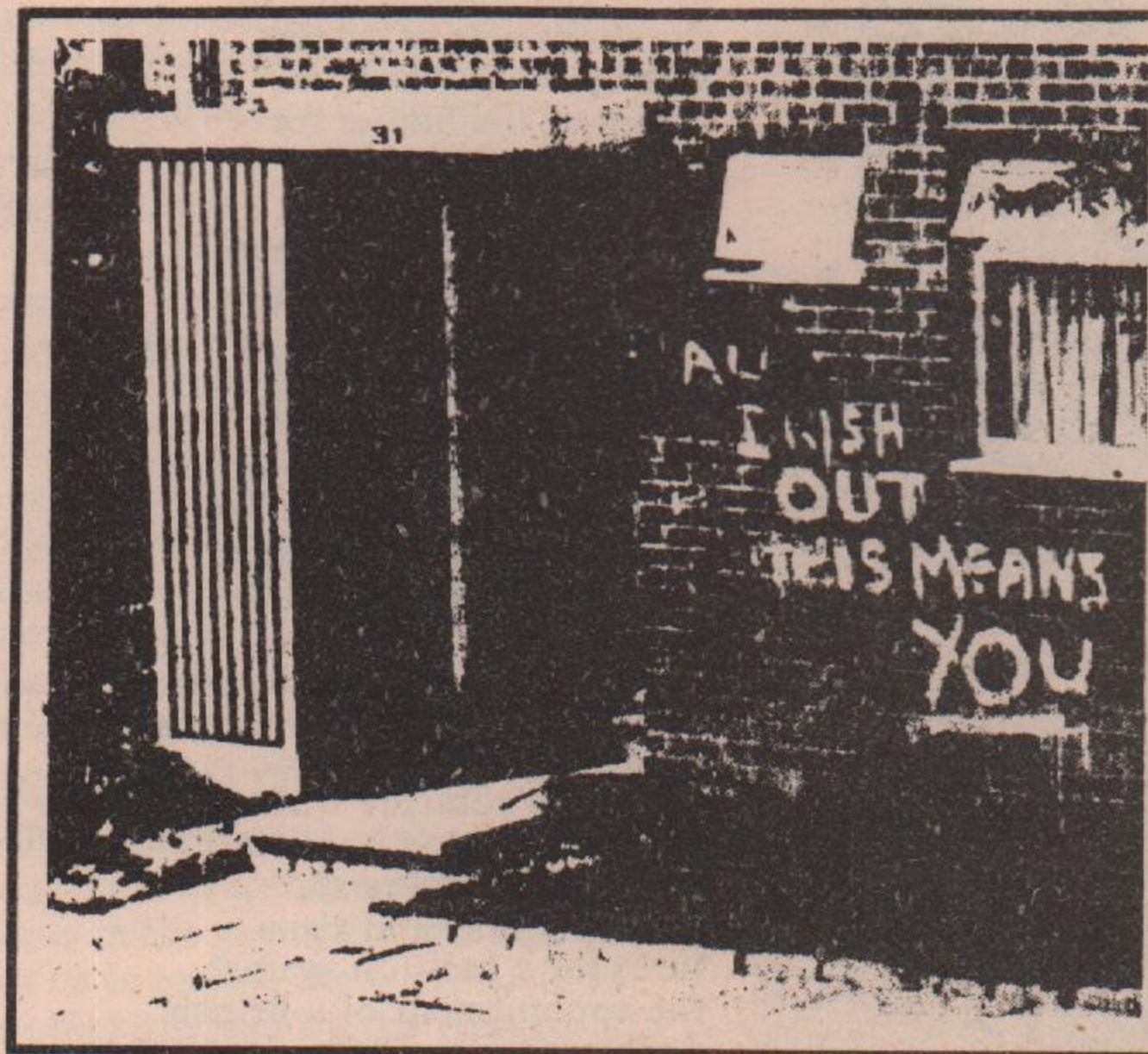
Be a man! Army recruitment ads play on the insecurity of youth, promising power - to oppress.

IN THE MIDDLE of September the first meeting was held of a group of ex-soldiers who, having served on the side of the British occupying forces in Ireland, intend to speak out loud against the continuation of the war.

Although some of them had met before, they have only recently formed themselves into a group calling themselves 'Ex-Soldiers Against the War in Ireland': This follows a surprising number of ex-soldiers joining the August 12 demonstration calling for the withdrawal of British Troops.

The group aim to fight the lies that are printed in the press about what a great job "our boys" are doing. A member of the group, Brian Ashton, told Big Flame "personally, being in Ireland brought out the class differences in the Army, I could relate to the people I was fighting because we were members of the same class. That really fucked me up. I joined to be trained as a surveyor, but they trained me as a battery surveyor, which is solely an army trade". The group hopes to be able to counter the army's appeal arguing that the trades you learn in the army are the trades of war, and as for seeing the world every barrack looks the same.

The group is planning to produce a photographic exhibition to take round the country and hold public meetings in opposition to the war. Members of the group have already spoken publicly on radio phone-ins, at rallies and at meetings. Details of how to get yourself out of the army will be published in the October issue of "Troops Out".



Ex-Soldiers Against the War in Ireland can be contacted at: Box E S room 265, 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1.

THERE HAS been anti-Irish backlash in the Midlands following the death of Lord Mountbatten. Slogans were daubed on the walls of houses in Redditch including "Out you Irish bastards" and "We don't need the Irish here".

In Kidderminster the walls of the Irish Centre were covered with similar slogans. All over the Midlands many Irish activists in UTOM have been increasingly harassed by their workmates and neighbours. Before the August 12th "Troops Out" demonstration incidents included a brick through the window and the slashing of tyres and fanbelts.

The National Front and British Movement are known to have close links with Loyalist Paramilitary organisations and have often attacked "Troops Out" demonstrations in the past. It is, therefore, very likely that NF and BM members have been involved in these latest incidents.

## "Our lads shouldn't be fighting them"

AND TWO days after Mountbatten died one item escaped the news, it somehow didn't fit in. 2,500 workers at the Hartlepool Nuclear power site walked out for a day. The strike was to call for a political solution for Northern Ireland including the call for troops out. The item was only reported in the BBC 8.00 news where an interview with shop steward Billy Kelly was broadcast, it seems that the BBC was under the impression that the strike was a straight condemnation of Mountbatten's death, when they realised that it didn't quite fit into their picture of a country in mourning they scrapped the tape and no mention was heard again of what was a major news item.

Billy Kelly told the BBC reporter, "we were very disturbed about all these soldiers dying, and we want to get them out... we want to get our lads out, it's completely wrong, they shouldn't be fighting them."

Anarchists at the Old Bailey:

## Spectacular trial farce!

SOON WE will see the start of what will probably be the most sensational trial in Britain this year when six anarchists, originally charged with "conspiracy to cause explosions", appear before Judge Gibbons at the Old Bailey. While it was as "The British Baader-Meinholds" that they hit the headlines in May 1978 when the six were first picked up, police evidence against them has weakened considerably over the past fifteen months.

This has led to the dropping of the original charge and its replacement with the charges of "conspiracy to rob", "possessing firearms" and "handling stolen goods."

Meanwhile, the focus of the case has changed once again, the most lively issue to arise being the unprecedented vetting of the jury. In early August the prosecution successfully applied for the jury to be vetted. Although 25

juries have been vetted since 1975, this is to be the most thorough in British legal history.

### LEAKED

The vetting report on 93 jurors - leaked by the Guardian - shows that one in five of them were on police records, some of them as victims of crimes. This suggests that there may be police files on 10 million of us.

The Guardian's leak means that the vetting starts all over again, on a new group of jurors.

The defence is conducting a protest against the decision to vet the jurors and as we go to press were considering whether to appeal against the vetting.

### WASTE

In court on September 11 the Judge thought that legal aid money spent on private detectives to vet the jurors for the defence would be a 'waste' (though clearly not for the prosecution), but he thought that the defence should be permitted access to the police information on the jurors. However, just how much the police would hand over to the defence is entirely their own affair.

