

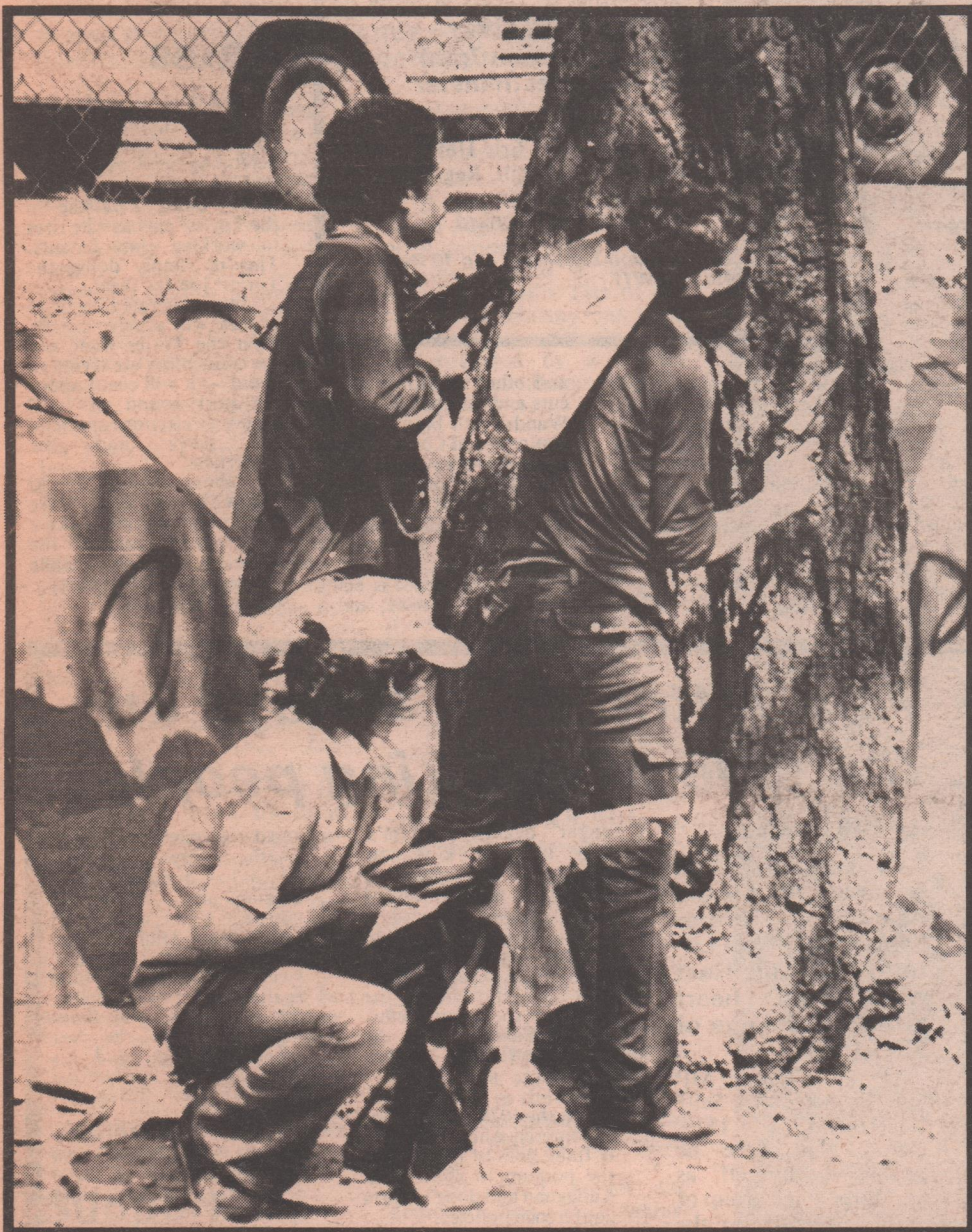
Socialist Challenge

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UPRISING IN EL SALVADOR



'THE final offensive has begun.' That was the announcement made over El Salvador radio last Saturday.

For the people of that Central American country it was the best news they have heard for a long time.

The liberation forces seized a radio station to relay their news. That was one of the early successes. Within a couple of days others were to follow.

• Many areas in the north of the country have now been liberated. These include the second largest city, Santa Ana, and four other cities.

The Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) which, along with the Farabundo Marti Liberation Front (FMLN) are leading the struggle, has called for the formation of local government structures in these areas.

• Sections of El Salvador's national army have mutinied and gone over to the guerrillas.

These include the entire 800-strong second infantry brigade, troops barracked in Santa Ana, and a leading army officer, Lt Col Ricardo Bruno Navarrete.

• Major roads leading into San Salvador have been cut off by the guerrillas. Barricades have been erected in the capital and a general strike throughout the country began on Monday.

These successes have been possible because of the massive popular support for the liberation forces. That support is not surprising.

The right-wing junta in El Salvador was recently branded by the US human rights grouping, the Council of Hemispheric Affairs, as the worst violator of civil liberties in South and Central America in 1980.

All that now sustains the junta is the help it is receiving from the USA, and the

prospect of even more military and economic aid when Reagan comes to power on 20 January.

On Monday, the junta's president Duarte said that Reagan should ensure that US intervention 'is the first thing he should do'.

In the past Reagan and his advisers have advocated a US military invasion of El Salvador. Now FMLN sources say that sections of the Honduran army, led by US military advisers, are massing on the border of the two countries.

The US ambassador in Honduras, Jack Binns, has already invented an excuse for US intervention by publicly stating that the uprising in El Salvador is 'Cuban camouflaged'.

El Salvador is a relatively small country, about the size of Wales. But what is now at stake there is immense. If its brutal rulers are overthrown, US domination of Latin America will be crucially weakened.

To coincide with the final offensive, socialists in this country should be preparing a mobilisation of their own. The demands raised by the FDR can be taken up here. These are:

- ★ Withdraw all US military personnel!
- ★ Withdraw all US support for the junta!
- ★ End repression!
- ★ Recognise the FDR as the true representatives of the people of El Salvador!

These demands can be raised at a picket of the US embassy in London, planned for Reagan's inauguration day, 20 January, at 5.30pm. There will also be a solidarity rally in London's Collegiate Theatre, Malet St, 23 January, 6.30pm.

★ See page 6 for background information on the struggle.

STOP PRESS: Tue 6pm. San Salvador paralysed by general strike. San Salvador military airport taken by FMLN.

21 FEB GLASGOW FIGHT UNEMPLOYMENT

Editorial

Socialist Challenge

Revolutionary socialist weekly

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Is Labour heading towards a split?

FOR THE first time since the 1930s there is the possibility of a major split in the Labour Party. The project set in train by Roy Jenkins — that of creating a 'centre', 'social democratic' party — looks as if it could well come to fruition.

Gang of Three member David Owen said last week that the Labour Party would be 'changed for decades' if the special conference on 24 January decides to set up an electoral college to elect the leader.

But the decisions of the conference arrangements committee on procedure at the conference, and the peculiar grouping of different options (with voting beginning at 4.30pm and the conference finishing at 5pm) make it possible that the conference could finish with no decision being agreed.

Such an outcome would effectively give the right wing another year to organise against democracy. David Owen could still get his way.

Warlike

The recent warlike statements of Owen, Mason, and others make it seem certain that a group of about ten MPs, including Thomas, Bradley, Ellis, and Wrigglesworth, are set on a split if the electoral college is decided on.

This right-wing cabal is primarily associated with the Campaign for Labour Victory (CLV). The latter is supported by Roy Grantham of APEX, and Electricians' Union leader Frank Chapple. Its offices are in a block owned by the EETPU.

In an article in the latest *Co-operative News* Mike Thomas predicted that the Labour Party would be challenged by up to 50 'Social Democratic' candidates at the next election. In a right-wing split, the MPs would expect to be joined by Shirley Williams and any re-elected MPs. It is assumed that they would stand in constituencies where re-selection had taken place.

Proscribed

At the same time, the ultra right-wing Social Democratic Alliance, which has been effectively proscribed by the National Executive Committee, has decided to stand against various left MPs, including Tony Benn.

During the party conference in October it seemed that dire threats of a potential centre party were being used to force the left to back down in its fight for democracy. This was certainly the case with the hysterical speech of Joe Ashton.

But despite the hesitations of CLV supporters like William Rodgers, the hard-core right seems determined to go ahead.

A split by ten or so right-wing MPs would almost certainly not be supported by any trade union — even if Roy Grantham of APEX and Frank Chapple of the EETPU might sympathise with the splitters. In this sense a split would in no way be comparable to Labour's disastrous division of 1931.

Pressure

What it represents much more is pressure from ruling class political forces which foresee a grave danger in the present polarisation of the two major parties. While Thatcher's insane monetarism rules the Tories and the Labour Party moves to the left, the dangers for the ruling class are grave: if Thatcherism fails, they cannot easily turn to the Labour Party in which the left is increasingly strong. Therein lies the political opportunity for a strong resurgence of the centre.

Socialists in the Labour Party should demand that Foot and the Labour leadership make absolutely no concessions to the split threats of the right wing. In particular, Michael Foot should come out in support of the NEC's position on the composition of an electoral college to elect the party leader — the option giving 40 per cent of the votes to the unions and 30 per cent to the constituency parties — rather than compromising with the right wing by continuing to support MPs having half of the votes.

Home News



Ted Knight, defends services but raises rates by £4 a week.

Lambeth conference: No cuts or rate rises

THIS Saturday 17 January, the recall 'Crisis in Local Government — National Labour and Trade Union Conference' will take place in Central Hall, Westminster.

It is a follow-up to the successful conference on 1 November sponsored by the Labour Party and trade unions in the London borough of Lambeth. That conference was attended by 700 delegates from all over the country.

Socialist Challenge asked Vanessa Wiseman, president of Lambeth Trades Council and a member of the conference steering group, to explain its purpose.

Event

We feel that the conference can be an important event in the fight against the Tory cuts in public services. The last conference showed that there was considerable opposition to the cuts, and the discussions pointed out the need for a common approach to defending services.

We wanted a recall conference so that we could organise support for any group of workers or councillors who decided to oppose the Tories. This is the aim of the conference to take practical steps to organise a fightback.

Unfortunately some councils, including Lambeth and Barnsley, have instead agreed to impose supplementary rate rises. Barnsley has even gone so far as to declare 1,000 redundancies.

If these councillors had taken a firm stand they would have got support from the rest of the movement. That was clear from the last conference.

But in Lambeth, the unions in the Direct Labour Organisation have taken a much firmer stand than the councillors. They're organising a week of action for February, and are calling on other workers to support their day of action on Wednesday 4 February. They see their strike as being against the Tories, who are forcing cuts in local services.

Strike

We will be doing everything possible to get support for the DLO. This will include asking Lambeth workers to join either the week long strike or the day of action — depending on what support they can win.

Rank and File Mobilising Committee/Tribune Rally

Friday 23 January
7.30pm (doors open 7pm)
Central Hall, Westminster

Speakers: Tony Benn, Eric Heffer, Ian Mikardo, Arthur Scargill, Reg Race, Ken Cameron
Chair: Joan Maynard

Tickets 50p from Jon Lansman, c/o 10 Park Drive, London NW11

So while the councillors — there were 72 Labour groups represented at the last conference — have not carried out the decisions to oppose cuts and increases in rates, the fightback from the unions has been far better.

Lambeth unions are getting ready for strike action,

and other unions oppose cuts and redundancies. The Wandsworth branch of the National and Local Government Officers Association (NALGO) is on strike, and various others around the country are still refusing to participate in the sale of council houses.

The conference is being held at short notice, and it

clashes with several other big events, but we still expect a reasonable turnout on the day.

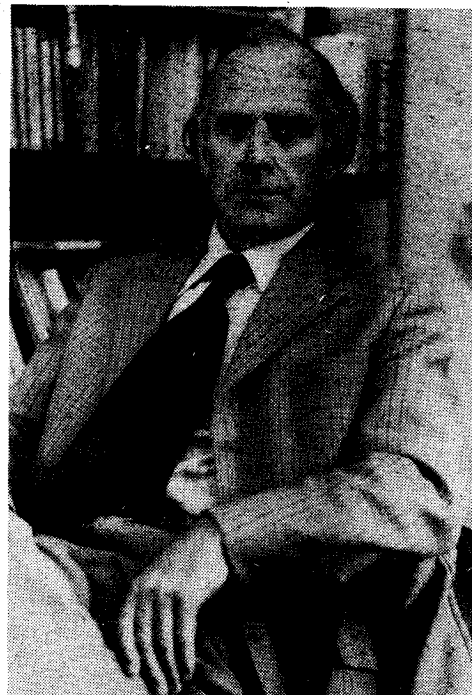
In any case the conference is only one part of the fightback. Just now we're waiting to see just how far Labour councils will go in implementing Tory cuts. These councillors have to be made to defend services and living standards, not carry out the job of the Tories in making cuts.

Rates

Ted Knight and other left-wing Labour councillors argue that they are defending services and not making cuts. But all that they're doing is passing on the Tories' cuts as rate rises to working class tenants. They're simply doing the Tories' job for them.

Imposing rate rises of £4 a week will achieve exactly what the Tories want and the councillors are trying to avoid — it will cost Labour the next round of local authority elections and send the party into the wilderness.

Labour councils should follow the lead of all these trade unionists and make a firm stand against the Tories by refusing to make cuts or pass on the effects through rate rises.



Tom Litterick — always on the side of working people

By Phil Hearse

ALL socialists will be saddened by the death of former Labour MP Tom Litterick, who died last week after a heart attack at the age of 51.

Tom was Labour MP for Birmingham Selly Oak from 1974 to 1979. During that time he established himself as one of the small group of 'hard left' MPs in the House of Commons.

He was one of the dozen or so who voted against the introduction of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, and one of the very few who fought against Britain's

entry into the Common Market on the basis of a campaign for 'a united socialist Europe'.

Like Ernie Roberts in London, Tom was never afraid to associate himself with the campaigns of the far left or speak out against the policies of the Callaghan-Healey leadership.

At the 1979 Labour Party conference he dramatically flung piles of paper from the podium to show what Callaghan had done to party conference policies.

When Socialist Challenge exposed the racist remarks of BL chairperson Sir Richard Dobson, Tom did everything he could to help with our campaign. He also wrote occasional articles for our paper.

All this made him hated by the loony Tory press which has a monopoly in Birmingham. When his marriage broke up in 1978 the *Evening Mail* and the *Birmingham Post* waged a vicious personal campaign against him. Undoubtedly this contributed to his eventual defeat in the last general election, and his replacement by neanderthal Tory Anthony Beaumont-Dark.

Tom Litterick never claimed to be a Marxist or a revolutionary; like all social democrats he had his blind spots.

But he was one of the handful of Labour MPs who was invariably seen on the side of working people — whatever the consequences for his popularity with the media or the Labour whips.

By Phil Hearse

TV comics nowadays invariably make jokes about lazy workers, usually car workers. Of course, there are 2.25m workers who have no option but to be 'lazy' — the unemployed. But when you examine the facts rather than the myths and the cheap jibes it's easy to see that, far from being 'lazy', British workers have the longest hours in West Europe and do the most overtime.

For the bosses there is money to be made that way. Far cheaper to get your existing workers to do overtime than employ another worker. And far easier to keep down basic rates when wages include a sizeable overtime payment.

Average

Let's first look at average hours worked by manual workers. For men in Britain the figure is 46.2 hours a week. This compares with: Germany 41.9 hours; France 41.1; Netherlands 41; Luxemburg 40.3; Italy 38.9; and Belgium 37.1.

Lazy British workers! With the

Why we need a 35-hour week with no loss of pay

strongest trade union movement, British manual workers put in much longer hours than their West European counterparts.

Overtime

The figures show an average of 4 hours overtime for all male workers. This is the breakdown in some of the basic industries:

TOTAL HOURS	OVERTIME
Shipbuilding 47.0	6.6
Mining 43.6	6.0
Food, drink 47.8	8.0
Metal manufacture 44.5	4.7
Electrical engineering 44.3	4.7
Chemicals 45.6	5.6
Bricks, pottery, glass 47.5	7.0

There are many industries which are not so bad, particularly those hit by the recession. But the recession hasn't meant that working hours have gone down appreciably — employers are shedding labour and trying to make the remaining workers work longer and harder.

Total

The long hours of workers in Britain can best be seen by looking at the figures for total hours worked in a year by manual workers in engineering in West Europe: Britain, 1902; Switzerland, 1827; Germany, 1762; Denmark, 1725; France, 1706; Austria, 1703; Italy, 1678; Holland, 1622; Belgium, 1611; Sweden, 1513. Engineering workers in Britain work

on average 400 hours more a year than similar workers in Sweden!

Urgent

What do all these figures show? They reveal that a constant dropping of claims for a shorter working week by union negotiators, particularly in engineering, is leaving Britain way behind. Continental workers work shorter hours and have much longer holidays. In this time of inflation, trading hours for money is a con-trick.

The figures point to the urgent need to renew the campaign for a shorter working week with no loss of pay. If British working hours were brought into line with those on the Continent, hundreds of thousands of new jobs could be created overnight.

Next time you hear someone talk about lazy British workers, just point out the facts — that British workers work longer hours and have shorter holidays. And there's one other thing — we also get lower pay.

Figures revealed a few months ago by the EEC Commission show that only workers in Ireland have lower wages than those of British workers, and that average wages in France are half again as much as those in Britain. Average pay in West Germany is twice that in Britain.

Jobs crusade starts May Day!

By John Parkinson (secretary Preston Trades Council — personal capacity)

MAY DAY 1981 sees the start of a great crusade against unemployment — the long march from Liverpool to London supported by the North West region of the TUC.

The march will take a month to reach London, for a huge rally near Westminster on 29 May. If the period between now and May is used to build the march properly, it will be one of the greatest ever demonstrations of British working people.

When 150,000 people demonstrated against unemployment in Liverpool last November it was obvious that a bitter mood of hostility to Thatcher's government was welling up. Now is the time to press forward the campaign against unemployment, with the 21 February demonstration in Glasgow and the Liverpool to London march.

The march will leave Liverpool after a big rally in the town and pass through Warrington, Manchester, Stockport, Macclesfield, Stoke and Walsall. It will stop at Birmingham, where West Midlands UCATT is already planning a rally, and Coventry. After that it will make its way to London.

Barry Williams, the president of Liverpool Trades Council who is helping to organise the march for the North West TUC, has reported that the organisers hope that the march will be met in each town by local labour movement organisations and town councils.

Part of the demonstration's activity will be the organisation of a national petition against unemployment.

And every factory will be asked to sponsor a few fellow workers or unemployed people to go on the demonstration. When it arrives in towns during the late afternoon delegations will be sent to local factories.

Support

Support from every area for the demonstration is essential. The organisers are sending out mobilising material and seeking sponsors. The organising committee hopes to establish a na-

tional committee soon and is seeking the establishment of local support committees on the route.

