

SOCIALIST PRESS



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PAC
MARCH
NOVEMBER 26
ASSEMBLE 2.30pm

SPEAKERS CORNER
MARBLE ARCH

*POW Status for all Irish republican prisoners
*Amnesty for all Irish republican prisoners
*British troops out of Ireland now!

ABC—need for TU conference!

John Berry, Crispin Aubrey and Duncan Campbell are understandably relieved at the outcome of the "Colonel B" secrets trial.

From the initial prospect of possibly 14 years jail apiece, for charges under Section 1 of the Official Secrets Act, they ended up with sentences that virtually amount to acquittal.

But while the three defendants can take a deep breath,

the same is not true of the labour movement. Scarcely a finger was lifted outside the NUJ to defend these victims of reactionary legislation which remains on the statute book.

And Labour leaders Rees and Silkin remain in office to launch further, similar attacks in future.

A labour and trade union conference should now be convened to draw the lessons of the case and step up the fight for the repeal of the Official Secrets Act as a whole.



A bedraggled Fisher trots out a left speech on May Day

PHOTO: Mark Risher, IFL

Army fails in Spanish coup attempt

The third anniversary of General Franco's death was marked by what seems to have been a serious attempt at a military coup by ultra-Francoist sections of the army and police.

The coup attempt was followed by a substantial show of strength by swastika-touting fascists in a demonstration through Madrid.

This very serious development shows the extreme danger which hangs over all the gains of the Spanish working class as long as the old Francoist repressive apparatus remains in existence.

Constitution

But the organisation of this police and army is to remain untouched by the terms of the "democratic" constitution which will be presented to a national referendum on December 6.

Last week's attempted coup is the third occasion since the death of Franco that a section of the army and police have tried to seize power.

This occasion seems to have been the most serious.

Reports suggest that at least 16 senior officers were involved and have been arrested.

Political and military leaders rushed to give assurances that the only people concerned were a small group of "hotheads".

Chile 1973

This remark is ominously reminiscent of the statement made by the Allende government and the military leaders (including Pinochet) in Chile when a preliminary coup went off at half cock in June 1973, just three months before the bloody regime of Pinochet seized power.

The response to this by workers must be to launch a counter-offensive against the Suarez government.

Build workers defence militias in Spain!

Dissolution of the Francoist state apparatus! 'No' to the Suarez-Gonzales-Carrillo constitution!

Further article—p.3.

SOCIAL CONTRACT COLLAPSES

After last week's failure by TUC and Labour leaders to agree a formula for wage controls, the government's 5% pay limit rests on the refusal of public sector union leaders to take action to break it.

Nobody should imagine that those 14 bureaucrats who voted against the proposed "guidelines" documents were declaring readiness to fight in defence of their members' living standards.

Rather they were showing their fear of the growing shop floor militancy on wages that has given the strength to the Ford strike and the bakers strike.

Employers in the private sector have certainly recognised that workers are ready and willing to fight the 5% limit.

Above the limit

In British Oxygen and Michelin, strikes have so far been averted by offers well above the limit; and in Fords, management have reached a figure nearly three times the government ceiling.*

Fourteen TUC leaders felt painfully aware that they would face the full fury of their members if they put their names to a new pay limit.

A particular embarrassment to them was Healey's credit squeeze measures only days before the vote, which brought mortgage rises sufficient to gobble the entire 5% increase in one go.



Jackson—attacked TUC decision

LOW PAID WORKERS FACE SELL-OUT

But the other 14 leaders—including 'left' demagogue Clive Jenkins—decided they would sooner continue to combat their own members than run the risk of a stand-up confrontation with the government on wages.

Consensus

The rejection of the agreement marks the end of three years of general consensus between Labour and TUC bureaucrats—years which have

brought historically unprecedented cuts in working class living standards.

This means that with the 5% limit effectively a dead duck wherever determined leadership is given in the private sector, the weapons Healey will use against the working class are the same as a Tory government would use.

The government will rigidly resist wage demands in the public sector, and use monetarist policies designed to cut inflation by increasing unemployment and cutting public spending.

This strategy depends on the weakness and tacit collaboration of the public sector union leaders whose members include some of the worst paid workers in the country.

Strike action

Every indication suggests a growing willingness among these workers to take all-out strike action in pursuit of the £60, 35-hour week demand submitted jointly by unions representing 1.1 million local authority workers, and by 300,000 hospital workers.

Healey will already have been strengthened in his stand by the knowledge that the local authority workers' claim should have been settled three weeks ago and there is still no sign of action from union leaders.

The most flamboyant of these is NUPE chief Alan Fisher, who by holding back his

members last winter, played a key role in isolating the firemen's strike against Phase 3, and ensuring that NUPE members were held to the 10% limit.

Now he is reportedly planning not a serious, all-out strike to break the 5% limit, but "guerrilla" strikes, local stoppages and token protests.

Whittling down

Such action would be criminal. By whittling down militancy it could lead to a miserable 5% sell-out, and thus condemn millions of other workers in the public sector to a further year of drastic wage cuts.

The fight on pay in the public sector must be recognised as an all-out fight against the Labour government.

But NUPE and the other unions in the public sector have the strength to win such a battle, provided their strength is connected with the strength of the other sections of workers now coming into struggle against wage controls.