### RIGHTS

Since there is no right of access to police records, there would be no way of knowing how much the police had given over and how much they had retained. The vetting procedure follows secret guidelines laid down by the Attorney-General for 'political' trials, and seems likely to become a feature of trials in times to come. Just as, a long with other measures, the right of the defence to challenge jurors was reduced from seven to three under the Criminal Law Act, many now fear that the increase in the use of vetting procedures is another shot being fired in the war of attrition on the right to trial by jury.

(People's News Service)

## Troops Out of Schools

The National Union of School Students is launching a campaign against Army and police recruitment in schools. "We want to show the role of the army in Ireland" Paul Taylor, a member of the N.U.S.S. national committee told Big Flame, "So far we've had some success with anti-recruitment material and theatre groups, we are working on a leaflet with the U.T.O.M. and we're also picketing army recruitment offices. The Army and Police use schools to put themselves forward as a legitimate career, but it's not a normal career. For a start

there is a contract arrangement in the army and we don't think this should be posed as just another job".

### SHIT JOBS

"We think this is the best way to build a mass Troops Out Movement". With the choice of shit jobs or the dole the army's glossies about "what a great life it is" are bound to have increasing success and how many schools would even consider to tell the real story?" The N.U.S.S. can be contacted at: 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1.

## Benefit in doubt

THE SUPPLEMENTARY Benefits Review is a set of proposals drawn up by the Labour Government to cut Social Security. These proposals are now being backed by the Tories and represent a serious threat to the working class.

Last week in Manchester, Womens Aid organised pickets at local DHSS offices and an "unemployment" exchange. This was part of a North West week of Action to publicise exactly what the cuts would mean. Thousands of leaflets were given out at each of the offices and staff joined in the picket during their dinner break.

### THE MAIN ISSUES

Everyone who is claiming supplementary benefit now, or who has ever claimed will know just how hard it is to manage. The proposals made in the Review include:

- 1) Less money for rent - for the first eight weeks a claimant will get only £6.95 for a single person or £8.40 for a couple - regardless of how much rent you have to pay.
- 2) Less money for grants - Instead of the grant system to buy clothes and shoes for you and the kids, there will be an automatic payment every six months - £6.50 for each adult, £19.50 for families with one or two kids and £26 for larger families.

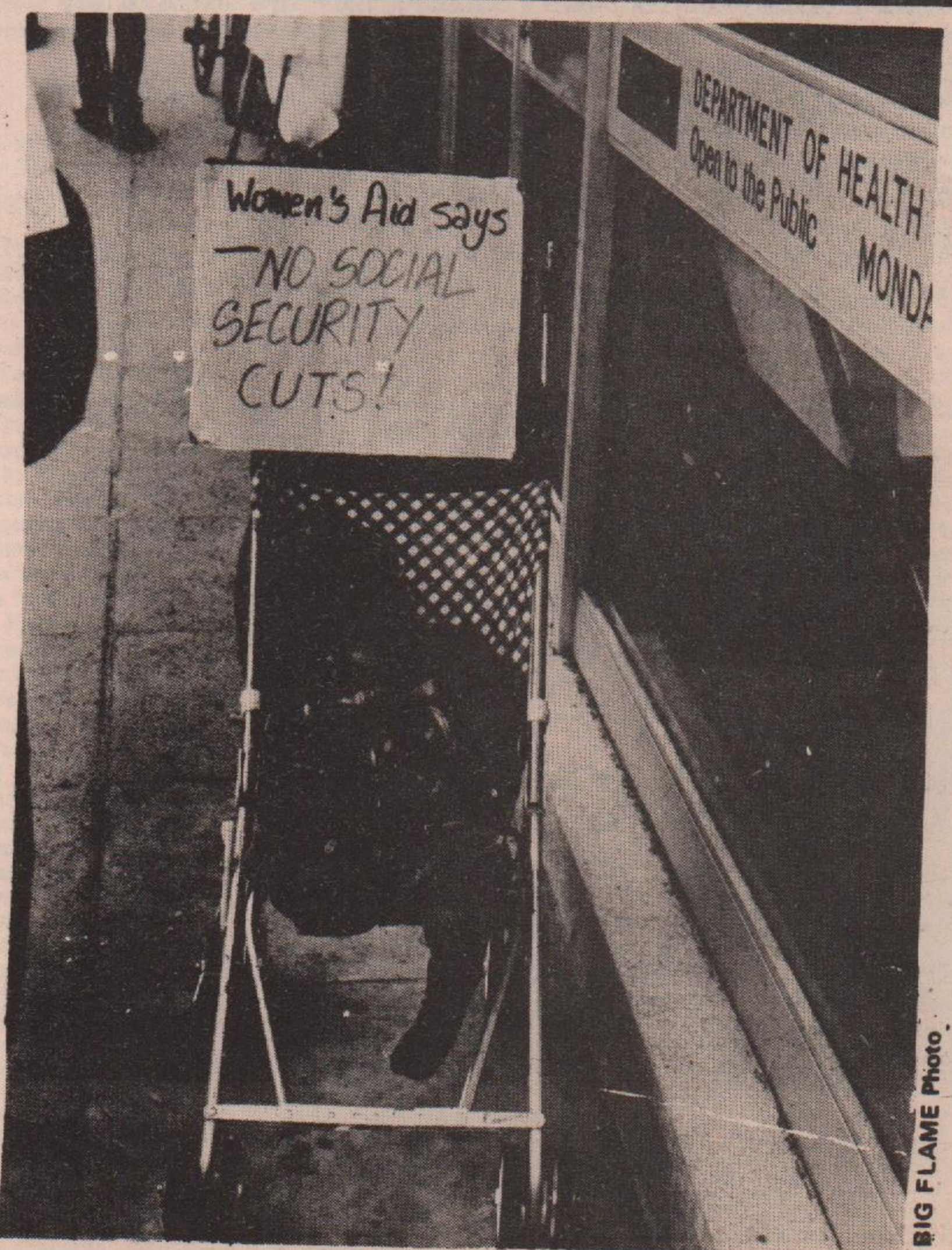
There are many more changes which will make it harder for claimants to manage and there will be fewer workers. That means longer queues and more waiting!

### WOMEN

Women already know that things are getting tougher: when nurseries close, its women who are forced to give up work; hospital cuts mean women have to look after the sick at home; and womens unemployment is rising faster than for men.

So for many women, cuts in social security will be the final straw. Womens Aid see their action as being the first round in the battle. A battle against Tory policies which put women, kids and workers first on the chopping block.

Further information from the National Campaign Against the Supplementary Benefit Review, c/o Cath Loughsey, Cheetham Hill Advice Centre, Old Crumpsall Library, Cheetham Hill Rd., Manchester 8.



BIG FLAME Photo



Alain le Garsneur Camera work

**MR MICHAEL Hudson** could be the first victim of the British Army's "hot pursuit" policy. When 18 soldiers were killed in the ambush at Warrenpoint the survivors fired wildly over the border. Mr Hudson, an English tourist, was killed, his companion wounded and many houses riddled with bullets.

A sudden ambush, by sniper, mine or booby trap, is the usual IRA tactic. Soldiers panicking in such a situation have claimed many victims. (The British press usually refer to these as being "killed in cross fire during a terrorist attack.")

So if British soldiers were allowed to cross the Border during an incident there could be more casualties, not less.

**FURIOUS**  
In fact, as we go to press, Irish Prime Minister Lynch is still opposed, on paper, to any cross-border advances by the British Army.

This doesn't rule out the possibility of greater cross-border police cooperation coming out of his talks with Mrs Thatcher. All of this, of course, goes directly against the policies Lynch's Fianna

Fail party were elected into power on — especially the Commitment to demanding British withdrawal from Ireland.

**REVOLT**  
A minor revolt has broken out in the party. Led by Sile de Valera — grand-daughter of Fianna Fail's founder, Eamonn de Valera — many members object to further collaboration with the occupation forces in the North.