It is a dreadful indictment of the national TUC that this great demonstration has been organised from a locality. Since last April's 'Day of Action', Len Murray has gone missing. As unemployment has rocketed by a million Murray has almost literally deserted his post.

Sponsor

But the TUC research department continues to pour out figures indicting Murray's inactivity. Their latest survey shows that the real unemployment figure, which includes the number of people not registered, is now somewhere in the region of 3,465,000.

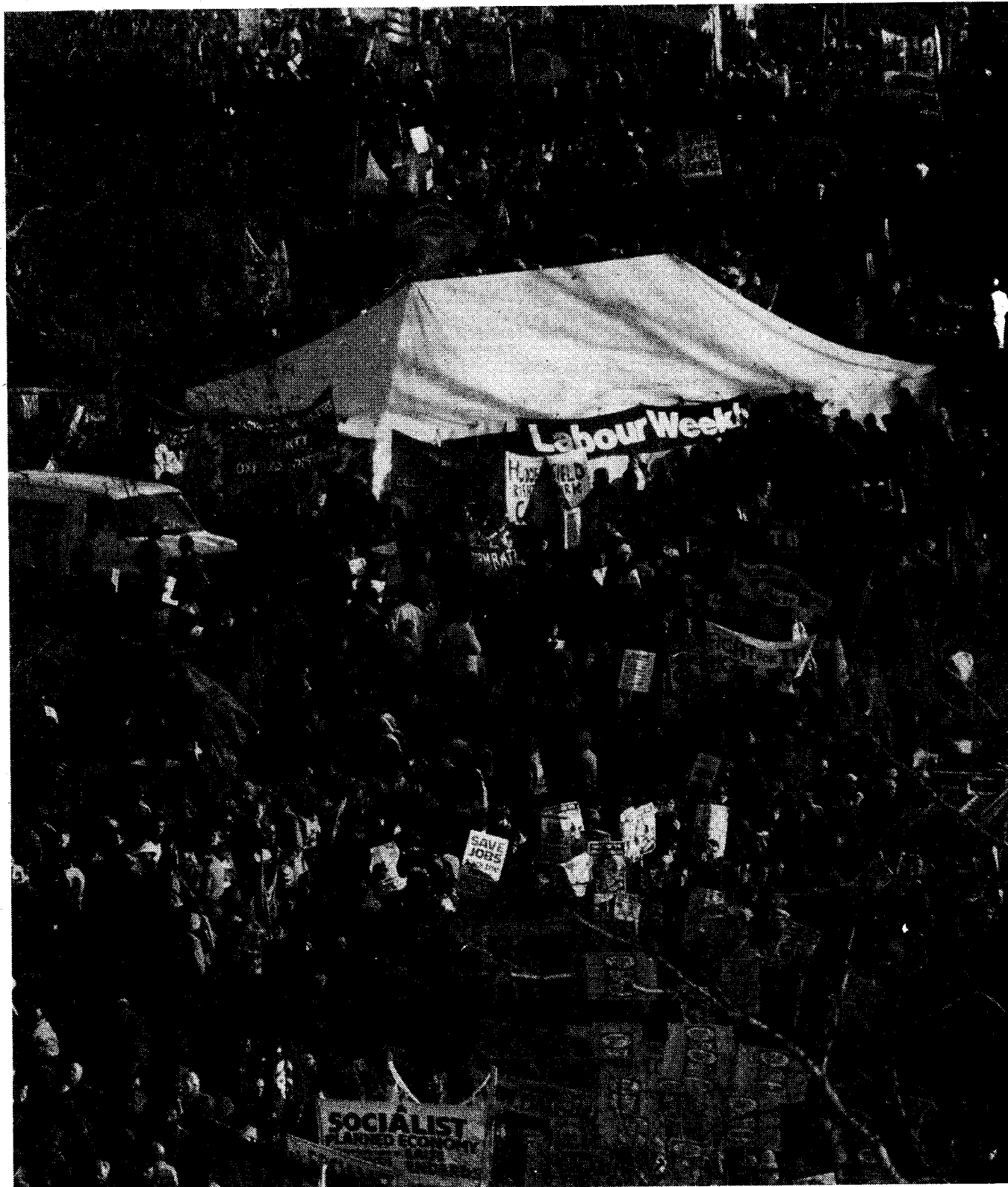
They also calculated that something like 250,000 people are on short-time working. No wonder that anger against unemployment is building up.

Labour movement activists should set to work now to organise support for the demonstration. Get a resolution through your shop stewards committee or union branch to sponsor some marchers.

Put a resolution through your local trades council to establish a support committee. Write to the organisers of the demonstration for publicity material and information.

And don't forget the demonstration against unemployment in Glasgow on 21 February!

For sponsorship and information write to: Barry Williams, North West TUC EC, 222 Stamford St, Ashton-under-Lyne, Greater Manchester.



Part of the 150,000 crowd at Liverpool's anti-unemployment demonstration last November.

Organisers hope that the May march will be even bigger.

Stop the missiles

By Brian Heron

WHEN Labour's General Secretary Ron Hayward summed up at the end of last October's annual conference, he singled out opposition to nuclear weapons as one of the most significant decisions taken.

The editorial of the latest issue of CND's journal 'Sanity' says of the election of Michael Foot as Labour leader: 'Foot has promised to go a long way to meeting CND's demands if he were to be elected Prime Minister.' On 8 December last year, Foot appointed Brynmor John, MP for Pontypridd, as spokesperson for defence.

But Brynmor John supports neither unilateral nuclear disarmament, nor the democracy of Labour's conference. The Guardian of 16 December, commenting on Mr. John's team to cover defence wrote: 'Mr. John's four-man team will now have to walk a tightrope between the unilateralists on the left

Sack Brynmor John!

and the multilateralists on the right.'

Brynmor John is not on a tightrope. He supports the main premise of the Tories' missile policy — that Britain needs nuclear weapons. Foot has appointed a defender of the latest round of missile madness.

John has a long record of support for nuclear weapons. When the 1973 Labour conference passed a resolution calling for the Labour leadership to act on the 1972 conference call for unilateral disarmament an appeal in support of this was issued by many members of the parliamentary party — but Brynmor John's name was conspicuous by its absence.

As CND leaders said at the time, the resolution and appeal were acid tests of where

Labour politicians stood on disarmament. They might have added that the appeal was a test of where Labour leaders stood on the question of democracy in the Labour Party. Brynmor John failed both tests.

Besides his record on disarmament, Brynmor John has a dismal record on other important issues. He was a junior Home Office Minister in the last Labour government under Merlyn Rees. He had special responsibility for immigration and was responsible for applying the 1968 and 1971 Immigration Acts. During his period as the Minister responsible for immigration, both the scandal of the Heathrow virginity tests and the rejection of Anwar Ditta's request to be reunited with her children marked Labour's record of racism: Brynmor

John helped to make that record.

Why did Foot appoint this man? John was fifteenth in the poll for the shadow cabinet — below both Tony Benn and Eric Heffer. But Foot didn't base his appointments to the shadow cabinet on even the spurious democracy of a poll conducted among the parliamentary section of the Labour Party.

His appointments were designed to paper over any outstanding rift between the left and right among Labour MPs. The basic method used to win this temporary and fragile unity was to give massive concessions to the right.

Despite Foot's previously long-standing commitment to the principle of unilateral nuclear disarmament, despite the resounding victory for this position at the last Labour Party conference, unity with the right wing comes before principles and party.

Those who support unilateral nuclear disarmament must demand of Michael Foot: get rid of Brynmor John now.

1981 — year of decision for CND

By Paul Smith

A SERIES of activities for 1981 have been decided by CND's national council. They include support for:

* The Easter disarmament demonstration in Scotland.

* The cross-Pennine march being organised by the European Nuclear Disarmament campaign (END).

* Four regional festivals (in such places as Gloucester and Milton Keynes).

* The Labour Movement Conference Against the Missiles initiated by Manchester Against the Missiles on 28 March.

Does this programme measure up to the needs of the movement in 1981? Already CND has nearly 20,000 members, and all the evidence suggests that it could reach 100,000 by the end of the year. But this huge potential has to be turned towards specific objectives.

Last year the Labour Party conference passed a resolution demanding the ditching of Britain's nuclear commitments. Labour's right wing, from the Shadow Cabinet downwards, will be mounting an all-out assault on this position.

1981, however, is equally the year when the disarmament movement can win the two-thirds majority at conference needed to put nuclear disarmament into the manifesto.

The TUC's present stance is not so clear.

Although it talks of alerting trade unionists and the general public to the dangers involved in nuclear weapons, it takes no position on those weapons as such.

1981 is the year when the TUC's position must be brought into line with that of the Labour Party. A commitment must be won to boycotting all work on the missiles. That is the only way to beat back cold warriors such as Boyd and Duffy in the AUEW and Chapple in the EETPU.

Finally, this is year one of Reagan's presidency in the United States. And the US military machine is already being mobilised against the revolts in Central America.

1981 is the year when the movement in Britain against nuclear weapons can help to isolate Reagan's allies among the Tory warmongers, removing an important prop from the US war drive.

These are major stakes. But CND's proposed activities in 1981 fall short of what is needed to keep the campaign right in the public eye.

To do that requires a major national event. As one delegate to CND conference put it, a demonstration of 250,000 is possible in 1981. The potential is there for CND to push the Labour and TUC leaders into action on their agreed positions.

But the absence of any such proposal from CND national council leaves the disarmament movement dangerously ill-equipped to meet the challenge of 1981. It is up to the ranks to change that.



Tuesday 20 January
**DEMONSTRATE AGAINST
US MILITARISM**

Torchlight procession and picket of US Embassy on
the day of Reagan's inauguration
Assemble 5pm at the University of London Union, Malet St, WC1

March to Grosvenor Square
NO CRUISE MISSILES!

Called by University of London CND

**CND Labour Movement
Conference Against the
Missiles**

Saturday 28 March

UMIST, Manchester

Delegations from all bona fide Labour Party
and trade union organisations

Send for details to: CND, 11 Goodwin St.,
Finsbury Park, London N4.

Stop the missiles

THE recently released Cabinet papers for 1950 reveal the reactionary secret dealings of Attlee's Labour cabinet. Following last week's article on the Cabinet papers and Korea, Bob Pennington looks at Attlee's attack on 'subversives' in Britain.

The Cabinet Papers for 1950 show what great responsibilities the Labour leaders faced. In Korea godless communism was fighting the Christian West and its fascist ally Sygman Rhee. In Britain 'agitators' were inciting British workers to do 'subversive' things like opposing Labour's wage freeze.

But the Cabinet did not flinch from its responsibilities. It brought in the troops to break 13 strikes between 1945 and 1950. And Sir Hartley Shawcross, the Attorney General, prepared a special memorandum for the Cabinet on a pamphlet about Korea produced by the Daily Worker (then the daily paper of the Communist Party).

The pamphlet called for 'the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea' and even demanded 'Hands off China'. This was a case of what Shawcross called 'giving aid to the King's enemies' — treason.

But the Cabinet ran into a snag. Treason carried the death penalty, and some ministers felt that lynching the Daily Worker staff might not go down too well with the public. Undaunted the

Attlee and 'the King's enemies'

Cabinet then pondered on whether or not they could ban the CP.

Unfortunately for them this was not on the cards. A disappointed Chuter Ede, then Home Secretary, and his colleague, Herbert Morrison, the Lord President, sadly explained 'public opinion would not support legislation on the lines of that introduced in Australia and South Africa for the suppression of the Communist Party.'

By November 1950 the war in Korea had intensified and the Cabinet wanted to deal with subversives in Britain. However in drafting a Bill for this purpose they were worried that the defendants might prove the truth of their allegations about imperialism in court, and use the trials for 'carrying out political propaganda'.

Ede and Morrison told the Cabinet how to get round that small problem. Never mind asking the defendants to prove the truth of their allegations, let's penalise them for their intentions, said the Lord President and the Home Secretary.

The cabinet knew that it was necessary to protect the British workers from themselves. After all they might go and take strike action to better their wages or to stop the victimisation of their shop stewards. This could only jeopardise the war against the 'reds' and damage the British economy.

The Cabinet considered legislation to keep the workers in line, including the use of an 1875 act making gas and water workers liable to criminal proceedings if they went on strike; a wartime order still in force making it a legal requirement for workers to give 21 days notice of strike action; and the imposition of a secret ballot. This legislation set the scene for the prosecution by the government of seven dockers who had led unofficial strikes for improved wages and conditions.

The cabinet were aware that subversion did not just stalk foreign fields; danger was creeping up on our own shores. Anti-fascist fighters from Europe

and ex-inmates from Belsen and Dachau concentration camps were coming to Britain and bringing their 'foreign' ideas with them.

No one knew this better than Chuter Ede. He told his cabinet colleagues: 'I cannot help feeling that on the whole communist convictions are likelier to find victims among persons who have not been born or brought up in this country.'

To make sure they did not contaminate any Britons, Ede gave secret instructions for the introduction of a ban on applications for British naturalisation from refugees whose 'loyalty' was in doubt.

The Labour government of 1950, like the previous two MacDonald cabinets, and the later cabinets of Wilson and Callaghan, was a cabinet of patriots. Invariably they put country before class, which means boss before worker, and profits before wages. They knew they had a heritage to defend, so they subverted the law to do so.

They knew that it was white Anglo-Saxon Christians who had 'civilised' the world, so they supported the establishment against blacks and other foreigners. As long as the monarch can be assured of having ministers like that, he or she can sleep safely in their bed at night.

Next week: *The 1950 Cabinet sabotages home rule for Scotland.*

Strategies for banning the bomb

THE reviews of *The Protest Makers* have not been kind to the book and it is easy to see why. The book is awkwardly presented in three parts. There is a short but useful section on the history of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament from 1958 to 1965, which leans heavily — at times almost to the level of paraphrase — on Christopher Driver's book.

There is a section which deals with a questionnaire given to over 400 core activists of CND. Surprisingly little of value comes from this and some of the authors' treatment of the results is somewhat imaginative.

The CNDers are mainly middle class. Many were Marxists and many were Christians. After 20 years most are still politically active. There has been a slight decrease in radicalism and a major drift away from allegiance to the Labour Party.

Failure

A lot more useful in this section are the in-depth interviews carried out with leading members of CND and some of their major opponents.

The third aspect of the book deals with the reasons for the failure of CND. This is excellent. The authors' conclusions are by no means convincing, but their discussion of the various strategies proposed within the campaign displays far more political sophistication than any previous account of CND.

It is possible that the sharpness of some reviews comes from those who would like to sentimentalise the old CND rather than analyse it.

The book isolates four strategies among those involved in CND: the moral/apolitical; the Labourist; the New Left; and direct action.

Richard Taylor and Colin Pritchard recognise that the biggest appeal of the campaign was on the moral plane. However, they argue that the dominance of the 'moral' approach was a major contributing factor to the failure of CND. This strategy ignored the political dimension of the debate around nuclear weapons and failed to pose the political action necessary to

CND's first phase:

THE re-emergence of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament as a political force has given rise to important discussions about how the fight against nuclear weapons can be won.

Looking at CND's earlier phase — the late 1950s and early 1960s is a useful way of

achieve nuclear disarmament in Britain.

The weapons did not just grow. They were brought into being in a century in which the established order and ruling classes were threatened as never before. In response to the question of how to gain an end to oppression and class rule on a global scale, and thus bring peace, the moral strategy could merely point out the fact — admittedly true and important — that nuclear weapons are evil.

The direct action strategy is also dismissed. Originally this had been undertaken by the Direct Action Committee which organised sit-downs on or near war-bases. The strategy of this committee was to replace the ideology of violence with the politics of non-violence.

Ralph Schoenman and the Committee of 100 came up with the idea of mass sit-downs as part of the process towards a non-violent revolution. This would be an outright confrontation between the people and the oppressive state.

The people would physically stop the ability of the war-makers to wage a war. The prisons would be flooded.

It would be stupid to dismiss the tactic of mass civil disobedience, but the balance of the 1961-62 confrontation between the 'people' and the 'oppressive state' is clear. The state smashed the Committee of 100 and its leadership by a judicious mix of boots and batons together with some spectacular legal terrorism.

Reverse

Then there is the 'Labourist' strategy. This envisaged CND as a pressure group on the labour movement. The high point was the winning of the 1960 Labour Party conference to unilateralism, but this was short lived and in the following year Gaitskell was able to reverse the decisions.

The authors see this failure as inevitable. CND had no organised tactic in relation to the labour movement and a significant section of both the leadership and the base



Bevan with Gaitskell at 1957 Labour Conference. Bevan turned his back on the unilateralists

of the campaign was intensely sceptical of the need for a systematic approach to the working class movement.

Taylor and Pritchard regard the Labourist strategy as being outdated even before CND was formed, since any serious chance of winning the Labour Party collapsed after the defection and death of Aneurin Bevan. Both Wilson and Mikardo accept this verdict. In Mikardo's words: 'There really wasn't much hope once Nye had gone.'

The most credible strategy for Taylor and Pritchard was that of the 'New Left'. Its aim was to win

starting to assess different strategies. These themes are taken up in detail in *The Protest Makers: British Nuclear Disarmament Movement of 1958-65*, a new book by Richard Taylor and Colin Pritchard (Pergamon Press, £10).

JULIAN ATKINSON begins a three-part review.

selected, self-perpetuating body — and we were... We didn't want membership; either people supported us or they didn't support us: this was the campaign we were running, we decided how to run it....'

The leadership was politically backward compared to the CND rank and file activists. This was abundantly obvious on the issue of NATO, with the majority of the executive supporting the alliance. Jacquetta Hawkes made the point that the executive 'very much disapproved of the idea of leaving NATO'.

The confusions at the top of CND made the task of winning the labour movement to unilateralism even more difficult.

Pacifists

The merit of the discussion raised by *The Protest Makers* on the possible strategies for CND is that it highlights the weaknesses of the old CND that the present movement has to avoid.

There was a lack of a serious orientation to the working class. The pacifists of the Direct Action Committee had a far better record of factory meetings than CND. When CND did approach the Labour Party and the unions it was with the techniques of pressure group politics.

The VIPs were lobbied, but the battle to win the rank and file — and sometimes the need to win them for policies far clearer than their leaders possessed — was often avoided.

There is a difficulty, however, when Taylor and Pritchard deal with the four strategies as if they were discrete and counterposed. This is most jarring in their treatment of the 'Labourist' and 'New Left' categories.

Certainly the emergence of a mass socialist party (the 'New Left' strategy) would have carried forward the struggle against British bombs and involvement in NATO further than CND did. It would also have had the effect of decisively polarising the left/right fight within the Labour Party.

What is not grasped by the authors is that a more effective orientation by CND to the unions and the Labour Party would have stimulated the growth of socialist forces that could have gone beyond the limits of labourism.

But it is not all that useful to precariously balance 'ifs' on 'maybes'. It is necessary to examine how CND related to the labour movement, what politics it raised, and what was the response of the Labour lefts. It is from such a detailed analysis that lessons can be drawn for today.