**BLAME**  
In fact, all Mrs Thatcher's bluster about the need for "greater border security" is a cover-up. She is trying to blame southern Ireland for the mess the British government created in the north. The war is happening in British occupied Ireland. The IRA draws its support primarily from the Six counties — not the 26.

And the cause of the war is to be found in the British policy of dividing the country and maintaining a corrupt state based on religious hatred to the north.

Real peace and security has got nothing to do with more troops, more loyalist police or a more "secure" border. It will come about when Britain stops interfering in Irish affairs.

# ¿Dónde están? Where are they?

**ALL OVER** Chile people are struggling against the Junta — demanding to know the whereabouts of the thousands of disappeared prisoners and the return of the bodies for burial of those who have been murdered. Many are using the hunger strikes as a way of registering their opposition to the Junta, like the children of disappeared prisoners who have been on hunger strike in the Danish Embassy in Santiago, demanding to know the whereabouts of their parents.

This month Chileans and supporters organised hunger strikes all over Britain to coincide with those in Chile to publicise the situation there and collect money and signatures for a petition against the appointment of a British Ambassador to Chile.

**MUTILATED**  
People who stopped to find out what was going on in the church in the middle of Liverpool when I visited the hunger strike, were clearly shocked when they heard details of what was happening in Chile. They were only too willing to offer their support to the petition and dig into their pockets when they heard of the 2,500 disappeared prisoners, of the torture and violence of the Junta and of the recent discovery of 15 mutilated bodies in a quarry at Lonquen, for which Pinochet has taken responsibility, but not yet returned the bodies.

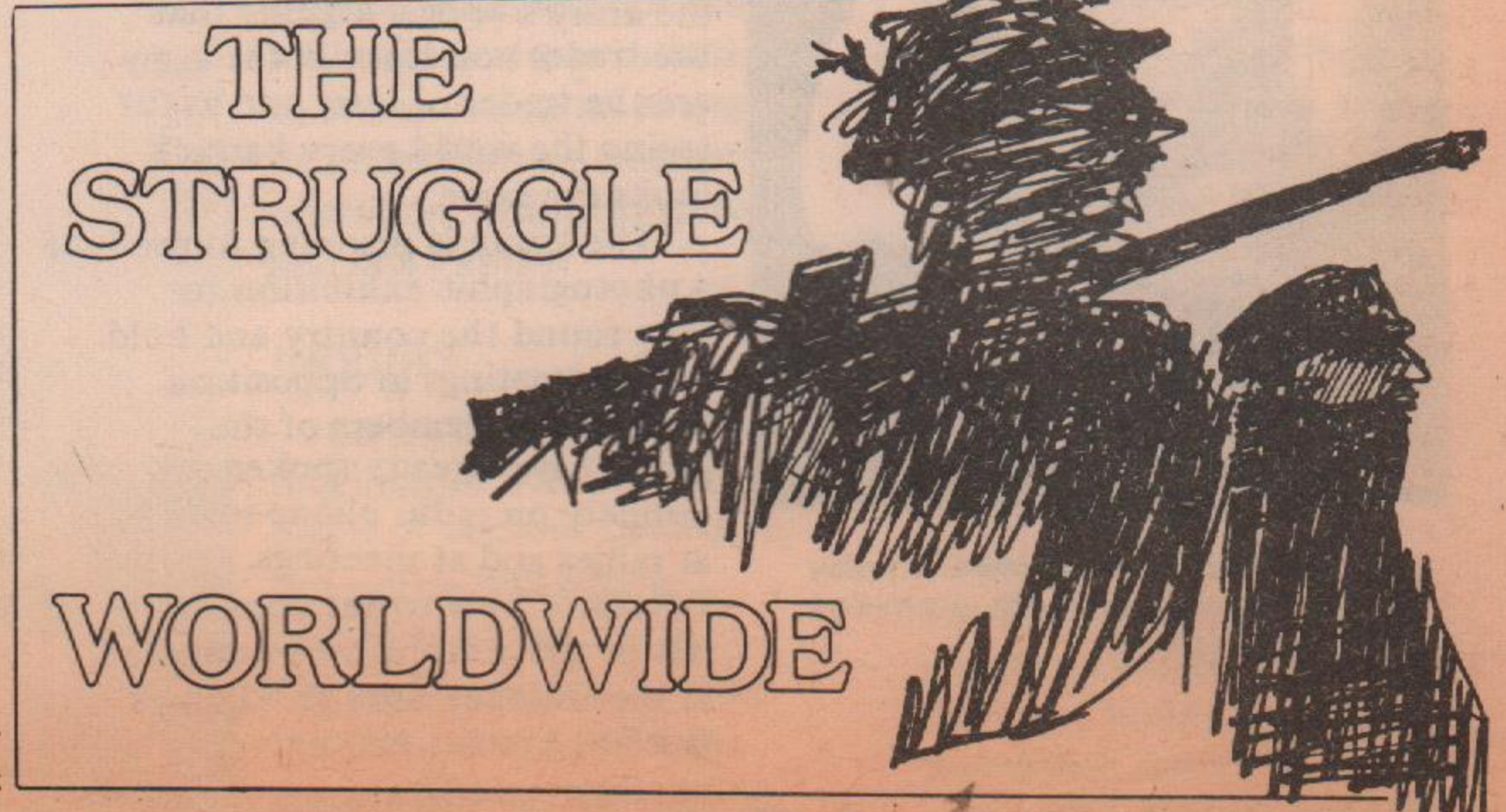
If the hunger strikes which took place in other parts of the country, including Bradford, Leeds, London, Nottingham, Norwich, Sheffield, and



Big Flame Photo

Swansea had as much effect as the one in Liverpool, then there are a lot of people in this country who will no longer be able to ignore what is going on in Chile. You might not have

heard about this in the national press, but this month also saw a demonstration in London of more than 5,000 in solidarity with the struggle against Pinochet.



## Big Flame Interview

# Workers' Power in Iran?

**CHRIS GOODEY** has recently returned from a visit to Iran. He was invited there by industrial militants to investigate the workers councils that have developed since the overthrow of the Shah in February. He talked to us about what he had seen.

Is there any continuity between working class organisation in the work-places before and after the fall of the Shah?

Not in the overwhelming majority of workplaces; though there are exceptions like at Iran National, which is a major car plant assembling Talbot kits. During the Shah's reign, the only labour organisations allowed were yellow unions called "syndicates." They were government controlled and in no way defended working class interests. In many factories, SAVAK, the secret police, had an office and was responsible for maintaining discipline on the shop-floor.

The workers councils set up since February are completely new structures though some of them have links with the underground strike committees that came into existence in the years before the overthrow of the Shah.

Do some of these workers councils now take on management functions?

After February, many managers and factory owners left the country. The new government pleaded for them to come back but they wouldn't listen. So the government had to take the abandoned factories into the state sector — by now, over 50% of the economy is nationalised. But in some cases, the government has not got round to installing a new manager and in the meantime the workers council runs the place. And, of course, there may well be confrontations if and when the government tries to impose its managers on the workers.

sent in armed goons to make sure production gets going again, in others it has tried to co-operate with the workers councils. To consolidate its support amongst industrial workers, the Khomeini government has decreed that no workers can be sacked for economic reasons. At present, industrial production in Iran is operating at 40% capacity and the government is looking for ways of re-asserting its authority in the workplaces. There is a project sponsored by the Islamic Republican Party, which supports the government, to replace workers councils with a tripartite body that would have representation for

management, one third for the workers and one third for state appointees. Clearly, this is an attempt to shift power away from the workers' councils.

What was your impression of the six workplaces with workers councils that you visited?

The situation was different in each workplace. A lot depended on what had been the state of the underground workers organisation before February. In a textile factory I visited, the Mojahidin, a left-wing guerrilla group, had formed an underground cell during the Shah's reign — some of its members had been arrested and tortured by SAVAK. When the Shah fell, the members of the Mojahidin cell stood for election to the workers council and they were elected by acclamation — they

were seen as vanguards by the other workers. Now, the workers council runs the factory. And the government is reluctant to interfere since they don't want to do anything that will lower production.