Next week: *CND and the labour movement.*

French communists step up anti-immigrant campaign

By Davy Jones

GEORGE Marchais, French CP boss, led a 10,000-strong demonstration through Vitry in Paris last Sunday to protest against immigration.

The march was in support of the local CP mayor who led the Xmas eve assault on a local immigrant hostel, reported in Socialist Challenge last week.

Marchais told a party rally last week that he intended to make immigration a major issue in the forthcoming presidential elections. He said to enthusiastic supporters that it was 'inadmissible to allow immigrant workers into France when we have two million French and im-

migrant people on the dole'.

In tones reminiscent of Enoch Powell's early speeches, he continued that too strong a concentration of immigrants in an area created tensions among the population and increased social charges on ratepayers.

The logic of this position was made clear when the Communist Federation of Ille et Vilain in Brittany last weekend withdrew its economic support for an Islamic centre in Rennes.

Anti-immigrant sentiments may catch votes but they dangerously divide the working class movement and deflect attention away from its real enemy — the bosses and their political parties. The British Communist Party should disassociate itself from the French CP's disgraceful campaign.

Italian communists attack civil liberties

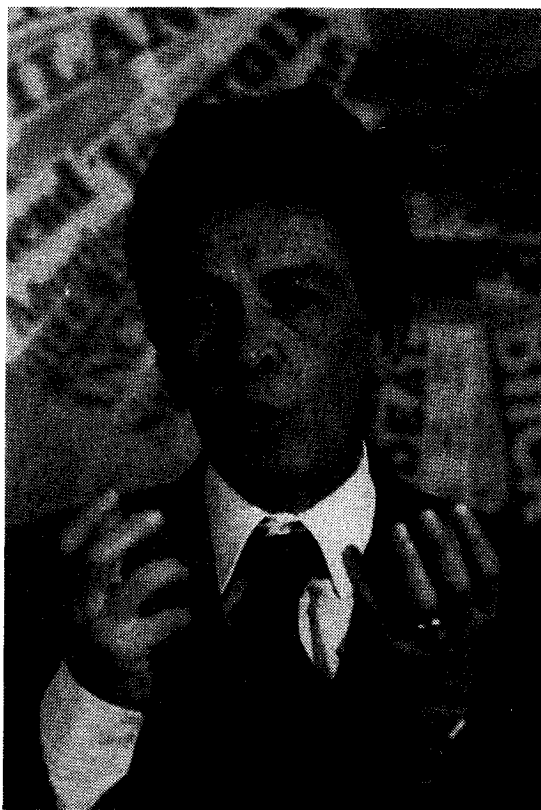
By George Reynolds

ITALIAN communist leaders hate 'terrorism'. They hate it so much that they don't object to the crushing of civil liberties in order to stamp it out.

And last week in the Italian parliament they went so far as to launch bitter attacks on Radical Party MPs who were acting as mediators between the Red Brigades and the Italian police.

These attacks weren't just verbal ones. Communist MP Pajetta told the radical MP Ciccio Messere: 'If you had been alive in my young days you would have been a fascist thug', and threw a glass of beer over him.

When the radical MP protested that Pajetta was 'demented', a woman Communist MP slapped him round the face.



Enrico Berlinguer, Italian CP leader

Turkish military moves against the unions

By Nick Robin

HOW long will it be before the governments of the 'free world' show any embarrassment about the repressive activities of the military junta in command of fellow NATO member Turkey?

Having dissolved parliament four months ago after a military coup, Turkey's five-man ruling junta has pledged that it will guide the country back on the road to democracy. But as many military juntas have found, this road is fraught with difficulties.

The main obstacle they face is the organised might of the working class. In order to ensure that any future elected regime in Turkey will be able to rule without the annoyances which have plagued previous parliamentary administrations, the junta has outlawed strikes and closed down DISK, the independent trade union federation which organised almost one million workers.

To accomplish this with

the minimum of fuss it has unfortunately been necessary to arrest the entire DISK leadership. Proceedings have been started by the martial law authorities against 2,000 senior DISK officials. Six hundred of these are already in prison, some have escaped to Western Europe.

Even then their problems are by no means over. Selahittin Uyar, the leader for twenty years of the massive textile branch of DISK, is seeking political asylum in West Germany. He has been sentenced to over one hundred years in prison in Turkey but because both his lawyers in Turkey have been gaoled he is unable to prove that he is a political refugee. Will he be supported by the German Socialist Democratic Party government?

The record so far of the 'Socialist International', of which both the German SPD and our own Labour Party are members, in defending democratic rights in Turkey does not inspire confidence. Which side are they on: NATO — the imperialists' military alliance — or trade union and democratic rights?

By Pat Kane

'IN EL Salvador, as in the former South Vietnam, the United States is propping up an unrepresentative regime in which the armed forces hold the whip hand.

'Ranged against them is a guerilla army with widespread support both among the peasantry and in the cities.'

The quote is from *El Salvador: the Latin American Vietnam*, an excellent pamphlet published by the El Salvador Solidarity Campaign. Many would no doubt regard the comparison between the Vietnam of the 1960s and present-day El Salvador as fanciful. Yet despite the differences between the two situations, there are a number of disturbing similarities.

Toppled

In October 1979 the military dictatorship of General Carlos Humberto Romero in El Salvador was toppled by 'moderate' army officers. The new regime was soon shown to be the main agent of the big landowners and right-wing thugs, and their backers in the American government.

A united opposition to the regime, including an increasingly powerful guerilla army, quickly grew up.

The regime made no impact on the appalling social conditions in the country. Calorie-intake is the lowest in Latin America; half the children die of malnutrition and diarrhoea before the age of five; 200,000 of the capital's inhabitants live in paper and cardboard huts, and two per cent of the population owns 60 per cent of the land.

Traditionally, the pamphlet points out, land is the source and symbol of wealth. Every attempt to redistribute even a minute part of it has been met with complete opposition from the ruling families.

Cosmetic

Without American support the junta would collapse. Millions of dollars in military aid, dozens of military 'advisers', and US coordination of the purely cosmetic 'agrarian reform' are keeping it alive.

The US claims its aid is limited to 'non-lethal' equipment, though the distinction is likely to seem academic to a peasant killed by soldiers arriving in US-supplied jeeps or helicopters, communicating through US-supplied radios, and supervised by US military 'advisers'.

Many of the personnel employed in the agrarian reform project — which, as in Vietnam, is an important component of the counter-insurgency programme — are veterans of the equivalent project in Vietnam itself.

Fred Murphy, writing from Nicaragua in the 29 December issue of *Intercontinental Press*, pointed out that the \$5.7m in acknowledged military aid during 1980 included huge quantities of tear gas grenades, field combat radios, and special night-vision devices described by a US Army aide as 'perfect for use against guerillas and insurgents'.

'Washington's Zionist allies in Israel,' wrote Mur-

El Salvador - Latin America's Vietnam

phy, 'have supplied fighter-bombers, transport planes, and large quantities of Uzi submachine guns and Galil assault rifles.'

All this military aid is for a purpose cynically described by the regime as 'counter insurgency'. It goes towards the murder by right-wing terror groups of peasants and workers; in fact anyone, including Catholic clergy, who opposes the regime.

El Salvador is the same size as Wales, yet according to the Red Cross, 9,000 people have been killed in political murders. The vast majority of these murders have been carried out by right-wing death squads.

Despite the terror tactics of the regime and its attempts at 'reforms', El Salvador's rulers have not been able to halt their growing isolation within the country. They have faced a tide of mass protest.

On 22 January 1979, 300,000 people marched with the Revolutionary Coordinating Committee of the Masses, demanding an end to the repression. The army butchered two hundred demonstrators.

Throughout last year, this pattern was to repeat itself, demonstrations were followed by assassinations, which were followed by increased mobilisations of the people.

The regime assassinated the Catholic Archbishop Romero because of his outspoken views, and 400,000 people turned out for the funeral which became a mass demonstration against the regime. The size of such demonstrations is remarkable considering that the population is only 4.5m, smaller than Scotland's.

As the mobilisations and eventually strikes and open military action against the regime increased, the opposition became more and more united in their aims.

Last November, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front was formed, and by December the entire political-military opposition was united within this front.

This is the background to the present insurrection in El Salvador. Its history is dramatically recorded in the solidarity campaign pamphlet.

The shadow of American intervention now hangs over El Salvador. Last week President-elect Reagan visited Mexico. His gift to the Mexican president was a rifle. It is all too symbolic of America's message to the people of Central America.

Copies of *El Salvador: the Latin American Vietnam*, price 65p inc. p&p, and further information from: *El Salvador Solidarity Campaign*, 29 Islington Park St, London N1. Tel: 01-359 2270.



Socialist Challenge
public meeting

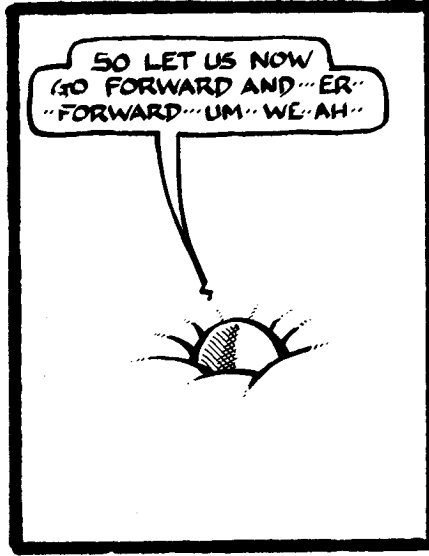
'Revolution in the Caribbean and Central America

Wed 21 Jan, 7.30pm

Brixton town hall (lower hall), Brixton

Speakers: Pat Kane (Socialist Challenge), Representatives of Grenadan New Jewel Movement, El Salvador and Nicaraguan solidarity campaigns

Letters



CND leaders are not deluded

GLAD to see your support for 'The rebirth of CND' (1 January). Most of the article was fine but when it came to 'which way will the movement go?' most of what it had to say about the campaign's present leadership was a load of nonsense.

I have been a member of CND's national council for several years and I used to be chairperson of the CND Labour Committee, so I suppose I'm one of the people the article criticised.

For the record, although we do have dealings with trade union leaders, a large proportion of our many local and national leaderships are active trades unionists (as I am) and are keen to win as much grass-roots trade union support as possible.

It's not a question of: Full-time officials, yes please; ordinary workers, no thanks.

When it comes to the Labour Party we are not so daft as to think that having won the vote for nuclear disarmament at the party conference and getting Michael Foot elected leader that nuclear disarmament by the next Labour government is guaranteed.

I don't know who gave your reporter this idea, but everyone I've spoken to sees these developments as notable reductions in the obstacles to nuclear disarmament, but no more than that. It will still only happen if we make it happen.

We also have a bit more sense than to 'ignore the fact that Foot and the great majority of the Parliamentary Labour Party are committed to NATO'.

What is surprising is that some campaigns backed by the International Marxist Group, such as Manchester Against the Missiles, do not appear to include withdrawal from NATO in their programme (unlike CND) and are concerned only with stopping Trident and Cruise.

But enough of this. Thanks for your support — just remember we don't want to be lectured about the need to win the support of the labour movement: what we want is active trade unionists prepared to work to get us it.

ALASDAIR BEAL,
Leeds 8

Maintain British law in Ireland, argues 'Militant'

IN THE same week that the Labour Party NEC shamefully passed a unanimous resolution calling on Thatcher to find some compromise with the H Block hunger-strikers (that is, ignore their demands), the British Militant published in its 12 December issue an editorial misleadingly headlined: 'H Block — Labour must fight for prisoners' rights.'

The article opposed political status on the grounds that 'there is widespread opposition to granting such status to cold-blooded sectarian murderers' and it denied that the Republican prisoners were fighting British imperialism.

Although it conceded that many of those on the blanket were framed before non-jury courts, the editorial argued that the labour movement should conduct a review of all cases so that it could legitimise the incarceration of those victims of the British state

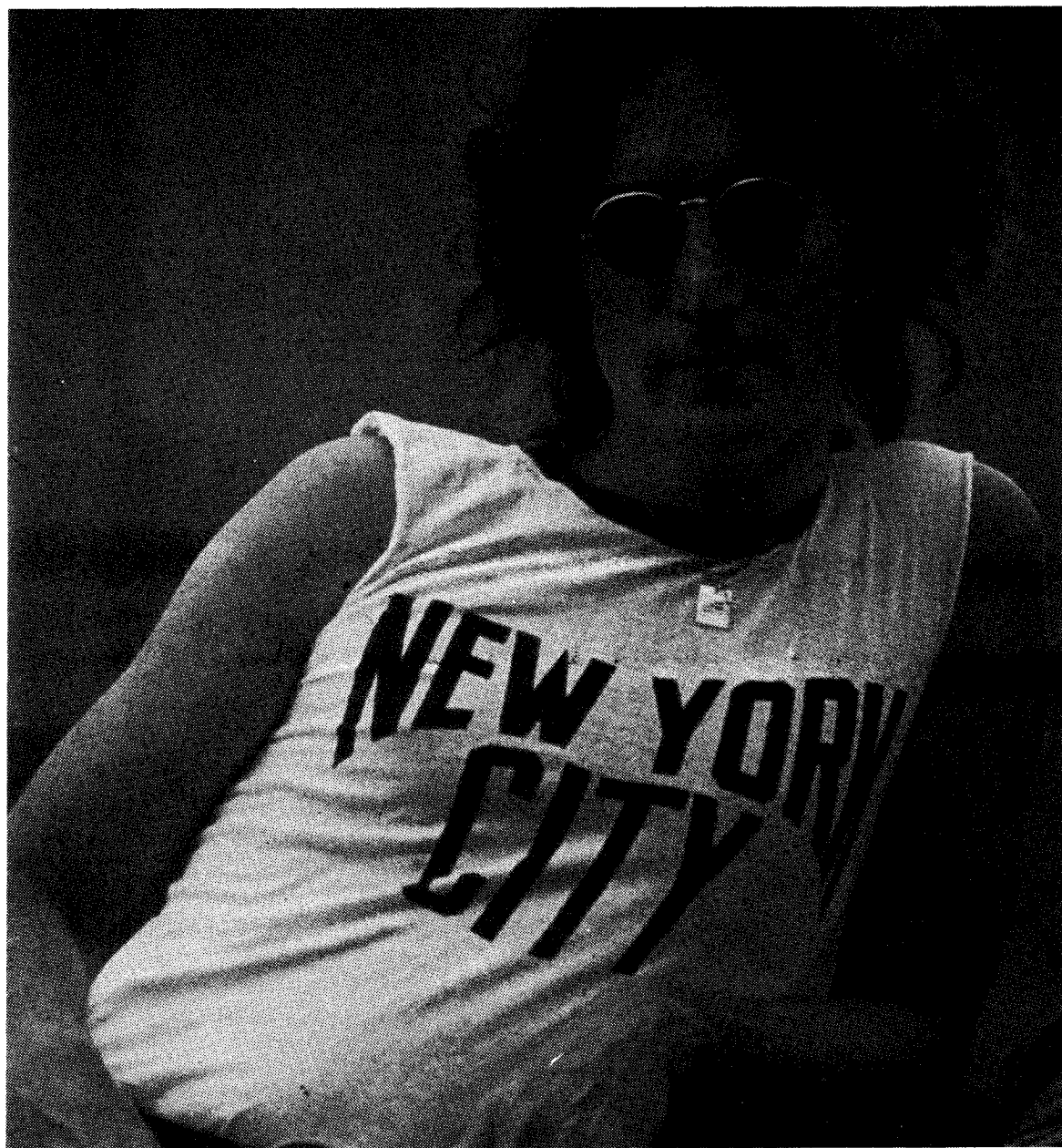
who were not 'in prison solely on the basis of frame-up and torture'.

By then campaigning for the release of the others, the article claimed the Militant would be 'making it clear that it will never fight on behalf of vicious sectarian murderers'.

The editorial statement is not only a vile slander against Irish youth, but a grovelling capitulation to the ideology of the traitors who lead the Labour Party and the trade unions.

Marx, for example, and his supporters in the First International consistently campaigned for the Fenians as political prisoners, even after the Clerkenwell disaster in which more British workers died than in any bombing before or since.

He explained time and again that the essence of the issue of the Irish prisoners was that the British believed 'they have a divine right to fight the Irish on their



John Lennon — working class hero or do-gooder millionaire?

native soil but every Irish fighting against the British government should be treated as an outlaw'.

The Militant, which has a supporter representing the Labour Party Young Socialists on the Labour NEC, reveals itself as upholding the jurisdiction of British bourgeois law in Ireland.

Against Militant's claim that 'it is impossible to give support for "political status" for all prisoners in the H Block', Socialist Challenge supporters might quote the record of some labour organisations free of the British chauvinism which riddles the Militant.

For example, the hundred per cent strike in West Belfast on 10 December, the total walkout in the border towns, and the stoppage at the Irish Steel Mill plant in Cork the same day supported by the workers building a new steel plant in the same city.

Or if the Irish don't count as proletarians for the Militant there are others who call for

political status — the Californian affiliate of the AFL-CIO (membership, two million), which has been petitioning unions around the world in support of the prisoners; the CFDT, CGT and Force Ouvriere, which are the three major French trade union confederations; the Canadian Union of Public Employees; the Belgian trade union deputies and SP senators.

The problem is the leadership of the British labour movement, Militant is part of that problem.

A O'CALLAGHAN/
647 TGWU branch

Questioning the Jewish answer

THE discussion in Letters on socialism and culture is long overdue and refreshing, but it was disappointing to read the confused and dangerous ramblings of Erica Barnett and John Nolan (1 January).

While suggesting that Steve Cohen (3 December) might not know the distinc-

tion between Zionism and Judaism, Erica introduces the former spuriously and approaches the latter with crass simplicity. Steve's concern was anti-Semitism and Jewish culture in the diaspora, but Erica devoted half her reply to the issue of Zionism.

On Judaism, her description of Abram Leon as a 'Trotskyist of Jewish birth' is telling. Neither religious nor Zionist, he loses his Jewish identity and so does Erica, exchanging the 'crushing burden' of her religion for the oppression of internalised anti-Semitism.

Rather than being a source of pride, her Jewishness is used as a weapon against the assertion of Jewishness by others.

Similarly John extols the virtues of the assimilation of Marx and Trotsky, which found expression in Marx's blatantly anti-Semitic diatribe on the 'Jewish Question' and frequent use of 'Jew' as a term of abuse.

Yet Marx and Trotsky are presented as the ideal 'Jewish' socialists, thereby flying in the face of a consciously Jewish tradition of socialism from the Bund to those today who refuse to counterpose their Jewishness to their

socialism. On the contrary, they assert their Jewishness in the struggle for a socialism enriched by cultural diversity.

The need for such a perspective is illustrated by the arrogant assumptions embedded in John's words: 'Our defence of oppressed groups — even if they hold views incompatible with our view of socialism' (our emphasis).

Socialism cannot be built without the full participation of such autonomous groups as suffer special oppression under capitalism. Historically the needs of such groups, including Jews, have not been adequately met within the socialist traditions so esteemed by Erica and John.

Recently blacks and Asians have powerfully challenged the left's ethnocentrism and women its sexism. It is vital that Jews make a similarly valuable and visible contribution by asserting their autonomous presence within the socialist movement.

SARAH BOSS and DAVE ROSENBERG,
Jewish Socialist Group members, Bristol

Lennon as a martyr?

CONGRATULATIONS on the improving content of SC (no. 176). It was great to see a better front page, only two pages on the Labour Party, and cruise missiles down to the right proportions. But why the double-page spread on the death of John Lennon?

Whether Lennon was 'one of the most talented of one of Britain's post-war musicians' is neither here nor there, but please don't try to turn a multi-millionaire do-gooder into a working class martyr.

While Lennon certainly had a working class background his class interests were certainly not compatible with the interests of a revolutionary. I strongly object to the use of words like 'young lunatic', 'the derangement of the assassin' and 'mindless assassin' in such a derogatory fashion.

I have more sympathy with someone who will surely spend the rest of his life in an asylum or other form of establishment shithole than I could ever have for a dead millionaire. As revolutionaries we should fight against hero-worship and cult followings, not encourage them with our centrespreads.

STEVE AHEARNE,
Swansea

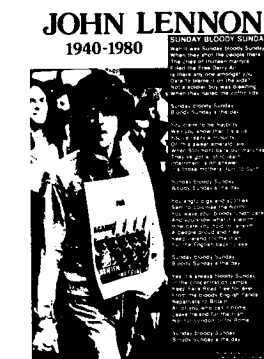
Our movement's loss

CONGRATULATIONS on your coverage of the senseless murder of John Lennon. He was a part of the events that I grew up with — the anti-war protests, the horror after Bloody Sunday, and the growth of the new women's movement.

It was our movement's loss that Lennon pissed off to America, and thousands more settled down and forgot their radical youth.

Thanks for reminding me about the radical part of Lennon's life. His murder helped no-one in the fight for a sane world.

JOHN ROBERTS,
Newcastle



Exclusive John Lennon poster!

Just £1. Bulk orders (over 5) are post free, otherwise send 30p p&p. Orders and money to: The Other Printshop, c/o PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

THE TAKING OF

Arguments for Socialism



Should the death penalty be restored?

By Brian Grogan

WITH Peter Sutcliffe being charged with one of the 'Ripper' murders, there has now come the inevitable demand for the restoration of the death penalty. How should socialists react?

The most vigorous campaigners for the death penalty are fascists and Tories. That is hardly surprising because ultimately the death penalty would be used as a weapon against the working class.

One reason is that the use of any death penalty would be in the hands of the police and the courts. As every worker who has been involved in a serious strike knows, the police and courts are not neutral.

This is not to say that the re-introduction of the death penalty would be used to hang strikers, but if we stand back from the furore surrounding the 'Ripper' case, it is clear that the most typical victim of legalised murder would be those our rulers wish to tame — the Irish and black people.

Weapon

Its use against so-called terrorists would be the main object of any re-introduction of the death penalty, which would then become not a disinterested form of retribution, but a weapon of control by the ruling class.

It is argued that the death penalty would act as a deterrent. This claim is refuted by all the available evidence. For instance, if hanging did deter then since its abolition in this country the murder rate would have risen out of proportion to other violent crimes.

In fact, the opposite has been the case: violent crimes not previously subjected to the death penalty have mushroomed, while the murder rate has risen more slowly.

In the United States numerous studies have revealed that there is no statistical difference in first degree murders committed in those states with the death penalty and those without.

What has been shown is that the existence of the death penalty can encourage mentally unstable individuals to commit crimes liable to be punished by the death penalty, as a method of self-destruction.

There is the famous Gary Gilmore case in the United States, a couple of years ago, when Gilmore's demand that he be executed tipped the balance in favour of restoration of the death penalty in Utah.

With or without the death penalty, there will be psychopaths. They are the inevitable product of our society.

Cases like that of the 'Ripper' arise from the way women are treated under capitalism. Women are dealt with as objects for titillation and satisfaction for men. They are treated as lesser beings than men and violent sexual assault against women is the consequence.

Present society creates Frankensteins, but that is no reason for using the methods such Frankensteins themselves use. This would be no more than a call for vengeance: the morals of the mafia; justice by vendetta.

If such standards were applied then why not inflict other physical punishments, like the gauging out of people's eyes by the police, as recently happened in the Indian state of Bihar.

If it is wrong to trust the police with inflicting such punishment in India it is also wrong to enable them to secure the hanging of someone in Britain.

The cops are experts at frame-ups. There was the famous case in the 1950s of Timothy Evans hanged for a murder, which it was later proved he did not commit. Other convicted 'murderers' have been subsequently proved innocent and released. But you cannot be released from death.

A FORCE of 500 police invaded a block of flats in London last week. They came with riot shields, truncheons and iron bars. Their aim was to evict 200 squatters, so that the Tories' plans for the sale of council homes could go ahead.

The show of massive force by the police — they met no physical resistance — is the latest dramatic example of a growing threat to civil liberties in Britain. This threat became even more specific with the publication last week of the recommendations of the innocent-sounding Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure.

The TUC has already stated that it is 'seriously concerned' that the commission 'endorses calls for the extensions

of police powers in the areas of arrest, detention and search'.

Socialist Challenge examines what could happen if the recommendations of the commission become law, by giving a fictional account of a case which could become all too true in the near future.

Contemporary attacks on civil liberties — the case of Gerard Tuite, the calls for the restoration of the death penalty, and the murder of Blair Peach — are also exposed.

The picture that emerges is a gathering stampede which threatens to crush many of the traditional rights which ordinary people in this country have fought for and preserved for generations.



Blair Peach — the NCCL verdict

AN exhaustive enquiry into the death of Blair Peach, conducted under the auspices of the National Council of Civil Liberties, has just reported.

It concludes that Blair, who died during a police baton charge in Southall on 23 April 1979, was 'killed by a blow deliberately inflicted by a member of Unit 1 or Unit 3 of the Special Patrol Group of the Metropolitan Police.'

The report presents an impressive array of evidence to support this view.

It accuses the coroner of the Blair Peach inquest, Dr John Burton, of 'evident bias' and accuses him of giving a 'confused' and inaccurate direction to the jury. This made a fair hearing of the issues impossible.

The inquest returned a verdict of 'death by misadventure'. The NCCL report is strongly critical of this verdict.

It maintains that 'few people would challenge the conclusion' that Blair was killed by the police, and that 'there is no evidence whatsoever that Blair Peach was resisting arrest, attempting to flee, attacking a police officer or attacking anyone else at the time he was struck or at any other time'.

Copies of the report, price £1.50, are available from the NCCL at 186 Kings Cross Rd, London WC1X 9DE.

What could happen to an accused shop-lifter under the new laws

JEAN SMITH needs a pair of tights. Taking her ten-year-old daughter Betty with her, Jean pops into Woolworths.

Selecting the pair of tights from the self-service counter she goes to the pay-out desk. She is given a receipt. Betty is tugging at her arm and Jean wants to get back home to put on the lurch.

She brushes Betty aside and leaves the store. When she gets outside she is stopped by a member of Woolworths' security staff.

Has she paid for the pair of tights? she is asked. Jean reaches into her bag for the receipt and to her horror discovers two pairs of tights. She is later to find out that Betty had lifted the second pair and had been trying to tell her this when Jean brushed her aside.

Seeing the two pairs of tights in her bag Jean panics. She hides the receipt, claims she bought both pairs, but throws away the receipt. When questioned, the shop assistant doesn't even remember selling Betty the one pair.

Suspected

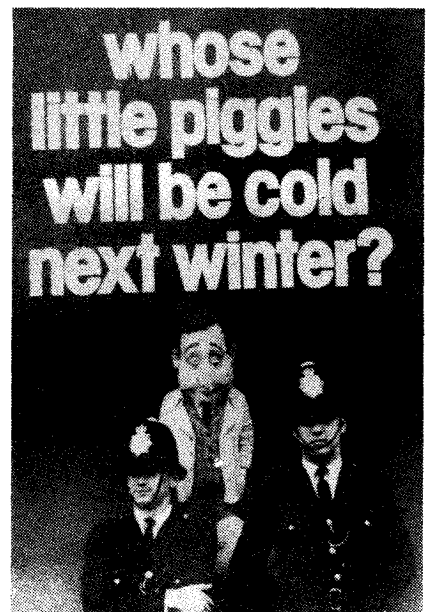
The police are called and Jean is arrested. Under the new laws if anyone is suspected of committing an offence which could be punished by imprisonment s/he can be arrested without a warrant.

Jean and Betty are taken to the police station. Both are forcibly finger-printed and photographed — new powers granted to the police. Jean asks to see a solicitor. The police refuse, saying they suspect Jean of being responsible for an epidemic of shop-lifting which has recently hit Woolworths. These amount, say the police, to a 'serious' offence, and under the new laws any person suspected of such an offence can be denied access to a solicitor for up to 24 hours.

Repeating that they suspect Jean of being an experienced shop-lifter, the police apply to a magistrate to search Jean's home. A search warrant is no longer necessary, even at premises unconnected with an alleged offence.

In that respect, and after finding nothing at Jean's house, the police ask permission from a circuit judge to search the home of Bill Smith, Jean's husband, from whom she has been separated for over a year.

Back in the police station Jean and Betty are questioned together. The police shout at them and



threaten Jean that Betty will be taken away from her and placed in a home. Only if Jean confesses to stealing the tights will she have a chance of keeping Betty, say the police.

Otherwise, they will charge Jean with other shop-lifting offences, and argue in court that she used her ten-year-old daughter to help her. Jean again asks to see a solicitor. The police again refuse.

Finding no evidence of stolen property at Bill Smith's house, the police wait for him outside his work. When he comes out they immediately stop and search him — again the police have more power to do this, thanks to the new law.

Inhuman

The police tell Jean they will continue to stop and search her husband until she confesses. They warn her that under the new laws they can hold her in the police cell as long as they like: that all that is required is permission from a magistrate. Under all this pressure Jean confesses.

When the case finally comes to court Jean and Betty tell the magistrate what really happened: how Jean paid for the first pair of tights, but not the second, although Betty did try to tell her mother to do so.

They tell the court that the intimidatory treatment they received amounted to 'inhuman treatment' and that therefore the 'confession'

All photos: JOANNE O'BRIEN (Socialist Challenge)



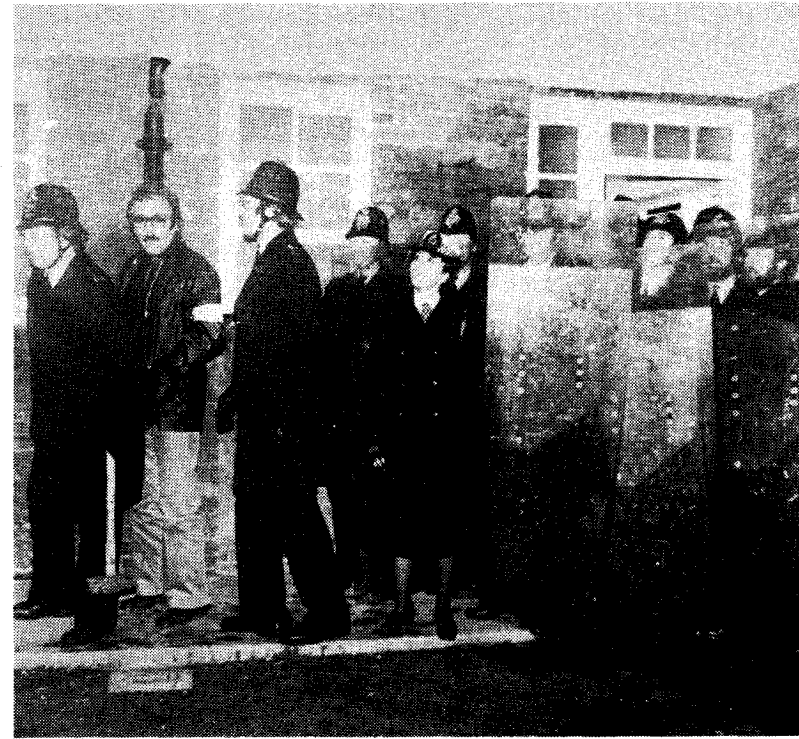
should not be... magistrate in... the new laws... rule which... 'confessions'... properly obtained... Jean is forced... press her... police for imp... told by her sol... she has possib... that the poli... new powers o... and detention... But the s... strengthening... not been a... strengthening... procedure, ar

CIVIL LIBERTIES



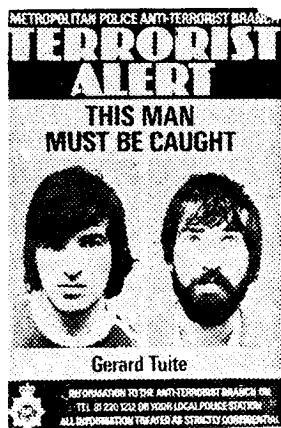
...n of things to come? Police in action against 200 peaceful squatters at Kilner House, south

London last week. Maximum force was the order of the day



...wed to stand. The ...s Jean that under ...e is no longer any ...essarily excludes ...ch have been 'im- ...guilty, but wants to ...aint against the ...r treatment. She is ...r that he considers ...ounds for proving ...ver-stepped their ...est, interrogation, ...or adds that the ...police powers has ...npanied by any ...police complaints ...at, even more so

than in the past, the police are the sole judges of police misconduct. The only course open to Jean is civil action against the police — something which will take a long time and could prove very costly. In any case, says the solicitor, in one way Jean was lucky. The police didn't use all the new powers against her. For instance, they could have tapped her telephone. Before the new laws, permission from the Home Secretary was necessary for phone-tapping. All that is needed now is permission from a local magistrate. Jean drops the idea of civil action. She is, after all, a 'convicted felon'. She also has black skin.



Treating Gerard Tuite with contempt

By Geoff Bell
SO PETER Sutcliffe has not yet been found guilty of the 'Ripper' murders, after all.

One Sir Michael Havers QC, the Attorney General, no less, wrote to Fleet Street editors to remind them of this fact last week.

Havers was reacting to media treatment handed out to Sutcliffe, and reminded journalists 'of the vital principle embodied in English law that a man accused of a crime, no matter how serious, is presumed to be innocent and is entitled to a fair trial'.

Havers' attack on the way in which the media had tried and convicted Sutcliffe within hours of his arrest was reinforced the following day by the Press Council, which announced that it would hold an inquiry into the coverage 'of the events leading up to and concerning Peter Sutcliffe's appearance before Dewsbury magistrates'.

Conscience

Even *The Times* joined the parade of stricken liberal conscience by thundering: 'Rarely in modern times can the media have acted with such disregard for the law and the fundamental tenets of British justice.'

Great, strident criticism, apart that is from the use of the word 'rarely'. The assumption of guilt with which the media dealt with Sutcliffe is a lesson in objectivity compared with the way in which the media have treated another individual.

That individual is called Gerard Tuite. He is accused of escaping from Brixton prison a couple of weeks ago. He was in prison awaiting trial. In other words he had not been convicted of any crime.

Principles

Which means, according to the fine principles of English law, so loftily referred to by the Attorney General in regard to Peter Sutcliffe, that nothing should be said or published which might prejudice Tuite's trial, if or when he decides to avail himself of such a trial.

Yet Gerard Tuite's photograph and countless mock-ups showing Tuite in various 'disguises' are presently adorning every by-way and highway in London. Immediately above these photographs is the inscription 'This Man Must Be Caught', and above that, in even bigger letters are the words 'Terrorist Alert'.

Compare the use of

this poster, the photographs and the captions, with the comment made by *The Times* on the Sutcliffe case:

'Nevertheless one newspaper at least published a photograph of the accused, when it must have known that there was a strong possibility that identification would be in issue at the trial.'

The media's verdict of 'guilty' against Gerard Tuite was further extended last week with the bomb at Uxbridge, following the earlier one at Bromley-by-Bow gasworks.

Fugitive

Stated the *Daily Mirror* on 2 January: 'It is feared that jail fugitive Gerard Tuite, the country's most wanted man, masterminded an attack that blasted a London gasworks on New Year's Eve.'

Even stating this, the *Mirror* has prejudiced a possible trial of Tuite, but even more outlandish is the 'evidence' the *Mirror* uses to back up its 'fear'. The *Mirror* said the main suspects for the gasworks bomb were 'two youths... seen near the gasworks...but they were younger than 25-year-old Tuite'.

So how was Tuite involved? The *Mirror* quoted Scotland yard and its view that Tuite 'may have organised the raid from a hideout in London'.

Bombing

The following week in the aftermath of the Uxbridge bomb the *Mirror* again reprinted the Tuite poster and reminded its readers that the man 'is suspected of masterminding the London gasworks bombing'. Suspected by whom? The *Daily Mirror*?

Not exactly, for while it is easy to blame the media for its treatment of Tuite, they have simply taken their cue from the police, who distributed the 'terrorist' poster of Tuite and supplied the information on which the *Mirror* stories were based.

Ever since Tuite changed his accommodation the police have gone out of their way to prejudice any future trial. The Metropolitan Police Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Peter Nievans, has declared: 'As long as Tuite is at large in London there could be bombs. If he gets the ammo, he could go live.'

Such statements brought forth no letter from the Attorney General; no promise of an investigation by the Press Council. After all, the guardians of British justice and of the British media are used to treating the rights of the Irish, and suspected Irish Republicans especially, with the utmost contempt.

French Trotskyists score major successes in election campaign

SC Sales

ABERDEEN: SC sold Saturdays outside C&As — for more info ring Colin, 574060.

BATH: SC on sale at 1985 Books, London Road, and Saturdays 2pm-3pm outside the Roman Baths. Phone 20298 for more details.

BIRMINGHAM: SC on sale at The Ramp, Fri 4.30-5.40, Sat 10-4. For more info phone 643-0669.

BRADFORD: SC available from Fourth Idea Bookshop, 14 Southgate.

BRIGHTON: SC sales regularly every Sat outside Open Market, London Road, from 11am-1pm.

BRISTOL: SC on sale 11-1, 'Hole in Ground', Haymarket. More info from Box 2, c/o Fullmarks, 110 Cheltenham Rd, Montpelier, Bristol 6.

BURNLEY: SC on sale every Sat morning 11.30-1pm St James St.

CARDIFF: SC sales Newport Town Centre outside Woolworths 11-12.30; Cardiff British Home Stores 11-12.30. Also available from 108 Books, Salisbury Road, Cardiff.

CHESTERFIELD: SC supporters sell outside B&S, Marketplace, Saturdays 11.30am-12.30pm.