### MILITANT

At the General Motors Plant, you have a situation where the management has remained and you have an Islamic but militant anti-imperialist workers council that has demanded and won a substantial reduction in management's salaries (down from £2,500 to £1,000 a month) and is putting forward plans for increased production of public transport (buses etc.) as opposed to private cars which the working class can't afford.

In Iran National, which is state-owned and the largest car plant in the country, things have not changed much since the fall of the Shah. The president of the workers' council was a member of the Shah's administration! No doubt the lack of militancy at Iran National comes from the fact that the workers there have always a very privileged workforce with comparatively high wages and good working conditions.

In any case, the point that I am making is that it is impossible to generalise about the workers councils — some of them are very militant and progressive, others much less so.

### LEFT-WING

Have there been any attempts to bring together representatives from different workers' councils? As far as I know all there has been is a meeting organised by the Mojahidin which brought together some of the workers councils in the Teheran area. The left wing groups do not seem to have a long term industrial strategy and I did not see evidence of

things like industrial or workplace bulletins.

What power do industrial workers have in the overall political struggle that is going on in Iran?

Khomeini's political support comes from three distinct blocs. Firstly, there is the indigenous big capital sector which has no links with transnational corporations or foreign banks. Secondly there are the small traders of the bazaars, the street traders and peasants. Then, thirdly, you have the industrial working class which is definitely a privileged section of the working class.

### DIVISIONS

Of course, there are divisions between the small traders and the working class, but my own feeling is that they are less acute than the divisions between small traders and big capital. The problem for the different fractions of the ruling class in Iran is that they cannot be confident about stabilising the political situation by the setting up of some sort of parliamentary democracy — as, for instance, happened in Portugal after 1975. In the current situation, no one is very keen to make a move to create new institutions with roots, since any attempt to do so might upset the present balance to their disadvantage.

After the long period of the Shah's rule when politics was forbidden, working people are beginning to think and act politics again — their first response is to support Khomeini but if he cannot deliver the goods they will quickly transfer their support elsewhere.

In this unstable situation, anything can happen. A move of the political climate to the left is far from being the most likely outcome, but it is by no means yet excluded.



**AUTHORITY**  
In some places, the government has

# ZIMBABWE CONFERENCE

THE ALL-Party conference on Zimbabwe, now on in London was called by the Tories for five basic reasons, none of which is the desire for peace or freedom.

- \* The Patriotic Front (PF) is winning the war.
- \* Parliament will debate, in November, the renewal of sanctions against the Smith-Muzorewa government.
- \* British companies have vast operations - like RTZ mining strategic minerals - in Zimbabwe and the rest of Southern Africa. These could be threatened by a PF victory.
- \* Britain trades with black African states, like Nigeria, which support the PF.
- \* The West has chosen Southern Africa as a focus for "saving Civilisation from Communism."

In this context, it is complete hypocrisy for Britain to pose as a neutral referee between two warring parties, Carrington, for example, is an ex-director of RTZ and Barclays Bank.

## TORY HOPES

The Tories had hoped that the conference would have a united and confident Zimbabwe-Rhodesia delegation, headed by Muzorewa and accepting British proposals which preserve some white privilege and all of capitalism's interests. The PF was expected to split, either immediately or under pressure from the Front Line State. If the conference collapsed with the PF walking out, the Tories could then try to recognise Muzorewa, and call him "the only reasonable alternative to chaos."

Instead, Muzorewa has barely been able to keep his act together, contradicting himself in public every other day with threats to leave London, promises of major announcements etc. While the PF have calmly and successfully pushed the British into accepting, as an integral part of the agenda, questions about the transition to independence (who controls the Security Forces?...) Finally Muzorewa remembered

his lines and accepted the British Constitutional plan "in principle".

## CONSTITUTION

These do not include "one person, one vote", and they would only set up a version of parliamentary democracy. Middle class black and white MPs would have no trouble blocking real proposals for land reform. The real purpose of Britain's Constitution is to stop a black Zimbabwe from becoming a black socialist Zimbabwe. In these plans, Ian Smith is of no use, but Muzorewa is vital. That is why the US mining company, Allegheny Ludlum, made a deal with South Africa to finance the "election" of Muzorewa last April. But it is much less certain that he would win an internationally supervised election, where the PF had even a share in the Security Forces.

## INTERVENTION?

For these reasons, Muzorewa may decide to go home; not to carry out his "duties" as Prime Minister, but to escalate the war with more raids into Mozambique and Zambia. His hope would be to force the West into a military intervention. It may be relevant that France, the main arms dealer for South Africa, has just carried out an "exercise" in Zaire to keep in practice after last summer, and has helped to overthrow the dictator Bokassa, in the Central African Empire.

An apparent failure for Muzorewa at the conference table in no way means that the British Government will accept the PF as the representatives of millions of black Zimbabweans, who have suffered and resisted over 90 years of white rule. In fact, conferences are just one wing of imperialist strategy. When Kissinger convinced Vorster to sacrifice Smith

(in 1976 after the Angolan war), he also designed the Internal Settlement with Smith. When the conferences fail, the internal settlements are tried again. When they fail, it's conference time.

But as soon as an internal settlement appears which could survive with open Western support, the British (Labour or Tory) will recognise it. Unfortunately for the imperialists, that depends on convincing the Front Line States. Western strategy, slowed down by the Bishop's incompetence, has not yet been abandoned.

## SOLIDARITY

While the PF must continue to negotiate, adapting tactically to shifts in the game, it is still correct for us to expose the conference as another attempt by the West to buy time. And the presence of the PF delegations in Britain gives a great opportunity to educate and organise. Several rallies and teach-ins have been held in London.

On September 28th, Robert Mugabe (leader of ZANU) will speak in Manchester at a rally organised by the Pan-African Congress and Manchester Black Women's Co-operative. This is involving joint work by black revolutionaries and white socialists, reflecting the relevance of Zimbabwe to the struggles, inside Britain, against racism, fascism, and imperialism. The mass meeting could begin a solidarity movement throughout the North West, which would give practical support to the PF while taking the political arguments into workplaces and local communities.

By a member of Manchester ZECC

**PUBLIC MEETING with ROBERT MUGABE (ZANU)**  
6pm, Friday September 28th,  
Apollo Theatre, Stockport Rd.,  
Ardwick, Manchester.



The Zimbabwe Conference picket

## Rhodesian Raids on Mozambique

THE RHODESIAN armed forces, true to their traditions, made their first intervention at the Lancaster House conference with a vicious attack on Mozambique. Contrary to the propaganda of a pre-emptive raid, the attack was actually directed mainly against harvest stocks and transportation links.

The raids lasted five days, immediately preceding the London conference. Using American Bell helicopters and French Mirage jets, the terrorists concentrated their attack on the important agricultural

centre of Chokwe and on a group of villages near the border. In one village, the main jail was destroyed, with all 40 prisoners killed.

## CIVILIANS

As Mozambican photographs make abundantly clear, the targets of the attack were roads, railways, bridges and agricultural equipment and vehicles. New and large grain stocks were destroyed, as were bridges linking Chokwe with Mozambique's capital, Maputo. About 100 civilians died. The only military deaths reported were Rhodesian ones.

# KENYA: 'We mustn't scare the Tourists away'

THE CENTRE of Nairobi is dominated by tower-blocks Barclays Bank, Standard Bank, Hilton Hotel. Late afternoon and a Mercedes stands waiting, an African chauffeur in uniform. A white strolls out, briefcase under arm and the chauffeur salutes and opens the door. The Mercedes purrs off to the leafy suburb where the white lives in a large house set in beautiful gardens with a swimming pool. The chauffeur lives with his wife and family in a shed-sized hut in the grounds. Back in the city, every office, bank and shop has an armed security guard sitting outside in the shadows from early evening until dawn.

Extract from the Guidebook: "Europeans here still run the best hotels and lodges, manage the National Parks, operate travel agencies and occupy sensitive civil service posts."