COVENTRY: SC available from Wedge Bookshop. For more info about local activities phone 461138.

DUNDEE: SC available from Dundee City Square outside Boots, every Thursday 4-5.30pm, Friday 4-5.30pm, Saturday 11-4pm.

EDINBURGH: SC sales every Thursday 4.15-5.15pm Bus Station, St. Andrews Square; Saturday 11.30-2pm East End, Princes St. Also available from 1st May Books, or Better Books, Forrest Rd. More info on local activity from SC c/o Box 6, 1st May Bookshop, Candlemaker Row.

ENFIELD: SC available from Nelsons newsagents, London Rd, Enfield Town.

HACKNEY: supporters sell SC every Saturday morning at Ridley Road market E8.

HAMILTON: SC on sale 8-11 every Sat. outside County Bar Almada Street, every Sat outside Safeway 1.30-5. For more info contact Paul, 17 Clyde View or John at 54 Elliot St, Hamilton.

HUDDERSFIELD: SC supporters sell papers every Saturday 11am-1pm. The Piazza. SC also available at Peaceworks.

KILBURN: SC sales every Sat, 10am in Kilburn Square.

LAMBETH: SC available from Village Books, Streatham; Tetric Books, Clapham; Paperback Centre, Brixton; Oval tube kiosk. Also sold Thur and Fri evenings and Thur mornings outside Brixton tube.

NEWCASTLE: SC on sale every Sat 11-1pm outside Fenwicks. Also available at Days of Hope bookshop, Westgate Rd. For more info ring Phil or Pete on Newcastle 737507.

MANCHESTER: SC supporters sell 11-1pm Sat at OLDHAM outside the Yorkshire Bank, High St; at BURY in the shopping precinct and at Metro Books; at BOLTON in the town centre; and in MANCHESTER outside the central reference library in St Peter's Square and at Grassroots and Percivals Bookshop. Tel: 061-236 4905 for further info.

NEWHAM: SC sale every Saturday, 11am to noon, Queen's Rd Market, Upton Park.

OLDHAM: SC sold every Saturday outside Yorkshire Bank, High Street. For more information about local activities. Tel. 061-682 5151.

OXFORD: SC supporters sell every Fri 12-2pm outside Kings Arms and every Sat 10.30-12.30pm in Cornmarket.

STOCKPORT: SC sold every Saturday, 1pm, Mersey Way. Can be delivered weekly: phone 483 8909 (evening), 236 4905 (day).

SWANSEA: SC sales outside Co-op, Oxford St, 11am-1pm, Saturdays.

SWINDON: SC on sale 11-1 every Sat., Regent St (Brunel Centre).

TEESSIDE: SC on sale Sat lunchtime in the Cleveland Centre, and in Newsfare, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough, and outside Woolworths on Stockton High Street.

WOLVERHAMPTON: SC sales on Thur/Fri at Poly Students Union from noon-2pm and British Rail 4.30-6pm; on Saturday near Beatties, town centre from 11am-2pm.

SOCIALIST CHALLENGE: National fraction for all SC organisers. Sat 17 January. Venue: ring 01-359 8371.

What's Left

RATES for What's Left ads. 5p per word or £4 per col. inch. Deadline: noon Sat. prior to publication. Payment in advance.

FIGHT Tory racist laws. Socialist Action public meeting Wed 21 January at the Roebuck pub, Tottenham Court Road, London.

Speakers: Bob Swart, South London CARL and Mike Rodney, National CARL.

SWAPO Women's Campaign: discussion meeting with Ellen Musialela (SWAPO Women's Council) at 'A Woman's Place', 48 William IV Street, London WC2, Sat 17 Jan, 2.30pm.

CAMDEN: SC Party, Sat 17 Jan, 8pm. Booze, £1, free food, raffle. £1 waged, 50p unwaged. 16 Belsize Square, NW3.

STUART HOOD, author of *On Television*, discusses the structure of TV and who controls it with Peter Fiddick, Guardian TV correspondent, and Brian Wenham, controller of BBC2. Thurs 22 Jan, 7.30pm, at the ICA, The Mall, London SW1. Adm £1.40.

International Marxist Group notices

ENGINEERING: National fraction Sat 7 February.

MISSILES: National fraction now Sun 8 Feb. Ring national centre for details.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION: National fraction now Sat 31 January.

IRISH extended secretariat meeting Sat 17 January, 11am national centre.

POSITIVE ACTION: Day school on Sun 1 February. Ring centre for details.

TGWU: National fraction, Sat 17 Jan, 11-5pm, Caxton House, 129 St. John's Way, N19. Nearest tube Archway.

NUT: commission, Sat 24 Jan, 11-5pm. To discuss: Tasks, turn, women's oppression, education 16-19, conference. Venue next week.

NAC: caucus for cdes going to next national planning meeting, 16 Jan 8pm. National centre.

IMG MEMBERS: We urgently need you to fill vacancies in a variety of technical posts in National Centre. Any cdes interested ring Penny on 01-359 8371.

FOR SALE: Back copies of IP/1 for SC Fund Drive. Vols 16/17/18 (1978, 1979, 1980). Offers to Fed, Camden IMG, c/o PO Box 50, London N1.

Revolution Youth notices

WOMEN'S liberation fraction on 7/8 Feb. All women members welcome. Venue/details of agenda available from Ann/Alix at national office, 01-359 8301.

SHOCKING PINK — Out Now! Any Revolution Youth branches wanting copies of the new young women's magazine should order them direct from: Shocking Pink, 4 Essex Rd, London W3. Pay in advance. 40p per copy incl. p&p.

By A. Lawson
NEXT March a new president will be elected in France. As we reported several weeks ago, the French supporters of the Fourth International, the Revolutionary Communist League, are standing Alain Krivine in the election. They are fighting for policies of workers' unity in struggle, and a united front of the workers' parties to throw out the present right-wing president Giscard d'Estaing.

French capitalism is afflicted by many of the same problems as British capitalism — including steadily mounting unemployment.

Nonetheless the divisions between the Communist Party and the Socialist Party, and the rivalry between the associated trade union federations is constantly undermining the workers' fightback.

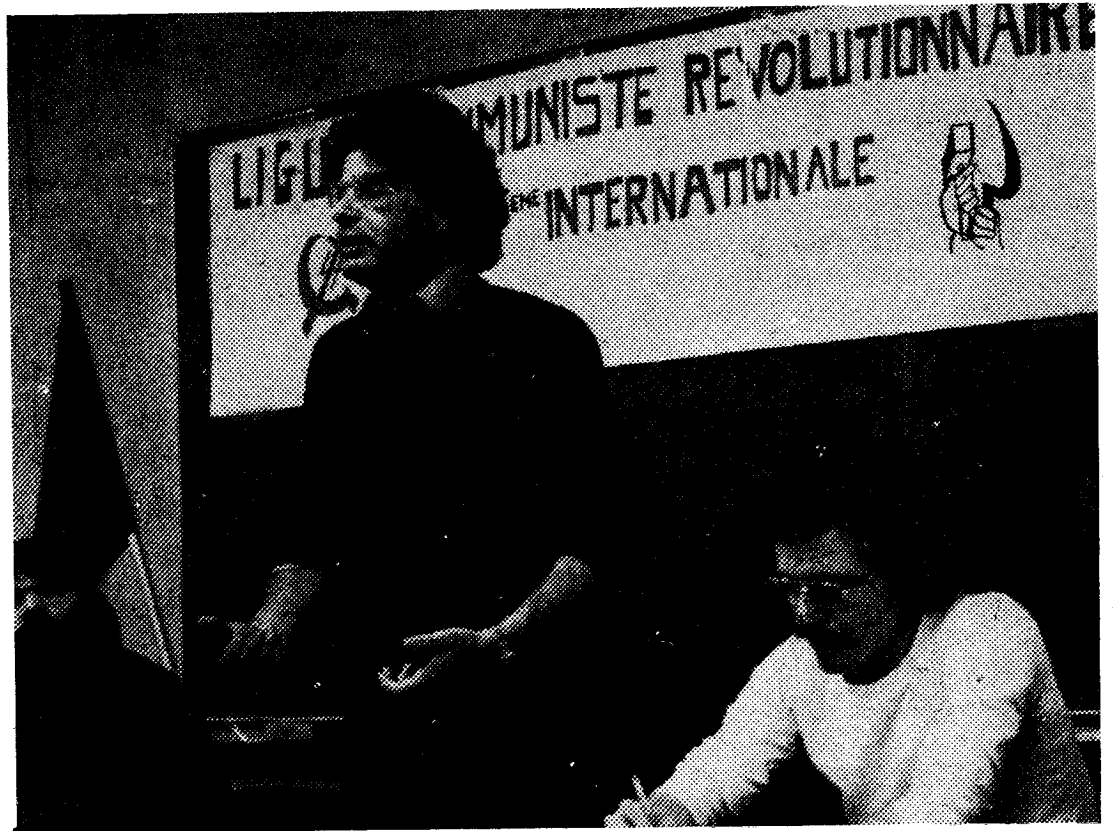
This infighting between the two reformist parties with similar programmes has disastrous effects. In workers' struggle it often leads to separate negotiating, separate strike organisation, separate demonstrations. Division in the face of the enemy always leads to a weakening of the struggle.

Worse

But on the electoral front it has even worse consequences. The French presidential election is in two rounds — if no candidate has an overall majority on the first round, then a second round is held. This year the CP is refusing to guarantee that it would support an SP candidate in the second round.

We have already seen the results of this kind of sectarianism, when the CP's refusal to call for a vote for SP candidates in recent senatorial elections allowed right wingers to be elected. The theme of unity in the struggle has been at the centre of a massive campaign launched by militants in the CP and SP, supported by the LCR and Krivine's electoral campaign.

But the campaign has faced a major obstacle. It takes 50 signatures of parliamentary deputies or



Alain Krivine, French Trotskyist presidential candidate

local mayors to be eligible to stand a presidential candidate. For the SP and CP this is easy — but not for the revolutionaries.

After weeks of effort the LCR has achieved its first target of 500 signatures. But to avoid its credentials being challenged by the government authorities, the LCR is pushing on to get a total of 700 signatures.

Already the attendance at Krivine's meetings and the support for his cam-

paigns has exceeded all expectations. More and more French workers are beginning to question the divisions forced on them by their reformist leaders, particularly the position publicly expressed by some CP leaders that they would not vote for Socialist candidate Mitterand against Giscard.

The election campaign of the LCR offers a major opportunity to win these workers to revolutionary Marxism.

Subscription special offer

New subscribers to Socialist Challenge will be able to take advantage of two new free offers starting this week.

With all six-month subscriptions to the paper, we are offering a free copy of *Trotsky: A Study in the Dynamic of his Thought* by Ernest Mandel. With twelve-month subscriptions, readers will receive a free copy of *Revolutionary Marxism Today* by Ernest Mandel.

Both books were published last year. Here's what Tariq Ali had to say about them in a Socialist Challenge review at the time.

'Ernest Mandel's two new books, produced by NLB to coincide with the centenary of Trotsky's birth, seek to accomplish a dual task.

'The *Trotsky* is an introductory work, designed to stimulate the reader's appetite, to serve as a footpath to Trotsky's own writings.

'*Revolutionary Marxism Today* is a set of critical interviews with Mandel conducted by some of the terriers of the Fourth International: Henri Weber and Denis Berger from France,

FREE BOOKS OFFER

FREE with a 12-months subscription, *Revolutionary Marxism Today* — £12.50

FREE with a 6-months subscription, *Trotsky: A Study in the Dynamic of his Thought* — £6.50

Name _____

Address _____

Cheques, POs and money orders should be made payable to 'Socialist Challenge'. Complete and return this form to: Socialist Challenge, PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

Robin Blackburn and Quintin Hoare from Britain and Jon Rothschild from the United States.

'Mandel's response to the questions forces him to develop the ideas of Lenin and Trotsky. His interviewers refuse to let him retreat into the Marxist classics. And the combination is both stimulating and provocative, even iconoclastic. Even those who disagree with Mandel will be forced to concede that his arguments cannot be ignored or dismissed out of hand.

'Mandel's *Trotsky* is cer-

tainly the homage of a disciple, but it is not uncritical. He refuses to accept the notion of infallibility as far as any of the classical Marxists are concerned. The end result is a compact and valuable introduction to the central ideas of Trotsky.'

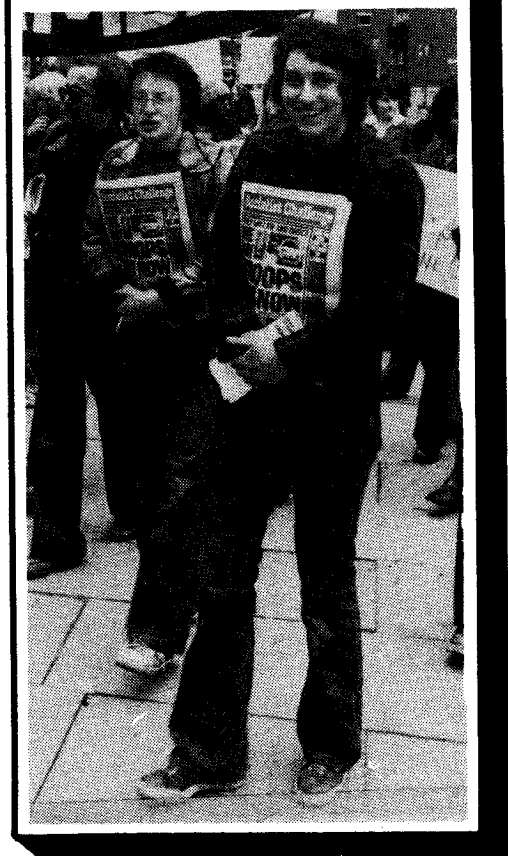
Make sure you receive your copy now by filling in the subscription form above. Socialist Challenge is registered as a newspaper with the Post Office so all subscriptions are treated as first class post at no extra cost and reach all our British readers on Thursday mornings.

Socialist Challenge National Sales Day

Sat 21 February

Sales drive in every town to reach new readers

More details next week



Socialist Challenge London Day School

Sat 24 January 10.30-4.30pm

East Europe and Poland

Speaker: Oliver MacDonald

Open to Socialist Challenge supporters Admittance £1. Venue: St. Matthews, Brixton (2 minutes Brixton Tube station)

Other THE BOOKSHOP

Ed. Taylor Downing

The Troubles

The Background to the Question of Northern Ireland

Thames/MacDonald Futura, £4.95

An informative and well-illustrated book which was written as a result of research done for the Thames television series 'The Troubles'. The book contains much extra material which could not be included in the TV series.

RA Leeson Travelling Brothers

Granada, £2.50

This book makes an important contribution to working class history by detailing the ways in which the early trade societies and unions coped with the unemployment that became a feature of life after the Industrial Revolution.

Labour Focus on Eastern Europe

Spring-Autumn 1980, £1.50

A special edition on the recent struggles in Poland including a complete set of Solidarity strike bulletins.

Glasgow rallies to Irish prisoners

THE situation in the H Blocks of Long Kesh and the women's prison in Armagh remains on a knife edge.

A statement from the National H Block/Armagh Committee, issued in Dublin last week, went some way to clarify the situation.

It now appears that various verbal promises were made to the hunger strikers by British representatives, just before the strike was called off. These included an assurance that the prison authorities

On 20 December, two days after the end of the hunger strike, one thousand people marched through working class districts of Glasgow.

The march was organised by the Scottish Hunger Strike Action Committee which included representatives from Sinn Fein, the Troops Out Movement, the Labour Committee on Ireland, and most of the left-wing groups.

The organisers had decided to press ahead with the march on the grounds that, although the hunger strike was over, the blanket protest was still going on. A deal had been made, but that did not necessarily mean that the

prisoners were going to get what they had been promised.

The decision to keep the movement on the streets was proved correct with the support the march attracted.

The demonstration started at 10.30am and wound its way along streets where many local people shouted their support and still more joined in.

But then, as the march approached the final stretch of the route, it was heckled by a crowd of 20-30 Loyalists, waving union jacks and wearing red gloves — symbolising the Red Hand of Ulster. Such antics had little effect on the confident marchers who easily drowned out the Loyalist ravings with chants of 'Clydeside, Bogside — we are

would agree to 'turn a blind eye' if the political prisoners declined to wear the 'civilian style' uniforms issued by the prison.

The failure of Britain to implement this and other promises means that those involved in Britain in organising support for the hunger strike need to keep their campaigns intact.

One of the most successful of these campaigns has been mounted in Glasgow. From there CHARLIE BAIRD of the Troops Out Movement reports.

on the prisoners' side'.

At the end of the march a successful rally was held, with speakers from various revolutionary and solidarity groups. Those who addressed the rally stressed the central importance of united front activity and of understanding the nature of the Irish struggle.

The need for closer links with Irish organisations was also mentioned, as was — most important of all — the need to convince 'progressives in the labour movement that signing bits of paper sympathetic to the prisoners will not open prison doors unless it is coupled with mass action.'

The general point was made that while it was important to support the demands for political status for the

Labour asks loaded questions on Ireland

THE Labour Party has produced a 'consultative paper' on Ireland.

Entitled *Northern Ireland — The next steps?* it has been prepared by the party's Northern Ireland Study Group, which was set up after the 1979 Labour conference 'to examine, after full consultation, all possible solutions to end the bloodshed in Northern Ireland'.

The paper asks five questions, but the way in which the questions are posed gives them a decidedly biased content.

For instance, 'Question 4' is headed 'Time for a new party?'. It discusses whether the Labour Party should 'extend its organisation to Northern Ireland'.

The study group seems to be in favour of this idea, since it poses the alternative as 'should we seek to replace sectarian politics with Labour and Tory politics?'

The fact is that 'sectarian politics' are based on positions which are held on

the Irish national question and the existence of the border.

If the Labour Party organised in the north of Ireland, it would, in effect, be sanctioning the existence of the Northern state and the right of Britain, including the British Labour Party, to be in Ireland. This would not be breaking with 'sectarian' politics, but entering them on the side of the Loyalists.

The Labour Party is using the consultative paper to ask CLPs and unions to 'set up working groups to study the key questions posed'. At least the aim to encourage discussion on Ireland in the party is a healthy development.

To aid such a discussion Socialist Challenge will be carrying a number of articles dealing with the 'key questions' and examining the history of the Labour Party's attitude to Ireland.



'We don't like Saturdays'

By Davy Jones

SEVEN million Polish workers defied the government and stayed away from work last Saturday. Eighty per cent of workers in the Warsaw area and a higher proportion on the Baltic coast supported the call from the independent union Solidarity to boycott Saturday working.

Polish workers have been campaigning for a five-day week for years. Back in 1972 the government promised to introduce a forty-hour week by 1980. And in last August's Gdansk strike agreements the government pledged to draw up proposals on shortening the working week by the end of last year.

But the government retreated, claiming that production would drop by 12 per cent if a five-day working week was introduced. They made more promises: this time they offered to cut the working week by 1983, or to cut out Saturday working by extending the weekday working hours.

Agreement

But Solidarity are demanding the implementation of the Gdansk agreement and insisting on a cut in the working week with no loss of pay. Workers in Britain should follow the lead of Polish workers and fight for this demand in Britain as a step towards reducing unemployment.

Frank Chapple and the right wing trade union leaders were quick to offer support to the Polish workers last summer. It will be interesting to see whether they are as keen to campaign for support for Solidarity's campaign for a forty-hour week with no loss of pay!

The confrontation between Solidarity

and the Polish regime has also flared up over the registration of rural Solidarity. Polish Communist Party leader Kania has launched a vicious attack on attempts to set up an independent union for Poland's 3.5m farmers and peasants. The regime is not too keen on another section of the masses being organised outside of their control.

Censorship

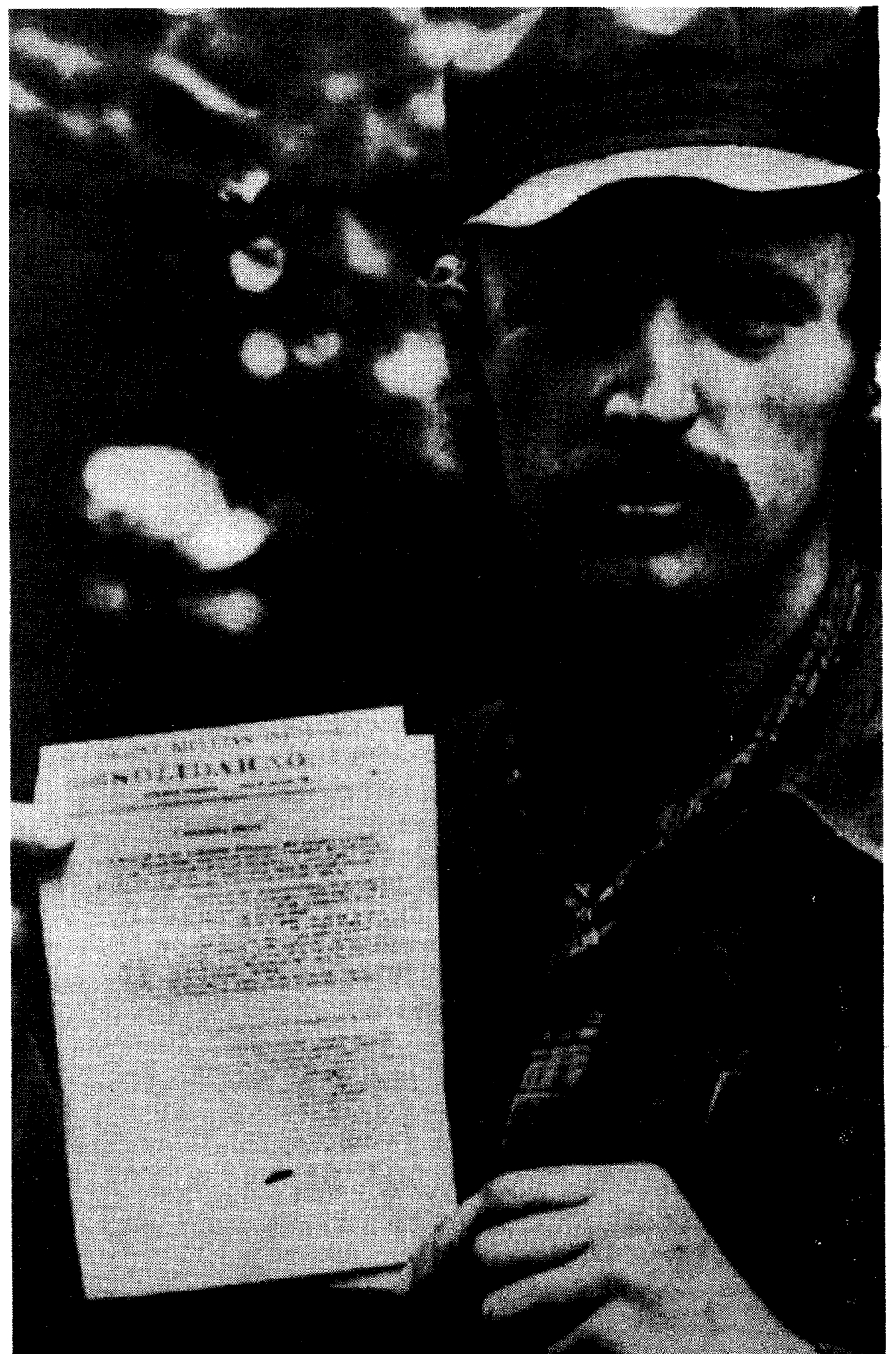
Before the end of this month the regime is committed to introducing a new law on censorship. Again this is bound to lead to a direct confrontation with the new independent unions.

At every step the two powers in Polish society come into conflict. There is the power of the party leaders and the state administrators who need a complete monopoly of political power to defend their privileges over the working masses. In the background lies their final line of defence — the Soviet bureaucrats and their armies.

Ranged against them is the new-found power of 10 million workers who for the first time in a so-called communist state have built independent unions. Their allies are the working people round the world, particularly the organised labour movement.

Socialists in Britain should make sure that our labour movement is committed to solidarity with the Polish workers. We urge our readers to support the campaign for a printing press for Solidarity. Copies of the appeal can be obtained from: Steve Griffiths Poland Appeal, c/o 137 Digbeth, Birmingham 1.

Special issue of Labour Focus on Eastern Europe, 64 pages on the Polish events, including a complete set of Solidarity strike bulletins. Just £1.50 from The Other Bookshop, PO Box 50, London N1.



The Solidarity bulletin contains the strike agreements with the government: now the regime wants to retreat

Women against violence against women

DIRECT action by women against sexual violence has been a major issue over the past few months. Women have picketed cinemas showing porn films and violence against women.

JUDITH ARKWRIGHT interviews members of the Women Against Violence Against Women group in South London.

How did the campaign in South London begin?

TM: About ten months ago a woman in the area was raped. She knocked on the door of a local feminist to ask for help, having already tried several other doors without success.

We realised that there was nothing in the area for women in her situation. The police weren't any help, especially as the woman was black.

So first we talked about retaliation, like picketing the workplace where the two men involved in this case worked. But we decided that this might only come back on the woman herself. So we called a demonstration which was very successful.

What do you think the campaign has achieved nationally and locally?

TM: It's brought the issue into people's minds and the press have been quite favourable, locally and nationally. There's a growing interest in self-defence classes for women — they are springing up all over London.

What about changes in the law as a focus for the campaign?

BG: There are many changes that are needed, such as the question of rape within marriage which still cannot be prosecuted under law.

MA: I don't see the point of changes to the law because the courts and police will be the same. Lord Hailsham, for example, said that with women 'no' can mean 'yes'. Stiffer sentences are no good since juries would stop convicting.

I think changes in the law are important because at some stage you have to reveal the role of the state; you can't simply aim the campaign to show how awful men are. You have to fight the system that puts women in chains.

BG: Personally I'm not interested in spending time talking to men. Our object is to make women strong, not just on the violence issue but on all issues affecting them.

What is the meaning of the demand for a curfew on men?

MA: I think it was to invert the logic of the police who were calling for a virtual curfew on women. I don't think it was meant seriously because it wouldn't be practicable.

But it did shock men into thinking about their relationships with women. Rape is about power: men's power over women.

What about Mary Whitehouse's support for the campaign?



Irate member of the audience at the Miss Southall beauty contest confronts women pickets

Photo: PETE GRANT (Socialist Challenge)

BG: She can't really support us. She doesn't support women's liberation. We don't want her support. She's against sex, full stop. We're not prudes. She's against abortion and anti-lesbian.

Last week when murder suspect Peter Sutcliffe was taken to court there were big demonstrations outside the court with some people demanding that hanging should be brought back.

MA: We've debated in the group about stiffer penalties. Some people in the group would be in favour of hanging.

But surely we don't want to give the state that kind of power to use as they please, including against radical women.

BG: Yes, but the problem is what else can you do? We may not like this society and want to change it but how do you control anti-social behaviour in the here and now?

Hanging certainly doesn't do that.

BG: True, we can't rely on the courts and so on. In China they have people's courts which are more directly under popular control.

Does the campaign around the cinemas aim merely to expose the films or to stop them being shown? Wouldn't the latter be censorship?

MA: Most things I'm interested in are never put on the screen anyway and that's censorship.

TM: We have to say we don't want these types of films. We wouldn't give a platform to fascists.

BG: In the '60s we defended permissiveness but it was against women in the end. We defended magazines like *OZ* and it was very sexist.

But who decides what should be censored and who does the cen-

soring?

TM: Women should decide.

But which women? Can we speak for all women?

MA: No, what we want is a situation where there is less and less demand for pornography or any literature which exploits women.

In this society you can't distinguish between erotic literature and pornography because so much of it exploits women.

Would you have supported the banning of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*?

MA: Lawrence's writing is pretty violent towards women, but I don't think it should be banned. That would be repressive.

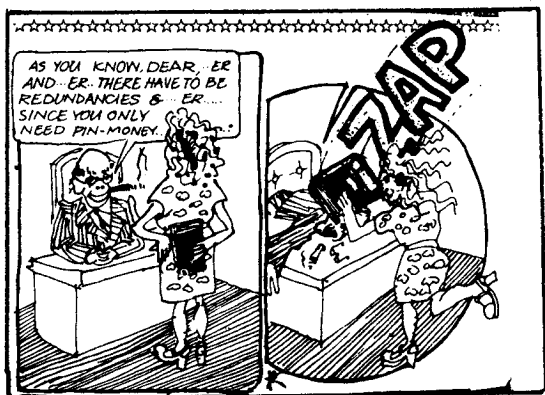
BG: Even with *OZ* magazine you had to defend it because of what it represented at the time — the fight against state repression and censorship.

MA: We are not calling for censorship. We want people to stop wanting pornography.

BG: One last thing is that we would like to ask for broad support for Women Against Violence against Women as we have had ten members arrested in our campaign so far.

Women in ACTION

New Year Issue 35p



Women have the right to work

In this issue Can women beat the slump? Hilary Wainwright
 NCCL on Positive Action
 Interview with women from New Plans for Abortion Rights
 Fighting Low Pay Gardners

A Paper for Action in the Unions on Women's Rights

The new issue of *Women in Action* is now on sale. Orders: over 100 at 20p each plus p&p, individual orders 35p each plus p&p, from Box 2, 190 Upper Street, London N1.

At work against sexual harassment

From Women in Action
ACTION to fight sexual harassment of women at work is now being planned by the equal opportunities committee of NALGO, the local government workers' union.

It's the first step in Britain to combat a problem which studies in Canada and the United States have shown to be so common.

Some two years ago Brent NALGO in London was confronted with complaints by several women that they had been sexually man-handled by a male superior, who was also a member of the union.

It was a situation no British union had tackled before — presumably because women had not thought of complaining to their union — and was unsatisfactorily settled with the women eventually leaving their jobs.

'Sex on the job' — as the Americans who don't have

our double meaning for that phrase call it — involves anything from leering and suggestive remarks to rape. It always carries the suggestion that if the woman does not comply, she may face down-grading or even the sack. In some cases in the USA, the threat was carried out.

Despite the obvious fact that sexual harassment is done by men to women, it has not been condemned as damaging to women as a sex for the same reasons rape and women-battering outside the workplace were, until recently, secret-shame on the part of the woman. She is also likely to receive unsympathetic responses from others along the lines that

it's just natural male sexuality and she probably enjoyed it anyway.

As Catherine MacKinnon, whose definitive study of the subject in the USA was published last year, points out: 'It's not surprising that women would not complain of an experience for which there has been no name.'

But what is of most concern to trade unions is the use — or abuse — of power by men over women at work, in this most individually degrading way, whereby a woman is being attacked as a woman in order to control her as a worker.

Severe

Medical evidence, cited by the Canadian Labour Congress, by NALGO's newspaper *Public Services* and in Catherine MacKinnon's US case studies, shows the effects of sexual

harassment to be severe — migraines, depressions, psycho-somatic pains preventing the women from working, are all common.

So is the incidence of harassment: the Canadians found that between 70 and 88 per cent of women questioned were victims, and nearly half left their job as a result. Questionnaires of women working at the UN in New York showed 49 per cent felt some sexual pressure in their job, and a popular magazine's questionnaire brought a devastating response of 8,100 harassed women out of 9,000.

With those sort of figures it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that sexual harassment at work is part of the system, not an exception. It's clearly something that must be fought if women are to gain real equality.

So it's interesting that some cases taken under employment law in the

United States have obtained compensation for women — and it's only in the last two years that women have had this recourse. The argument was won there that sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination, which is outlawed, and that if it happens at work the employer is liable, regardless of the position of the man who did the harassing.

Outlaw

In Canada, *Public Services* reports, the Labour Congress has looked for separate legislation to outlaw sexual harassment at federal and provincial level, and wants protection against it in collective agreements. Unions have been asked to train officers to deal with cases and negotiate for protection.

It's difficult to know at this early stage which approach is best for British unions and labour law — but if the problem is on a similar scale here, and it's unlikely to be substantially different, NALGO's pioneering moves will be welcomed by many women workers.

From Women in Action New Year issue, price 35p. Bulk orders available from: Box 2, Sisterwrite Books, 190 Upper Street, London N1.

From the *Irish Post*

ROBERT Noonan lives. As Robert Tressell, author of *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists*, he is becoming an institution.

In Hastings, where he lived for the first decade of this century, the Robert Tressell Workshop meets weekly to discuss the Dubliner's philosophy, while a search is on for documents, photographs or anything else related to him.

In Catford, SE London, Irene Wright and some friends have opened the Robert Tressell Mural Panel Appeal. They aim to raise £1,500 to restore the only

scrap that remains of Tressell's work as a painter. Robert Noonan was born and grew up in Dublin. He emigrated to South Africa as a young man and was one of the founders of the Irish Brigade which fought with the Boers against the English.

Following the death of his wife in South Africa, Noonan came to Britain with his daughter, Kathleen, and settled in lodgings in Hastings, where he worked as a painter and signwriter.

A product of a middle-class background in Ireland, Noonan spoke Irish, French, German, Dutch,

A ragged trousered socialist lives on

Spanish and Italian and had a knowledge of Greek and Latin. But few of his co-workers in Hastings realised this as he laboured alongside them on the building sites.

Moved by the abject conditions of the period, Noonan wrote *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists* under the name of Robert Tressell. The philanthropist, as he saw it, was the ordinary worker who was giving away his or her labour and strength for a pittance. Noonan could not get the book published.

In 1911 he decided to go to Canada, stopping off at Liverpool en route. But his health, which had troubled him for years, became worse and he died. He was buried in a pauper's grave at Liverpool's Vale Cemetery.

A few years later, Kathleen, who had retained her father's manuscript, showed it to a friend and it was eventually published in 1914. She received £25 for the rights.

The book has since converted many people in Britain to socialism. It was

passed from hand to hand in the British army during the last war and is credited with having returned a Labour government in 1945 — the army having voted Labour almost en masse.

While the book was recognised as a profound masterpiece, none of those who read it knew anything of Robert Tressell.

This was put right in 1974, with the publication of *One of the Damned* by Frederick Ball, who had devoted decades to researching and eventually piecing together Robert Tressell's life. Ball also managed to

trace the grave.

In June 1977 MPs, union leaders, writers, poets, a Cabinet minister and representatives from many European countries gathered at the pauper's grave to honour the memory of Robert Noonan.

Transport Union general secretary Jack Jones quoted Wolfe Tone, the founder of Irish Republicanism: 'If the men of property will not, then we must depend upon that numerous and respectable class, the men of no property.'

Noonan lived in Hastings from 1902 to 1911 and, in addition to working on building sites as a painter he did much signwriting. Many of the advertisements and commercial slogans painted on buildings in the

town were done by him.

In 1905 he completed what was probably his only work of art — a mural on the wall of St. Andrew's Church in Hastings. It comprised 16 panels and stood 40 feet high. The church was demolished in 1970 and all that could be saved of the mural was one panel, which was in pieces.

It is still in this state in Hastings Museum. Irene Wright, who has been a Tressell devotee since she read his book many years ago, has launched a fund to restore the panel. Donations can be sent to her at 32 Hawstead Rd., Catford, London SE6.

The Robert Tressell Workshop meets at 7.30-9pm each Monday at Priory Road School, Hastings.

By Erica Flegg

THE casting of Vanessa Redgrave as Fania Fenelon, the cabaret singer of Jewish descent who played and sang in the 'women's orchestra' in Auschwitz, caused a furore in the United States where 'Playing for Time' was made and first screened.

Zionist organisations claimed that it was a travesty to cast a supporter of the PLO in the role, and a campaign was launched against the film. Some of those involved in its production received death threats.

In its publicity for the film, the ITV buyers for the British network, make much of this controversy — presumably in order to stir up public interest so as to ensure a large audience. Yet such publicity is a disservice not only to the film and all those involved in making it, but also to the historical subject it treats.

Absurd

The very idea that someone who supports the Palestinian cause is some kind of anti-Semite, incapable of compassion for the sufferings of the Jews under fascism, is not only absurd, but distasteful, almost obscene. This political slander itself is a sad reflection on how little has been learnt from the dreadful history of the period depicted in the film.