**ROGER OSBOURNE, a member of West London Big Flame, has just returned from a holiday in Kenya. These sketches of everyday life are his impressions of the effects of imperialism on the country.**

For the first time in my life I experienced being in a racial minority (of one) as I stayed in African hotels and used local transport. It was only for a few days, but the experience was disconcerting. I was stared at, kids pointing at the strange sight (a red nose and beard didn't help) but I attributed my apprehension to the racism we all have within us - the images that we learn as children, the very word 'African' in our sub-conscious is linked with words like savage, primitive, cannibal, with the sorts of impression that we got from Saturday Morning adventure films. As a white, I was in a high-status monied minority - imagine what it is like to be a solitary, poor, low status black in our culture.

A boy on the beach in Malindi: he is 15: I have finished primary school and can't afford to go to secondary school. There are very few jobs. You have to have relatives to speak for you or money to make a bribe. I could work in a hotel serving the white people. Pay is very bad you have to get tips. Now I cannot walk into the hotel unless I have a white person with me. Africans must be well-dressed to go in the hotel but whites can go dressed in anything. None of my brothers have jobs. I don't know how things will ever change.

As we are talking a European man is frolicking in the sea naked. A policeman stands nearby; deliberately looking away. The boy says that if an African had been doing that he would have been arrested but "all the time we must be nice to the tourist. We mustn't scare them away."

A street souvenir seller: "the way I talk to the tourist is I go up smiling. I am nice and polite and joke and laugh. They want to think that I am happy and carefree. But sometimes I have been thinking about things and my mind is far away and they come up to me and I just want them to go away so I can finish my thoughts."



The role of missionary education was to denigrate African tradition and culture and introduce "Christian Civilisation". Schools still seem caught in this contradictory role. Politicians exhort teachers not to use their position to spread dissatisfaction and unrest, teachers figure prominently in the press and their raising of funds to build more schools is held up as an example to other workers. Their ideological role seems obvious yet at the same time President Moi makes speeches stressing that Kenya has no room for ideologies. He means socialist or Marxist ones.

A letter in a newspaper claiming that Kenya has no room for foreign ideological concepts such as peasant, landlord or working class is printed alongside advertisements from Barclays Bank congratulating the Government on opening a new airport: "another achievement in the co-operation between government and business."

In Nairobi I was stopped amidst the fish and chip shops, wimpy bars and coca-cola adverts and thanked as a European for helping bring civilisation to Africa.



There's no sense in romanticising African culture. In the villages a woman's day may begin with drawing water some distance from her home, followed by a day's work in the fields, or selling of produce at market. Late afternoon may be spent collecting firewood, a tremendous burden that is carried on the back, and evening spent cooking for the family. Young girls from about the age of four will be carrying young siblings on their backs and helping their mothers. Female circumcision is still practised but amidst debate now. It is a practice that missionaries preached against. But some Africans defended it, almost as a symbol of their culture. Some apologists say that it is not complete removal of the clitoris but removal of skin from around the clitoris which allows greater sexual enjoyment. An Irish doctor I met said about 70% of the women he'd seen had complete removal. Perhaps there is some way of separating the symbolic meaning of the ceremony - the achievement of womanhood - from the physical operation.



Ngugi has written about post-independence Kenya. His anger that things have not really changed - a few Africans have benefitted but the gap between rich and poor has widened. I took some of his books with me and they often opened up conversations. Ngugi was imprisoned by Kenyatta, has now been released but is fighting for his job - the newspapers still have frequent attacks on him and occasional

defences. Reactions of people I talked to varied - many agreed with the points the Ngugi made but said it was hard to discuss these things, or that Kenya wasn't politically ready to discuss them. I only saw "Petals of Blood" in one bookshop in Nairobi and people made eager offers for my copy. One African who read it said that he thought it needed a high level of education to take it all in: "I read a few pages and it makes you think so much I have to talk to people about it."



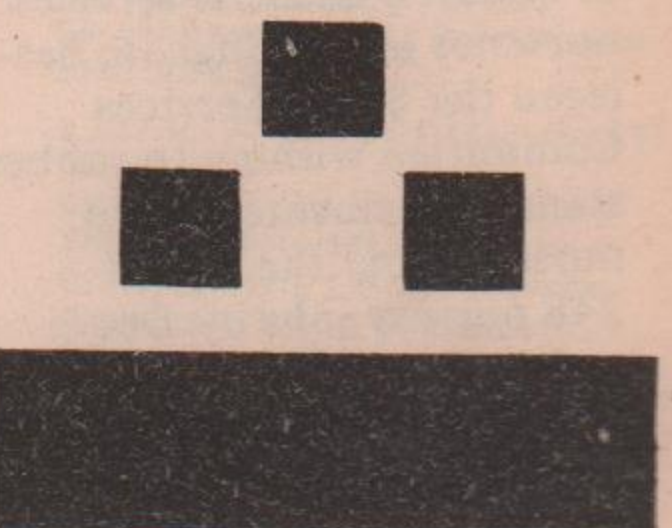
The smuggler talked to me about his work - the dangers of crossing the bush, the problem of national borders, of selling his goods and then about the prisons:

The prisons are very bad. They are like when the British were here. People get sentenced to be lashed and for hard labour breaking stones. They have to stay inside for years and years, it is like living death. There are prisons for women and children as well. I would prefer to be beaten rather than be in prison for a long time. It is like slavery. The prisoners make carvings which are sold to the tourists for a few shillings. I wouldn't buy them - it is forced labour. If prisoners have to work they should be given a decent wage. There are no jobs so you have to steal. I would not work in a hotel serving whites. I wouldn't respect myself. It is not a job with dignity doing what other people tell you all the time, getting told to hurry - "I want it now!"



The politics of photography: Tourists go to Kenya for sunshine and exotica - for many photographers the scenery, plants, animals and people are all one. They take pictures of exotic people in the same way as they do of animals - even to the extent of creeping up on them with their equipment. People become objects and naturally don't like it. Some become angry; others demand money. Children exploit the situation by being captivatingly childlike for the tourist and then demanding a shilling to be photographed. It raises all sorts of problems about how we see other cultures - there is a way in which the whole country is treated as one big zoo by the tourists. How does a socialist tourist like myself, wanting to use photographs in teaching about Africa to black kids in London, deal with the situation? I tried to explain what I wanted photographs for and succeeded in a few cases, but generally the contradictions were so great that I ended up not photographing people.

The Guidebook on photographing tribesmen: "On the 'road' you should stop in advance to shoot them: once passed they have disappeared in your cloud of dust." That way you avoid any contact.



write on

## Disillusion With ANL tactics June 79

Dear Big Flame,  
During the last General Election, I became disillusioned with the tactics of the Anti-Nazi League. I still believe in and am prepared to help the ANL in any way possible. I am now convinced that confrontation with the NF such as happened at Southall only attracts bad publicity and those type of people who have a morbid interest in mob violence to the NF. I think a lot of people who had a genuine sympathy with the aims of the ANL have been shocked and dismayed with the scenes of violent confrontation on television and have withdrawn from active support. The ANL attracted the biggest public support since the C.N.D. and instead of building on that support will end up the same way.

Between now and the next General Election, there will be local, county and bye-elections. The National Front will use these to stir up racial hatred and attract those moronic big mouthed bigots, who are despised, even by people without any political conviction. Just as the army in Northern Ireland are the best recruitment for the Provos, so too the ANL for the NF. They are a racist group who incite hatred and violence through invective and provocation. The Race Relations Act and other acts have not been used to their fullest conclusion. I know a lot of my comrades in Big Flame and the ANL will disagree with me. Hopefully not violently.  
A.T. North Liverpool

## Media must not decide our tactics

Dear Big Flame,  
I have been disappointed to see that there have been no replies to AT's letter in the June issue of Big Flame. AT argued that the ANL's policy of no platform for fascists only attracts bad publicity and draws those interested in mob violence into the NF.