Arthur Miller's script for the film, based on Fenelon's memoirs, does not delve into the political issues involved. It is really a study of morality, a deeply-felt humanist statement. As Miller himself said about the film:

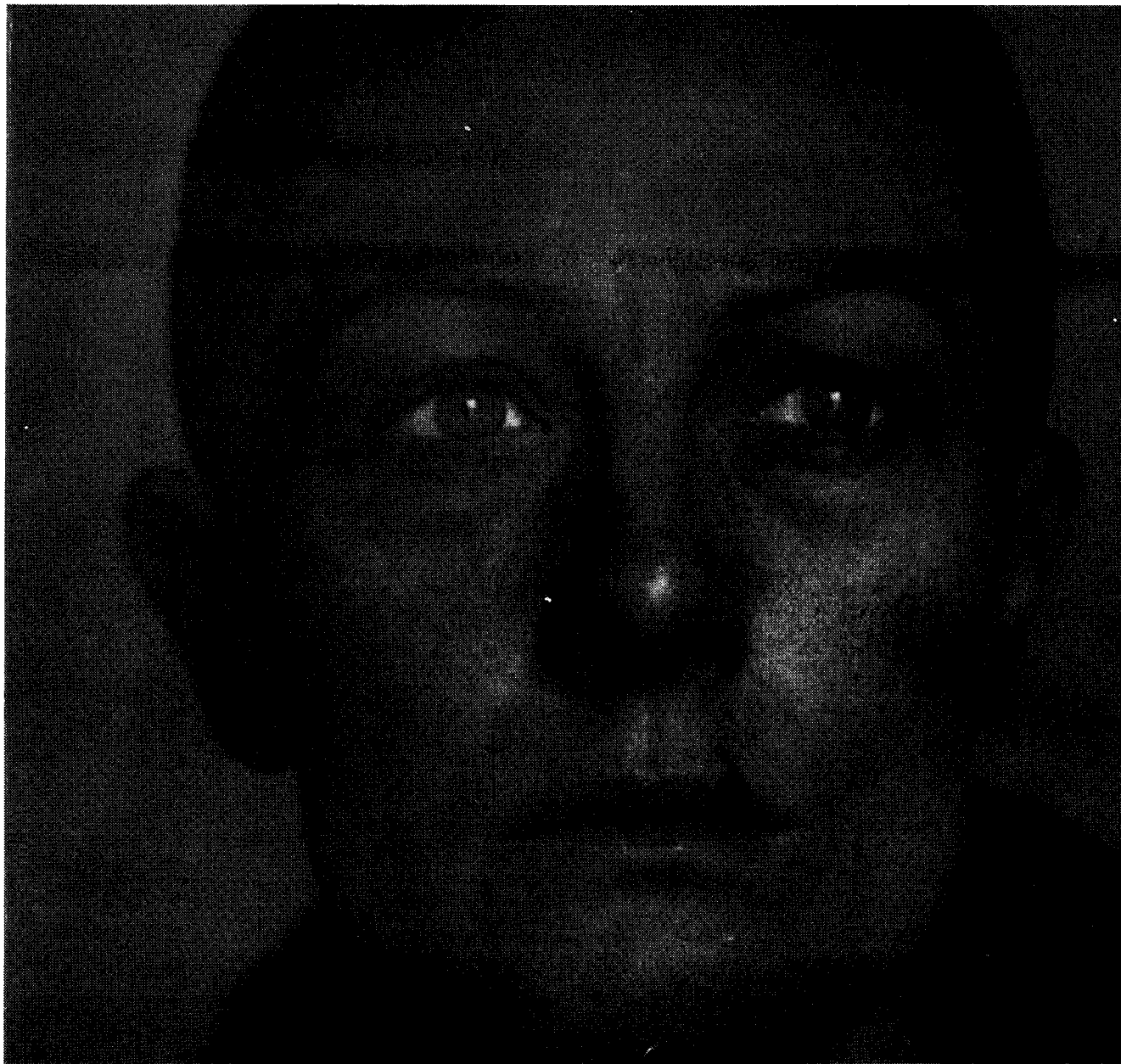
'I realised there was a possibility of a drama around this theme — the concentration camp. In this particular case, the women in the orchestra had a certain small area of choice that did not exist for other victims inside. You can't have drama without choice, and without will, and without the human personality exerting itself, all of which existed in the camps.'

Moved

This comment may sound a little detached, but the film itself is far from that. Only the most callous could watch it without being profoundly moved. That is a tribute to the script and the production, but particularly to Redgrave herself, whose performance is beyond praise.

The 'small area of choice' facing the prisoners in how

Playing for Time: A humanist statement



they responded to their situation is the film's major theme. Miller avoids simplistic answers, and his refusal to lie, or to resort to artistic devices, melodrama, sentimentality, or sensation, is what gives the film its special quality.

Fenelon herself represents the human conscience bearing witness to the events. What distinguishes her from the rest is her unstinting honesty and compassion, and it is these values which the film upholds.

The most moving scene for me was the scene at night

in the barracks when a young woman comes to confide in Fenelon her feelings for another woman. She speaks with adoration and longing, asking Fania to tell her details about this person who has so captivated her.

Gently, Fania tells her young friend that the other woman admires her, 'for your guts — but also for your beauty...' Fania understands that her friend is in love, and she treats this as something precious and wonderful, the more so because of the brutal, dehumanising conditions in which such a love could

flower.

She gently explains to the young woman the meaning of her feelings. Fania reassures her shocked confidante: '... to feel at all is a blessing... to the pure, everything is pure... What a proper young lady you must have been.'

It is Fenelon's wisdom and compassion which enable her to see this love not as an aberration, but as something which reveals the power of human nature to transcend the worst degradation.

She also has the generosity to help her friend to enjoy

what emotional and sexual pleasure she can take from the hell in which they live.

The most difficult area of choice concerns the morality of fighting to survive by placating your oppressors. Miller denies the romanticism that only the defiant are noble, but he also shows that the compromise is fraught and many-sided.

At one point, Fenelon is saved from seemingly imminent execution by a friend who screams that she is only half-Jewish: her yellow star is thus torn in half. Later, Fenelon restores the torn-off

half of her badge, making it a sign of pride, not of shame. Asked why she does so, she replies that she does not know; but it is a clear indication of her refusal to humiliate herself.

Similarly, when a Nazi officer congratulates her on her singing: 'This music feeds the spirit and strengthens us for this difficult work', Fania rebels and says: 'My name is not Fenelon. That was my mother's name. My father's name was Goldstein.' In this way, she refuses to deny her identity, since this denies her humanity.

Solace

She has no time for the intense Zionism to which one of her companions turns for solace, however. 'I'm sick of it!' she cries. 'Gentiles, Jews ... I'm not a tribe, I'm humiliated, that's all I know.'

She does not allow her companion to deny the humanity of the Nazis, either. She sees that what is so horrible is that their tormentors are as human as themselves, however much the woman may want to cast them as monsters.

Miller demonstrates this point very effectively in a scene in which a woman SS officer mourns a little boy that she had cruelly removed from its captive mother like a plaything, and had then returned.

Fenelon is respected by the other inmates for her integrity and strength. One of them says to her that she trusts her because 'you have no ideologies — you're just satisfied to be a person'. This, however, is an ideological point that the film itself is making, and it is one that in the end weakens its impact.

Solution

The argument that it is the goodness in humanity which matters, not ideology, obscures the fact that the causes of the holocaust were political, and that the solution to wars, racism and oppression is also political.

In denying this, the film ends with a strange anticlimax. The Liberation is somehow flawed in retrospect, by the knowledge that all that suffering failed to produce a better world.

In the final scene, Fenelon sings the Marseillaise. For me, the patriotism of the song — the national anthem of France — seemed inappropriate, hollow.

The people of France, and of the rest of the war-torn world, needed more than national anthems to help them to construct the future.

Tory cuts grind BR to a halt

By PM Grant, ASLEF Willesden Branch

TRAIN drivers in the Southern Region were on strike on 5 January after one of their colleagues had been sent home for refusing to work new rosters. British Rail has tried to introduce the new rosters after cutbacks in trains on the Southern Region.

This action comes at a crucial time for BR. As a result of the steel closures and the general industrial recession, BR's freight business has been crippled. The 1980 freight budget, drawn up by BR plan-

ners in 1979, estimated that BR would carry over 26m tonnes of iron and steel. In fact only 14m tonnes were carried in 1980, and 1981's expected traffic is only 19m tonnes.

The reaction of BR's board, trapped by the government's cash limits for the nationalised industries, is to woo money from the government by proving the efficiency of the industry. They are trying to force the unions to accept productivity deals that will result in massive job losses and a deterioration of the service to the public.

The union leadership is falling hook line and sinker for the BR board's offer of a joint campaign to convince the government of the need for a big cash injection into the industry. They have joined management in urging railway workers not to take action that will upset the government.

ASLEF leader Ray Buckton has now called off the threatened action against rail cuts planned for next month in favour of a joint approach to the Tories with the BR board. That is why the Southern Region drivers' action has been such an important lead to all railworkers. Although now suspended it forced the ASLEF executive to threaten national strike action unless the government came up with the money.

Demands for action are flooding into the London headquarters of the different unions. ASLEF has called a mass meeting for the Southern Region drivers for 17 January, and it promises to be a stormy meeting. Talk of reviving the Triple Alliance of miners, rail and steel workers shows the pressure the unions are under to take action.

A major stumbling block to any action is the lack of any organised

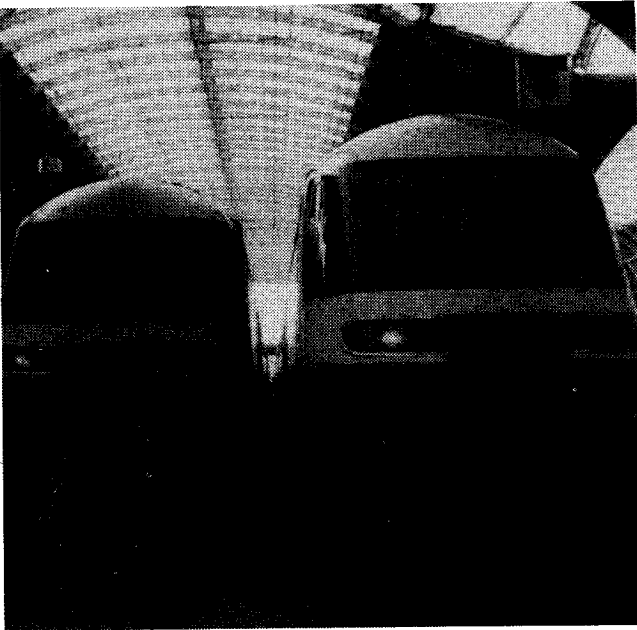
left within the rail unions. Despite this weakness there is going to be a fight, as railway workers see their industry and livelihoods falling apart.

Passengers reading this should contemplate the likelihood, if the Tories get away with their planned destruction of BR, that their regular train might not run next time, or if it does, it might pile up in a heap of twisted metal because the essential track maintenance hasn't been carried out.

The Chief Inspector of Railways, Lt Col Ian McNaughton in his report published before Xmas blamed government cash limits forcing curtailment of track maintenance as the cause of 85 per cent of last year's derailments.

1981 is make or break year for BR. If no investment is forthcoming then BR will end up like the rusting steam engines in many scrap yards — a smashed hulk.

Photo: PETE GRANT (Socialist Challenge)



Setback to Sheffield steel jobs fight

By Rab Bird and Clive Turnbull, AUEW, Sheffield

LAST week a 'Triple Alliance' demonstration and conference called for 27 January in Sheffield against MacGregor's BSC Survival Plan was cancelled.

Out of 22,000 redundancies proposed nationally, BSC management are looking for 3,000 in South Yorkshire. The immediate response of the BSC Crafts Committee in the area was to fight for its policy of opposing job loss to be reaffirmed at mass meetings in every plant. This quickly happened at River Don and Rotherham.

At the same time, delegates from South Yorkshire Crafts also proposed broader action at the Sheffield Steel Working Party on 27 January.

The MacGregor Plan doesn't just mean the loss of jobs in BSC. For every steelworker sacked, four others will lose their jobs in those industries dependant on steel — miners, power and railway workers, dockers, drivers.... For this reason contacts had been developing with other unions for some months to launch a united fightback.

Redundancies

The Sheffield Working Party brings together not just the unions in BSC, but also those in the private steel sector as well. Although right wing union leaders in firms like Hadfields had been sitting back rubbing their hands believing their jobs were safe, the MacGregor Plan will affect them too.

The Tories have been planning for some time to hive-off parts of BSC to private industry. But if companies like Lonrho or GKN buy up BSC plants, it won't just be for their order books. It will be because these plants are more modern and have had millions of pounds recently invested in them. Then the other older plants will face closure and large scale redundancies!

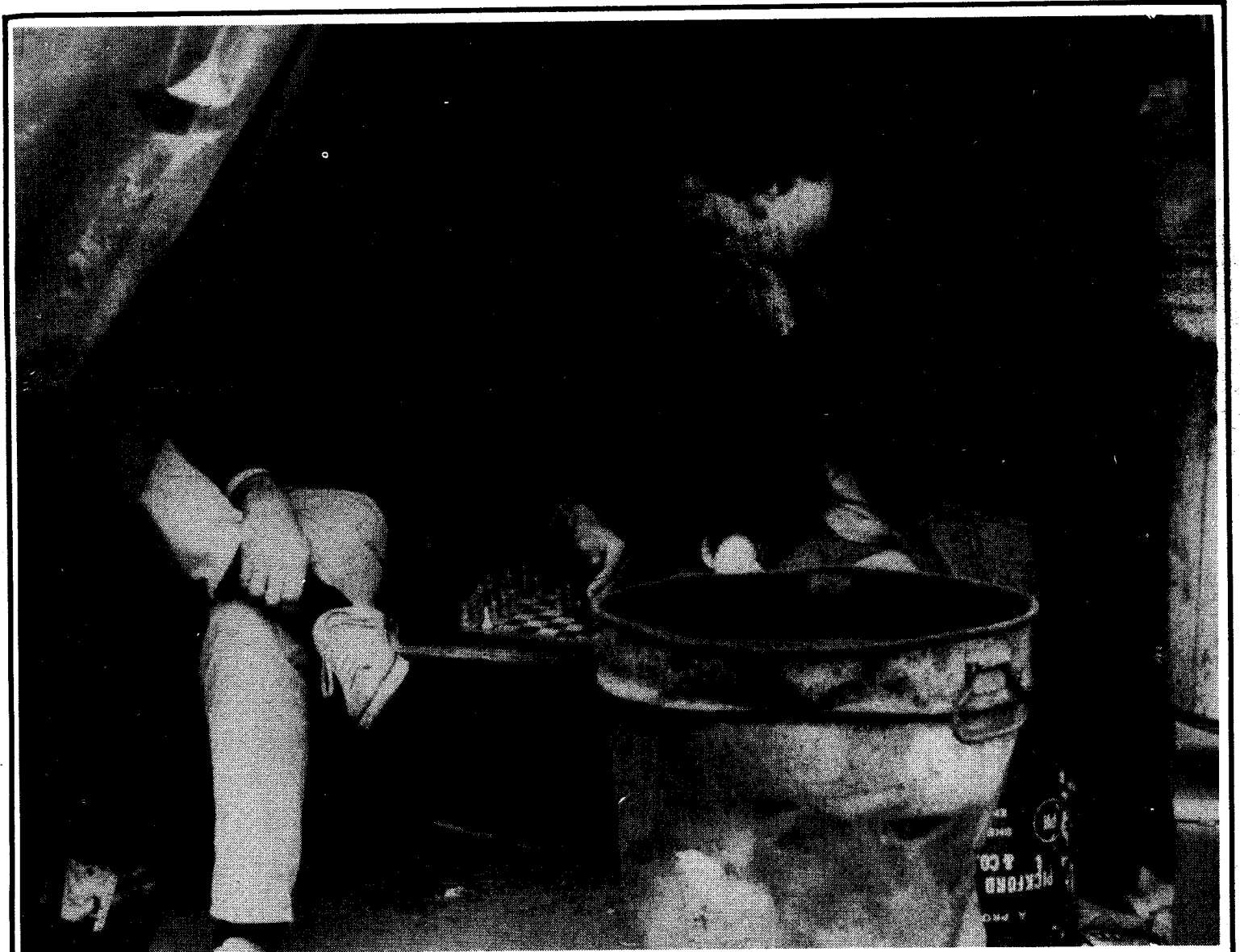
A further reason for seeking broad support for a fightback lay in the attack on trade union organisation that MacGregor is making. South Yorkshire Crafts convenor Bernard Connolly explained that 'BSC management are trying to pull the same tricks as in Leyland. This is the Tories' new Employment Act in practice. They've learnt a few lessons from Heath's try at it.'

'Last time they made the mistake of threatening the union leaders, but you don't kill the tame mice you've got running on a wheel in a cage, when it's the ones behind the skirting boards who are eating the cheese. So it's the shop floor organisation that they're after now, and there are a few in the TUC who wouldn't be too upset if the Tories did their dirty work for them by picking off the rank and file leaders.'

Negotiations

BSC workers are also currently facing pay negotiations. MacGregor's 'offer' to the unions is a six months freeze on wages. Steve Pilley, a Boilermakers shop steward at BSC Rotherham, outlined how the management's claim that reducing the wage bill was essential to survival, was nonsense.

'At this meeting management presented a set of figures showing how our price of £180 per ton was way above the German, Japanese and other plants; how their productivity was



Steel Strike: An Illustrated Review, South Yorkshire and Humberside Steel Strike Committee, £1.25.

Steve Pilley, Boilermakers shop steward, BSC Rotherham
THIS is a record of the 1980 steel strike. Week by week the story of the dispute is told through photographs of the main events — the pickets, Hadfields, the fire bombing of the strike committee office, the demonstrations and rallies, the arrests, and the solidarity. And

alongside this the posters and the badges that were our class war medals.

Then the final day of sell-out by Sirs and Co, and the mass meeting at Clifton Park. The local paper sums up the outcome: 'Surely they have earned the name of MEN OF STEEL, as did the many women steelworkers and wives.'

Buy a copy, even at £1.25. The money goes to South Yorkshire and Humberside steelworkers, and we'll be needing it to fight MacGregor's attack on jobs.

workers won't gamble with their pay-off money when the crunch comes. Then Sirs turns round and says: 'We were ready for a battle, but the membership wasn't with us.'

In South Yorkshire a further obstacle to unity has been the role of full time officials in attacking the joint shop stewards organisation in plants such as Stocksbridge. Some craft full time officials played into the hands of the right wing ISTC leadership with their sectarian opposition to joint organisation with other unions.

The next meeting of the Sheffield Steel Working Party is on 29 January, but by that time there will be little chance of organising any action. The only hope for launching a fight in defence of jobs lies with BSC workers themselves. A determined struggle from those plants in the front line would lay the basis for drawing in, not just other steel workers, but also the rank and file miners and railway workers.

There is certainly no chance of a fighting 'Triple Alliance' of steel, coal, and railway workers being established by the likes of Bill Sirs, Joe Gormley, or Sidney Weighell, particularly when Weighell attacks ASLEF for proposing industrial action to even defend jobs in his own sector.

higher and so on. So we said: OK, never mind the cost of a wage increase. How much would you save per ton if we all worked for nothing? After a lot of humming and haaing, they said £5 per ton at most!

The fight to defend jobs in BSC has been sabotaged by the national union leaderships. MacGregor's ballot in support of the Survival Plan and a six month pay freeze has been backed by the NUB and GMWU, the AUEW, EEPTU, and other craft unions! The ISTC,

whilst opposing MacGregor has led from behind yet again by calling it's own ballot, instead of organising a fight.