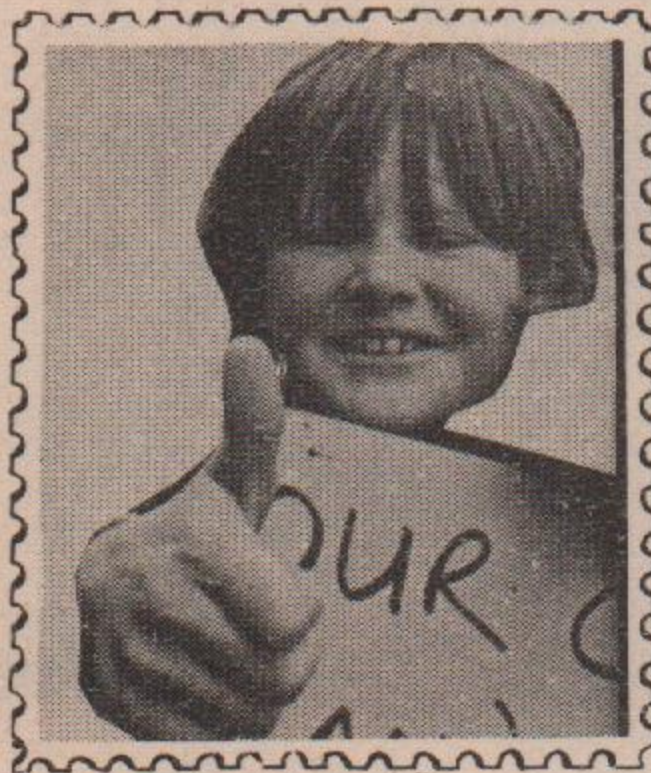
There are problems with the way no platform has been understood by some anti-fascists. The Gay Activists Alliance and Women against Racism and Fascism groups have pointed out the way it often leads to a macho glorification of the "street fighting man" image. However, the reasons behind the no platform position are convincing ones which are worth repeating.

Fascist groups are very different from other right wing groups like the conservative party. Violence is inherent in their very nature. It is essential for them to develop a military style cadre, like the NF's honour guard, which gains confidence by physically attacking blacks, jews, gays and socialists. They will make use of opportunities like having Town Halls for their public meetings to beat up hecklers and incite more attacks. The NF attracts those interested in violence, but anti-fascists can help to restrict their numbers. As they are not a normal political organisation and are based on violence, we have to prevent them from organising before they destroy us. There is no doubt that

the policy of no platform has had an effect on the growth of the NF. Even if a massive police presence means that their marches still take place, they are kept out of city centres and the sight of a few hundred fascists hidden from view behind numerous rows of police shatters their image of a confident, powerful organisation.

It is true that anti-fascists have had extremely hostile coverage from the press and television. Unfortunately, the same thing happens whenever socialists appear to be effective in any action they take. We cannot allow media coverage to determine how and when we struggle.

In solidarity, Ron Boyce  
East London.



# HANDS OFF...



Young protester against closure of Nottingham Nurseries

## NEW TECHNOLOGY- UNDER OUR CONTROL

Dear BF,  
In reply to the article in your last issue, *When The Chips Are Down*, I would just like to make a few points.

Firstly, the writer criticizes socialists who think that new technology 'could do away with dreary and tedious jobs, allowing us to work only a few hours a week.'

As someone who works with (admittedly the bottom end of the market) of new technology, in a workers' co-operative, I think that it is foolish to discount the liberatory possibilities of such technology when under the control of workers and the community as a whole.

Of course socialists should oppose the introduction of new technology on the bosses' terms, where it is used to de-skill workers and therefore employ less at a cheaper rate.

But in a situation of workers' control, rather than bosses' control (capitalism) the advent of new technology can create jobs, as it has where I work. Admittedly typesetting may be tedious; but it's far less tedious than it was on old technology; is far quicker; produces a better quality; and means we can charge less (thereby making it more accessible for) community groups, etc..

It's the old problem of people throwing the baby out with the bathwater (unlike nuclear power, say, which is insane in any form of society).

Basically, what I'm trying to say is: yes, fight against new technology under the control of the bosses. But don't discount it under workers' control, where it can mean more paid jobs; less hours; and more access to publishing etc. for non-commercial groups.

This letter has been typeset on the basis end of new technology — does it or does it not look better than the rest of *Big Flame*?

In Solidarity,  
a Leeds Other  
Paper worker  
(personal capacity).

## GOOD QUESTION

Dear Big Flame  
How can Big Flame support the masses' struggle in Chile against the Pinochet regime when it banks with



American fascism' I would appreciate a reply to this question.

Yours, PK, Stafford

A good question - which we've passed on to our National Committee for discussion and action. We can't help agreeing with you.  
Editorial Collective

## Sexual politics

Dear Big Flame,  
I'm glad to see David Widgery affirming his support for men's groups, but he cannot claim that the quote from his article on the revolutionary left was irrelevant. David was discussing the fate of the post 1968 generation and he said that a lot of people had withdrawn into astrology and having children — implying that they did nothing else, and had departed altogether from politics.

Sometimes I share the criticism — even hostility — that permeated David's article. I feel "Let down" by a lot of former comrades. But I realise — unlike David, it would seem — that many of these former comrades have a valid criticism of the way the far left goes about its business. Many of them are now to be found in men's groups where, contrary to David's implication, they are connected to revolutionary politics, and don't deserve the contemptuous tag that "they are licking their wounds."

I criticise these comrades for avoiding the real problems entailed in building a revolutionary organisation which will encompass the insights of sexual politics, as well as the better features of the orthodox left. But the orthodox left is typified by the sort of sarcastic remarks that I quoted from David's article. Despite his support for men's groups, David doesn't help unify sexual politics with straight politics. For me, Big Flame is the only organisation which is seriously trying to do this.  
In solidarity, Paul Holt.

## Autonomous movements

Dear Big Flame,  
I'd like to comment on "Labouring Under the Tories", Big Flame's new pamphlet, which tries to map the way ahead to break us out of the cycle of Labour, then Tory, then Labour, then Tory governments. Yes, we must, of course, push for perspectives which allow the link between defensive struggles and a communist future to be clearly made.

In that case, it's disappointing to discover that under the

Anti-Nazi League (which is not an "autonomous movement" but a campaign) and its work, must be broadened to fight against racist (and sexist) ideas because they cause deep divisions in the working class. Racism has a real material basis in the advantages experienced by white society as a consequence of imperialism and the present-day abuse of black people in Britain.

Because of this it must be understood that the anti-racist movement will be led — and in the recent period of militant struggles — has been led by black militants.

Unfortunately, the pamphlet tends to reduce the vitality of the black movement to black people as "victims" of "sus" or Nationality Laws. The defence of black autonomous organisations which is Big Flame's official line — is one we've been almost alone in fighting for on the white left, and I hope we continue to do so.

J. Kimberly,  
(convenor, Big Flame  
Anti-Racist, Anti-Fascist  
Commission)

## SWEAR WORDS

Dear Big Flame,  
I was very glad to read the article on the Law Commission's proposals on illegitimacy in the September issue of Big Flame. The point I would like to make is about using word like "bastard" as a term of abuse — something done, for instance, by Socialist Worker, with its endless references to getting "the rich bastards out of the NHS."

Those of us on the Left have been quite rightly forced by the women's movement and the gay movement to stop using words like "cunt", "whore", "faggot" etc. as terms of abuse. And we shouldn't go on using "bastard" just because there is not an organised movement of the illegitimate to put pressure on us. We should be fighting for the removal of all stigmas connected with illegitimacy and the use of "bastard" as a swear word is a pervasive and important stigma.

No doubt people will say to us that we are being "spoilsports" but that's a small price to pay if what we are doing removes a little of the oppression illegitimate people experience in our society.

What's left to use as swear words? Yes, that's a problem — but we've still got animals left to use as terms of abuse — I certainly don't go along with this "it's unfair to pigs etc." nonsense.

In any case, I've always felt that many people in this country have an unhealthy, over-protective attitude to pets.

# MY NURSERY!

OVER A HUNDRED mothers of children in social services nurseries in Nottingham besieged the Social Services Committee wishing to rubber stamp the closure of two nurseries and the loss of 248 nursery jobs by December 1980.

Their anger brought the meeting to a close twice and postponed it for several hours.

nursery nurses in NUPE met to consider what action to take and agreed on a programme of civil disruption including closing off roads.

Within a week mothers and nursery nurses held a meeting of 200 and now delegations, marches and petitions are all take place.

Mothers and children have blocked one of the city's busiest roads in an

to their struggle. The Social Services Committee are now considering increasing the charge for nursery places to keep them open.

These cuts have angered these women because they take away their right to free nursery provision. No nurseries means that they will be unpaid childminders, individually isolated at home.

# Which Way to Socialism?

STARTING THIS month, we look at the alternative economic strategy put forward by key figures in the Labour left, including Stuart Holland and Tony Benn.

The strategy takes a variety of forms but the common feature is usually a programme of action to be taken by a Labour Government to save jobs and to prop up the lame ducks of manufacturing industry.

As this month's contributor points out, the strong point of the strategy is that it proposes solutions to the problems of unemployment and the public services. Its weakness is the assumption that the State, directed by a left-wing government, would ever carry out the policy. The alternative economic strategy shares the same basic weakness as the Labour left itself - an unwillingness to subordinate parliamentary action to a massive mobilisation of the working class.

Next Month we'll examine the politics of import controls and review a new book of Benn's writings. We welcome contributions to this discussion - particularly on the question of whether revolutionaries can make use of the alternative economic strategy.



A whole New Board Game? A Strategy to achieve a socialist victory isn't as easy as it looks. The photograph shows workers occupying BSC Reinforcement Steel Services Division in Greenwich back in 1977

## The Alternative Economic Strategy

### REFORMISM OR A TRANSITIONAL STRATEGY?

AS OPPOSITION to the Tories gathers strength, we are faced with the question: What would we like to see put in their place? The proposal that has by far the greatest support in the labour movement is the Labour left's Alternative Economic Strategy (AES). This is usually too quickly dismissed by revolutionary socialists as reformism in another guise. *Feargal O'Hanlon* gives an assessment of the AES, arguing that it at least tries to indicate a way socialism could be achieved in Britain, a problem revolutionaries tend to ignore.

The supporters of the AES blame the economic crisis in Britain on the failure of capitalists to invest in productive industry. They see the solution as a policy of expansion and growth, encouraged by a greatly increased role for the state in economic planning. The main elements of the AES are:

- \* An extension of public ownership to include banks and insurance companies and a strengthening of the National Enterprise Board.
- \* An improvement in living standards and a reversal of the cuts in public expenditure, as well as price controls.
- \* Import controls to allow the expansion of British industry.
- \* The development of forms of industrial democracy.

#### DILUTED

The origins of the AES were in the Labour Party in opposition after the 1970 election defeat. Largely the work of economist Stuart Holland (now an MP), it was incorporated into the 1973 Labour Party manifesto. On its return to office the Labour government dropped most of its programme apart from a watered down version of the National Enterprise Board.

There are very important differences between the supporters of the AES. The most familiar version associated with the Tribune group can be fairly described as a reformist. It sees the AES as an end in itself to be achieved by a purely parliamentary strategy. The AES is not seen as challenging the present structure of power and amounts to little more than technocratic planning.

However, there is also an explicitly Marxist version advocated by people like Geoff Hodgson. The AES is presented as a transitional strategy, which will open up new contradictions and pave the way for more

fundamental challenges. It recognises that the state is not neutral and the implementing the AES would involve class struggle. This is seen as impossible without a mass mobilisation outside parliament, so that workers' control becomes a central part of the strategy rather than an afterthought.

#### 1917

Whatever inadequacies there are in the AES, it does at least raise the problem of how socialism is to be achieved in this country. Most of the revolutionary left groups have little to offer apart from simple opposition to the activities of capitalists and the state in the short term, plus the notion of an insurrection drawn straight from Russia in 1917 at some date in the future. The AES does give us a strategy, but how convincing is it?

The first problem with the AES is that it underestimates the seriousness of the crisis. It is not simply an unreasonable lack of confidence and greed which prevents capitalists from investing in British industry, but often a realistic assessment of the tough competition in a world market which already suffers from over-production in many commodities. A rush into expansion might only lead to increased inflation and, if accompanied by price controls, a crop of bankruptcies.

Any explanation of the crisis must include the working class, both in forcing wage rises and gaining control over the labour process. This control has prevented the reorganisation of production which in countries like West Germany and Japan has led to higher productivity. A regeneration of British industry to restore profitability would not be a neutral technical process, but a class struggle with redundancies and cuts in real wages. Supporters

of the AES claim that workers' participation will prevent restructuring from being directed against them, but history in the form of the social contract shows how workers' representatives can come to accept capitalist rationality.

#### STATE

Another problem with the AES is its statism. Social democracy has succeeded in identifying socialism in many people's minds with increasing state power and regulation. As they experience it as authoritarian and unfeeling, they have turned to the Tories. Unfortunately the focus of the AES is on even more state control.

For the AES to be successful it would need both the left wing to gain control of the Labour Party and the existing state machinery to be used to implement it. Both involve immense difficulties and by far the most likely outcome is for it to suffer the same fate as previous measures of socialist reform. Parts of it will be incorporated into state policy, but along the way those elements which challenge

capitalist social relations will be discarded.

Advocates of the AES tend to ignore the difficulties that will follow from the reaction to its introduction. It is likely to meet enormous resistance. Many companies will fight any state control to the bitter end and do all they can to sabotage planning agreements. Further obstacles will come from delaying tactics by the opposition in parliament, the judiciary and the senior civil service. To counter this there will have to be new working class and extra-parliamentary organisations which reject the normal channels. If this happens then the centre of gravity will have swung away from parliament and it would be absurd to be limited to the demands raised by the AES.

Socialism will only ever come about when for a large part of the working class it appears as a realistic alternative. When they begin to sense "their right to govern." This won't happen overnight and obviously genuine left government would create many spaces

which would allow the self organisation of the working class to develop. If this happened then it would be the task of revolutionaries to defend the government from attacks by the right, but also to stay outside it to be free to criticise its reliance on constitutional measures and to encourage independent working class action.

#### IMPOSSIBLE

Until this situation comes, there is no point posing a series of demands we know to be impossible in the belief they will expose those in power as orthodox trotskysts argue. However, there is just as grave a danger in going to the opposite extreme and believing that having "realistic" demands means presenting a detailed alternative manifesto that could be introduced by a government today. Once you go this way it is almost impossible to escape becoming entangled in a web of capitalist rationality. Realisable demands can be on a much smaller and less ambitious scale, aimed at particular situations in which the working class can make advances which they can control.

## sub advertisements

'Century of the Unexpected' A new Big Flame pamphlet by Moshe Machover and John Fant'ham that breaks new ground in the debate on the nature of the "second world" (USSR, China etc.) A pamphlet that reaches parts of the mind other pamphlets do not touch. 65p from PDC and all radical book-sellers.

WOMEN AND IRELAND Organising Conference Sat. Oct 6th, 10am-6pm, St Matthews Church Hall, Lancaster Road, London W1. To develop and coordinate activities on the question of the Irish struggle and women. Cost: London waged £1.50, unwaged 75p. Outside London: waged £1.00-unwaged 50p. Cheques to Women and Ireland group c/o A woman's Place, 48 William IV St., London WC2

MEETINGS IN MANCHESTER 3rd October: Friends Meeting House (Mount St) Manchester at 7.30 pm. Meeting organised by Shante and Manchester Anti-Nuclear Group on Uranium mining and Natural American Land Rights, further details 273.5111 ext. 56.

28th September. Apollo Theatre, Stockport Rd., Manchester 7.30 pm. Mugabe (leader of ZANU) Meeting organised by PAC and Black Women's co-op.