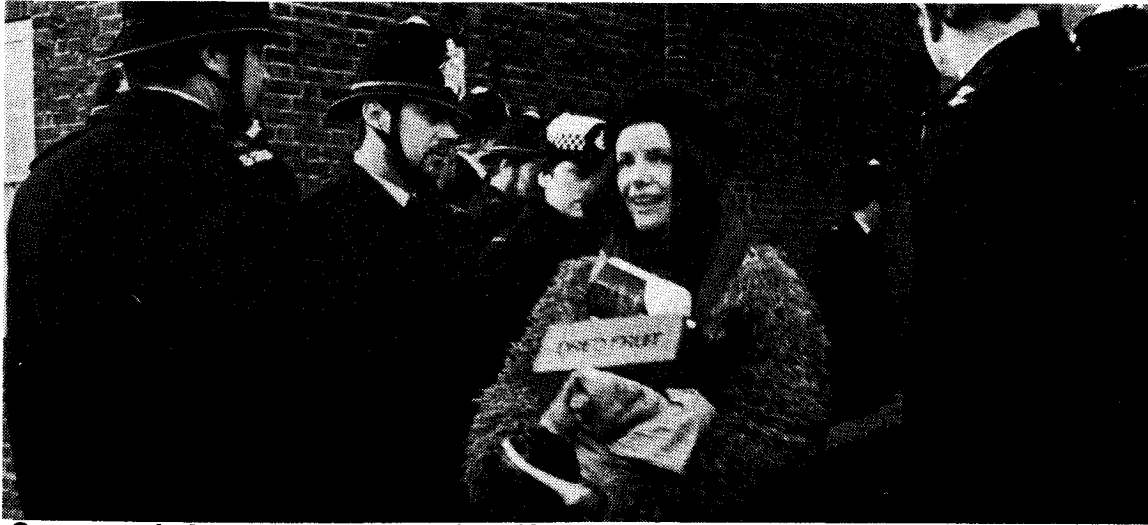
As in every other attack on jobs, Sirs and Co have said to the membership if you fight we're behind you: well, well behind. With this sort of leadership, no wonder many steelworkers take the redundancy money. No plant faced with closure has much chance fighting alone. So in the absence of any national action from the union executive,

New 'SAS' formed by evicted squatters

By Piers Corbyn, London Squatters Union

A FOG horn sounded, fireworks wooshed and the Internationale struck up as six hundred police stormed Kilner House squat at 6.50am last Friday.

After 14 minutes of Keystone cops scenes — involving sledge hammers, riot shields and crow bars — the squatters behind the staircase barricades were held, questioned, and peacefully released a couple of hours later.



Squatters being evicted from Kilner House.

Raid

There was an atmosphere of solidarity in the hours between the tip-off the squatters received the night before the raid, and the morning of the raid. This reflected the continuity of squatting struggles, now recognised as part of the whole struggle of the working class.

Bonfire

A woman veteran of the 1959 St Pancras rent strike gave out sandwiches and chatted around a bonfire to journalists and squatters who had been through many previous squatting struggles.

Banners from Lambeth Trades Council

and the National Housing Liaison Committee were prominently displayed.

After the eviction Lambeth council accepted a list of all evicted squatters for re-housing, despite procrastination in previous weeks.

Since the eviction, squatters and supporters have founded the Squatters Against Sales (SAS) under the motto 'Dare to Struggle, Dare to Win'. The aim is to stop the sale of Kilner House and squat empty council housing threatened with sale.

SAS's first action was a 70-strong rally on Sunday outside Kilner House, where we chained up the gate and imprisoned security staff and their dogs. The builders' union

UCATT has decided to boycott building and repair work on Kilner House. In view of the police vandalism done to the premises — £10,000-worth of damage — it is hoped that repairs will not be completed by May, when Labour is likely to win the GLC elections and halt the sale.

Event

The next event scheduled by SAS is a street theatre re-enactment of the eviction at Kilner House, Clayton St, Oval, London SE11 on Sunday 18 January at 2.30pm. For speakers information, and donations contact SAS on 01-237 8277 (days) or 01-701 5691 (eve).

'A woman's place is in her union'

By Rose Reilly

ON 14 February, the South East region of the TUC is holding a conference on 'Working women in the 1980s'.

The conference will discuss the problems faced by working women, with particular emphasis on the effects of Tory social and economic policy on women.

The conference has

received wide support with over 100 delegates already registered.

The conference organisers have produced a briefing paper that deals in detail with issues such as women and low pay; discrimination in employment; women's unemployment; part time workers and the risks to their jobs; how new technology replaces women workers in clerical and administrative jobs; and the effects of cuts in public spending.

Delegates are welcome from all trade union branches throughout the South East. Credentials are available from SERTUC, Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1.

National anti-racist demo called

By Jenny Flintoft

THE new Nationality Act will result in the permanent threat of police fishing raids because no black person born here will have citizenship unless his parents are "legal" immigrants.

That was how a Pakistani Standing Conference speaker described the Tories' new threat to black people at the National Campaign Against Racist Laws conference last weekend.

The conference unanimously approved three proposals for action: to call on all supporting organisations to lobby MPs about the Nationality Act; to organise a lobby of parliament; and to call a large national demonstration in London on 29 March.

The 200 delegates to the conference considered it an important step forward in the fight against the Nationality Act.

Organisations represented included the Indian, Kashmiri and Pakistani Workers' Associations, as well as local trade union and student union bodies, the Anti Nazi League, the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants and local CARL groups.

Speaker after speaker from the Asian organisations called for unity in fighting the new bill and the notorious 1971 Im-

migration Act. Pete Alexander from the ANL told the conference that the Nationality Act not only attacks black people, but the whole working class: 'The capitalist class wants a second class tier of workers which can be brought in and thrown out according to its needs.'

Mike Rodney from the CARL mobilising committee urged delegates to intensify the fight in the labour movement, to combat racism on the factory floor, and to force the next Labour government to repeal both Acts.

Rudi Narayan advised: 'Don't put your faith in Labour MPs, don't lobby them, reselect them! Get into the Labour Party and chuck out the racist MPs.' Bob Swart from South London CARL told delegates that a conference on fighting labour movement racism is being organised on 5 April for all London Labour party members.

Other speakers included Bernard Mishrahi from the CARL newsletter collective, and Anwar Ditta, who moved many delegates to tears with the account of her agonising five year struggle to bring her three young children into the country.

For more information about CARL News and CARL activities, write to: CARL, Lansbury House, 41 Camberwell Grove, London SE5.

1,500 march against NF in Wolverhampton

By Pia Feig

LAST Sunday the National Front held its first demonstration in Wolverhampton for ten years. Less than 100 fascists turned out.

The pretext for the NF march was the decision by Wolverhampton's Labour council to fund an Afro-Caribbean centre in the town.

The Labour council urged the police to ban the march but this was refused.

Wolverhampton against the Nazis, an ad hoc group set up to combat the NF demonstration, was able

to mobilise from all sections of the black community in Wolverhampton, including the IWA, Akali Dahl, the Afro-Caribbean cultural centre, Harambi, and from the trade unions and the Labour Party.

Support also came from such far away places as Oxford, Coventry, Leicester, Birmingham and Bristol.

The National Front were only able to march for 20 minutes, heavily guarded by the police, at 9.30am on a Sunday morning. The 1,500 who marched against them show that the anti-racist movement is a force to be reckoned with in Wolverhampton.

Building worker victimised

By Tony Young, TGWU senior shop steward, Brixton.

EARLY in November last year five building workers were sacked from the Mariot's site in Northampton. Management gave the reason as that the site had run out of window frames.

The real reason was that Brian Higgins, a bricklayer and one of the sacked workers, is a well known militant in the building industry union UCATT. He is also a member of the local SWP, and has been heavily blacklisted in the past.

The sacked workers decided to picket the site to get their jobs back. The police arrived, and promptly arrested Higgins. Normally pickets are charged with obstruction, but Higgins was charged with contravention of the 1936 Public Order Act which carries far heavier penalties.

He was refused bail, and not even allowed to contact his family. His solicitor has now secured bail, but his life has been hell while awaiting trial. He has received telephone threats and he finds it impossible to get any work.

His union official, Jim

Coleman, has applied for an internal union/management tribunal, but the employer's federation NFBTE has said that they would not co-operate in Brian's case. This is very serious for building workers. The employers now want to pick and choose who has tribunals.

Brian goes to court on 20 January at Northampton Crown Court, Campbell Square near the city centre. A picket has been called for 10.30am outside the court. It is vital that every trade unionist who can turn out with their banners.

If every trade unionist who Brian Higgins has actively supported in their struggles turns up, there will be tens of thousands on the streets of Northampton that morning.

For more information, phone 01-732 4478.

Journalists counter redundancies and closure

MEMBERS of Hackney Trades Council were among those who joined a Central London demonstration last Friday in support of journalists sitting-in at British Printing Corporation offices. The 65 NUJ members are occupying the BPC subsidiary MacDonald Books against redundancies.

The journalists' union officially supports the action, but while print union members at the occupied offices, in Worship St, EC2, have been giving assistance, the print unions have yet to give official backing.

They have good reason for solidarity — last week BPC announced that it cannot comply with an agreement to cut printers' working week, and it wants to freeze their pay.

The NUJ members need donations and support, to: MacDonald Occupation, c/o NUJ Book Branch, 314 Gray's Inn Rd, London WC1.

Journalists resisting the closure of the *Camden Journal* in North London are producing a weekly paper to build support for their action and provide local news. The paper, called *Save the Journal*, has been well received by newsgang and many people in the community.

NUJ members within the group, which produces the *Hornsey Journal* and *Islington Gazette*, are on strike against the closure and consequent redundan-



Photo: MORNING STAR

cies. Last week pickets delayed distribution of the *Gazette*, the editor of which is doing his usual one-person scabbing operation.

To help stop distribution altogether,

join the picket of Bulls in Brooksby St, N1 each Thursday from 11.30am There are weekly meetings of the defence committee. Details from 38-40 Camden Rd, London NW1.

Socialist Challenge

Tory MP drops anti-abortion Bill

DEFENDERS of the 1967 Abortion Act have scored another victory. Timothy Sainsbury, the Tory MP who had planned to bring in a Private Members' Bill curbing abortion rights, has decided to drop the issue.

He announced on Tuesday that there were too many 'fanatics' defending the existing legislation to make it worthwhile for Parliament to restrict the Abortion Act.

Sainsbury mentioned possible disruption of the workings of the House of Commons, which can be taken as a reference to protests mounted at the supermarkets owned by his family.

The Tory MP is now to use his Private Members Bill to introduce proposals on indecent displays, and it is unlikely that any other MP will attempt to cut back on abortion rights in the present Parliamentary session.

But Sainsbury warned that he had reason to believe 'abuses' would be dealt with by the courts.

Given that the existing Act is still a long way from providing a woman's right to choose on abortion, it is a further reason to help build the labour movement conference on abortion and positive legislation.

Every trade union and Labour Party should be represented at this conference, to be held in London on 14 March. To make sure that yours is, write for leaflets to: NAC/LARC Trade Union Liaison Committee, 374 Gray's Inn Rd, London WC1. Tel 01-278 0153.

FULL SPEED AHEAD FOR SEA STRIKE

By Pat Kane

IT'S not difficult to find out the cause of the strike by the National Union of Seamen. Seafarers presently earn £111.97 for an average 66-hour week; they want better pay and conditions.

The strike is sending shock waves through Britain's already worried bosses. The NUS demand for a 16 per cent pay rise and improved overtime payments comes at a time when employers are trying to hold down wages throughout industry and the public sector.

The present guerrilla action by the NUS is having its effect. Over 40 ships lie idle in various ports around the world and at home. Britain's bosses are terrified that the strike will bring imports and exports grinding to a halt. Ninety-five per cent of Britain's trade still goes by sea.

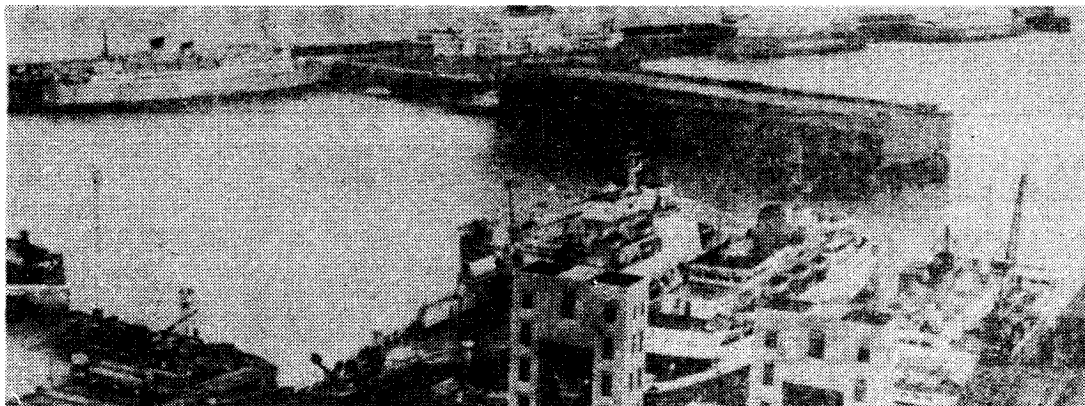
Imports of food, fuel and components

Cardiff demands full claim

AT a mass meeting of Cardiff branch NUS last Tuesday resolutions were passed linking the pay question to job loss and demanding that the union executive stick out for the full claim.

Substitute NEC member Musa Nogan said: 'We are not in dispute to end up with arbitration. Our job is to mobilise to achieve our full demands'.

will all be affected. The government estimates that there are only 100 days supply of fuel in the country.



The NUS is taking various actions to secure their demands. It is calling one-day stoppages to hit ferry services and other shipping at major ports. Deep-sea ships will not set sail for overseas ports.

The union has targeted 14 of the most hostile shipowners and stopped their ships sailing from any port in the world. Seafarers are forced

to work long hours for poor wages but the ship owners reply to the union's claim was an offer to increase the average basic weekly wage by only £10 — from £64 to £74.

Last week, workers on P&O Ferries 'Ulster Queen' fired the opening shots in the union's campaign when they occupied the ship against redundancies. They

showed the whole union that militant action can defend living standards and save jobs.

Solidarity with the NUS is vital. Already the dockers' members of the giant Transport and General Workers Union have agreed to boycott any scab ships at registered ports.

Solidarity can ensure that the seafarers win.

Pauline McLaughlin is freed

IRISH political prisoners chalked up two more successes against the British government and prison authorities last week.

First came the announcement of the release from Armagh prison of Pauline McLaughlin.

Pauline is suffering from a nervous and dietary disorder which makes it impossible for her to hold down food. The Northern Ireland Office has at last admitted that Pauline is 'seriously ill and needs medical treatment which cannot be provided in prison hospital.'

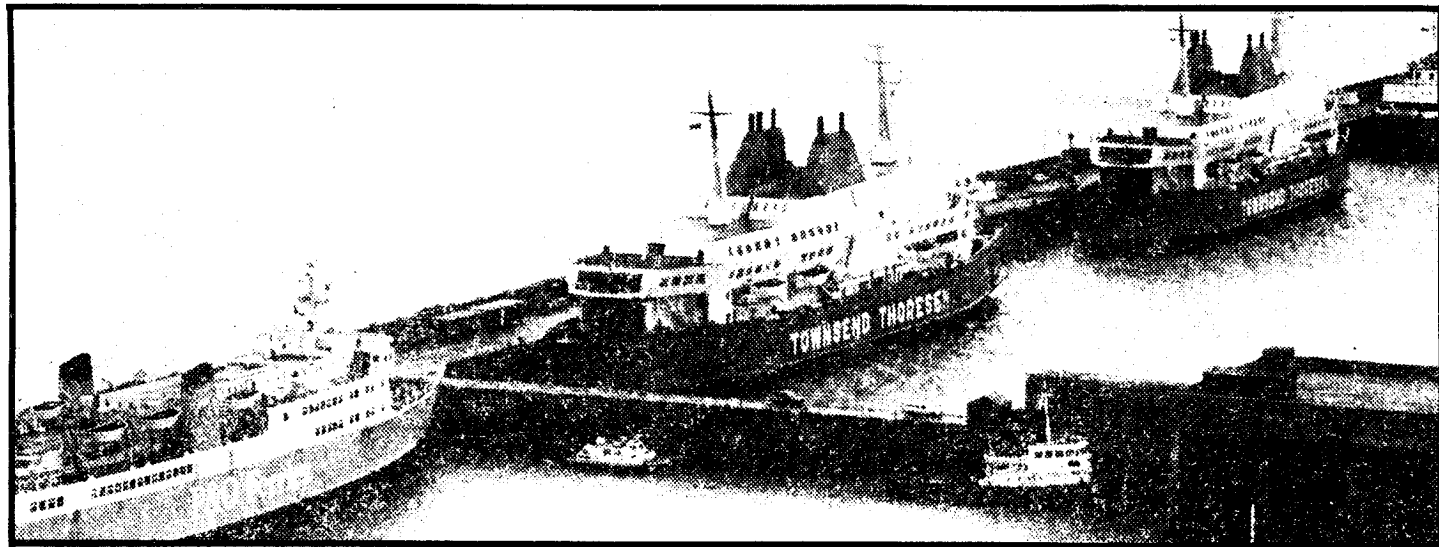
Another government statement agrees: 'It is now considered unlikely that she would recover to a point where she could

be returned to prison.' Pauline's release is a vindication of the campaign that has been waged in Ireland and Britain on her behalf. This campaign was recently joined by six Scottish MPs and was widely supported by the women's movement in Britain.

The second success for the Irish prisoners was the decision of the British government to allow 25 'Blanket' prisoners in Long Kesh to occupy fully-furnished cells.

Previously the government had maintained that no prisoners would be moved to such cells until they had come off their protest.

It is the prisoners stand, that they would only consider ending their protest after they had been moved to furnished cells, which has triumphed.



Fund Drive usurps consumerism

TWO NALGO supporters have boosted our Fund Drive by a welcome £110 out of their local authority pay awards. 'A much better use for the money than fuelling capitalist consumerism' wrote one.

What about you? During the next few months

we'll be meeting some vital political expenses as well as continuing to save up for our press, our publications, and above all to buy our building.

For the 21 February Labour Party demonstration in Glasgow we want to back up our intervention with a thousand placards, a gigantic banner, and a pamphlet to explain our 'Jobs not Bombs' campaigning theme.

We'll be organising a tour of Scotland and the North of England to build

the Labour Movement Conference against the Missiles and strengthen Socialist Challenge supporters' work against the missiles.

And we plan to mobilise the broadest possible support for the North West TUC's proposed march from Liverpool to London starting on 1 May.

Christmas and the New Year brought us some very welcome presents: let's see another £1,000 from our NALGO supporters to put us on the road in 1981.

Our thanks this week to:

L Lloyd	£1.00	John Wickes	7.50
Erling Vindheim	3.00	Tony Greenstein	10.00
Wandsworth IMG	24.47	Brighton NALGO supporter	50.00
December standing orders	177.50	Islington IMG	9.00
Derek Ross	10.00	Southampton IMG	10.00
Celia Church	0.50	Outer West London IMG	160.00
MB	20.00	Brent IMG	145.00
A Acheson (stamps)	20.00	IMG PC coffee	5.50
D Costa		Oxford NALGO supporter	60.00
(anti-Xmas party)	50.00	Total	£929.47
Bristol IMG	100.00		
Red Arrows	5.00		
Ben & Thea	20.00		
Gragory Carey	5.00	Cumulative Total	£5,532.57
John Mooney	5.00		
Lewisham IMG	31.00		

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