4th October. Ancoats Pub. Gt Ancoats St., Manchester 7.30 pm Alternative Technology, meeting organised by Manchester Big Flame.

THE FEDERATION OF WORKER WRITERS AND COMMUNITY PUBLISHERS' The Arts Council have rejected an application to fund the organisation on the basis that "they considered the whole corpus of work contained little, if any, solid literary merit." The Federation links hundreds of working class writers to read and publish new work. This work is in danger of collapse because we are broke and new funding will not be considered until June 1980. Please help by sending a donation, or by buying WRITING, the Federations first national anthology of member groups' work (£1.35 and p) Contact the Federation at E Floor, Milburn Hse., Dean St., Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1LF

WAITING FOR LEFTY" A new show from Union Circuit theatre promotions. At Tom Hall's Tavern, Brunswick St., The Strand, Liverpool. Fri 5th Oct. 8 pm

"CUTS CONTROL AND COMMUNITY" A conference for all involved in further and higher education organised by SCARP (Student Community Action Resources Programme) 2nd-4th Nov. University of Sussex Students Union, Details from Dave Spooner c/o SCARP, 1st Floor Bombay House, 59 Whitworth St., Manchester (061.236.4058)

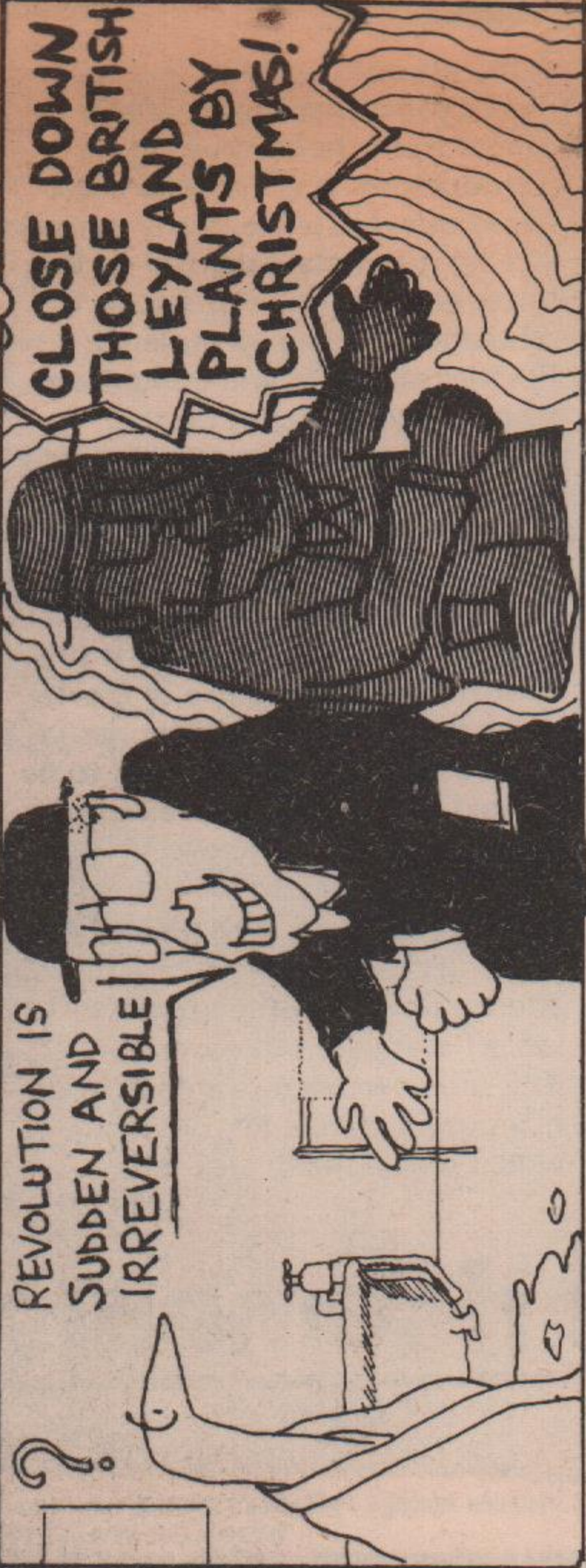
LIBERTARIAN COMMUNIST GROUP Dayschool on Revolutionary Organisation, sat Nov 10th Conway Hall, London. Workshops on Russia 1917, Spain 1936, Hungary 1956, France 1968, Trotskyism, Socialism and Democracy and Beyond the Fragments. Details from LCG, c/o 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1

**brother  
goose**

"HE WANTS  
TO KNOW  
THE  
ANSWER"

since you chaps  
are obviously all  
agreed - tell me  
what's wrong  
with revolution?

BEWARE OF PEOPLE PREACHING REVOLUTION!



REVOLUTION  
DISCRIMINATES  
IN FAVOUR  
OF ONE  
CLASS

KEEP THE  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
- CUT DOWN  
THOSE GRANTS

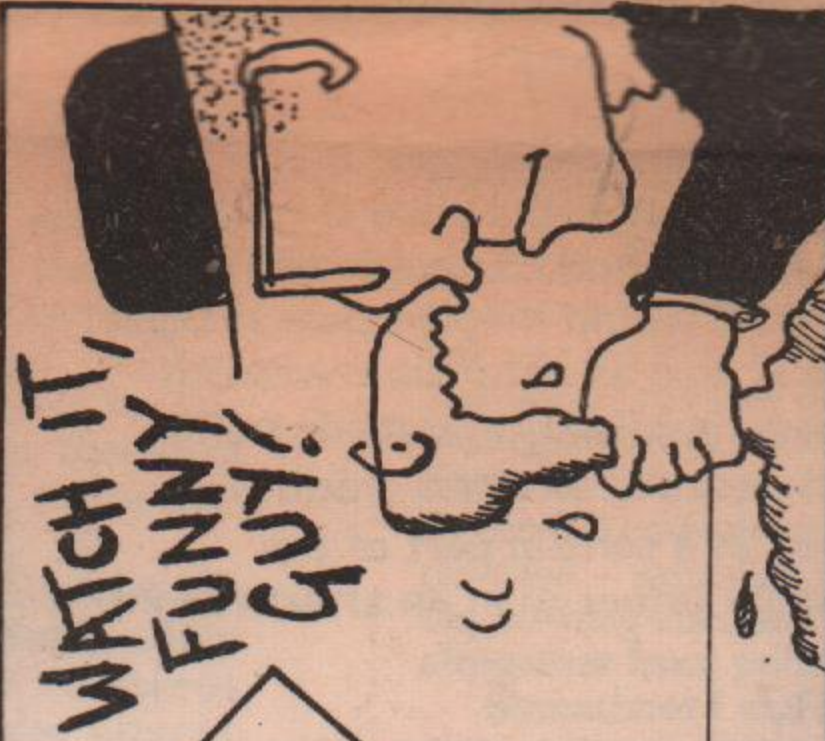
REVOLUTION IS  
IMPOSED FROM  
ABOVE  
S.P.G.



REVOLUTION IS SO  
DISRUPTIVE!

CLOSE THESE  
4 HOSPITALS  
AS SOON  
AS POSSIBLE

it seems  
to me that  
Capitalism  
is the most  
revolutionary  
system of  
the lot!



WE WERE  
VOTED  
INTO POWER!

THE PEOPLE MADE  
A CHOICE!!

but what  
happens if  
people start  
to disagree?



Yeah! Like the  
1910s lost  
at the election!  
Ble! Election!



OUR SYSTEM  
TAKES THAT  
INTO ACCOUNT  
TOO!

for Socialism  
**Big Flame**

15p  
No. 79 October 1979  
paper of the revolutionary socialist organisation 'Big Flame'



**CORRIE:  
A GRAVE RISK  
TO OUR HEALTH**

ALSO: Worldwide - Women decide P's. 8 & 9

WHICH  
TO WHY  
SOCIALISM  
a  
critical  
view  
of  
the  
'Alternative  
Economic  
Strategy'

page 15



**ZIMBABWE: Will  
Muzorewa escalate  
the war?**