Futile gestures

In countering Fisher's futile protest gestures and partial actions, local authority and hospital workers must take the lead in calling for the setting up in each area of councils of action, comprising delegates from trade unions, workers political parties, tenants associa-

tions, students and claimants bodies, with the aim of spreading and coordinating all-out strike action to break the 5% limit in the public sector.

Such bodies can also provide an important arena within which policy can be decided and action planned on other struggles in each area—the fight against closures and sackings; the fight for unionisation; the fight against public spending cuts.

They must put down demands that those Labour MPs and trade union leaders that claim to oppose Healey's policies launch an active campaign to drive out the Callaghan-Healey leadership and take up a fight for a socialist programme, and offering them support insofar as they do so.

Struggles

In the course of these struggles, revolutionaries will fight to prove to workers in practice that what is needed is not simply the replacement of right wing Labour leaders with Labour 'lefts' but the construction of a principled, revolutionary leadership prepared to mobilise the full strength of the working class in defence of its interests.

*As we go to press talks between Ford management and the unions are continuing with the union leaders clearly hoping for a settlement in the next day or so.



Striking bakers in Walthamstow. The weekend brought news of new forces joining the strike.

PHOTO: Mark Risher, IFL



JUST GOOD FRIENDS!

Three faces of reaction could be seen on tour in Britain last week—one former dictator eager to resume her tyranny, one general operating as a bonapartist president and one vice-premier of a ruling Stalinist bureaucracy.

Variouly entertained by Callaghan and the Labour

leaders, this trio had converged on London in pursuit of their separate counter-revolutionary ambitions.

Each sought help and advice from their friends in the British bourgeoisie and labour bureaucracy and neither Gandhi nor Eanes nor Wang was turned away empty-handed.

Indira Gandhi arrived for intensive consultations with the politicians of the British bourgeois state on the problems for imperialism



Gandhi

posed by the crisis of the Janata in India.

Her second aim was to win political support and financial backing from the Indian community in Britain.

But it was not enthusiastic crowds which greeted the architect of Emergency Rule.

After a noisy reception at the airport, worse things were to come at Southall with the major meeting of the tour.

Met by some 2,000 hostile demonstrators inside the Dominion cinema and on the picket outside, Gandhi was forced to give up her speech after only 10 minutes of high-flown rhetoric.

Although this minor setback must have sharply wounded her vanity, Gandhi can in general feel satisfied with her trip.

After the by-election victory in Chikmagalur, she can now return to the Indian parliament to take up the leadership of the

opposition.

This confirmation of her political comeback ensured that she was treated seriously by the Tory leaders—both Thatcher and Heath met with her.

But Gandhi's closest friends in Britain have always been in the Labour Party leadership.

(On this occasion it was Peter Shore and Michael Foot who leapt to the defence of this famous "democrat".)

Callaghan himself displayed rare tact in dealing with this faithful ally of imperialism.

In place of the violent displays of political affection for the Shah, he avoided giving open political support to Nehru's daughter.

Instead they met privately 'as friends'—and took tea together.

The other guests at this select tea-party did not include President Eanes or Vice-Premier Wang—perhaps because the business



PHOTO: John Sturrock, Report.

Gandhi admirer Shore

to its capitalist owners. In the industrial sector, tens of thousands of workers have taken action on wages.

Token strikes

Although the CP has so far succeeded in restricting this movement to token strikes and protest stoppages, the massive pressure building up within the Portuguese proletariat clearly menaces their ability to police industrial peace for the bourgeoisie and army.

The British Labour leaders have always given their firm support to those forces of reaction determined to keep Portugal within the orbit of imperialism.

In particular, Eanes sought and won from Callaghan a renewed commitment to Portugal's entry into the Common Market, and fresh supplies of arms to build up Portugal's military strength for its role in NATO.

No doubt Mulley will soon be heard in the Commons denying the obvious fact that this boosting of the armed forces poses grave dangers to the workers and peasants of Portugal.

Industrialisation

The Chinese delegation came to pursue their negotiations with imperialism for the rapid industrialisation of Chinese industry. But Wang secured not only contracts and massive bank loans, but also guarantees of arms.

Despite their reluctance to antagonise the Kremlin bureaucrats, Callaghan and Mulley have been prepared to participate in the imperialist ploy to intensify the divide between the rival Stalinist bureaucracies and build up the military strength of the Peking ruling caste against the threat of Soviet invasion.

Callaghan may claim that in consorting with such counter-revolutionary forces he is only meeting 'good friends', not cementing political alliances.

Workers who have already experienced the vicious attacks of his government in Britain, will have a more realistic assessment of what is at stake in these cosy chats and private deals.

New problems for Smith's stooges

The internal settlement in Zimbabwe suffered a further blow last week when the Executive Council agreed to put off the proposed elections to launch 'majority rule' from December to April.

This move is a reflection of the inability of Smith and his black stooges to establish the settlement on a stable foundation.

Claims

It can be expected to further weaken the claims of Sithole and Muzorewa that they have obtained significant gains for blacks through the settlement.

Sithole and Muzorewa are both building up private armies to ensure an apparent support for themselves.

In the past Muzorewa in particular has claimed that his supporters have been attacked and shot.

This inter-party conflict would seem to have reached crisis proportions.

Last week the transitional



Smith—calling the tune government banned the holding of membership cards and the wearing of T-shirts or vests with names or pictures of political leaders on them.

Base of support

Smith, quite clearly continues to call the tune and is using Sithole, Muzorewa and

Chirau as an extra base of support while he continues his campaign for a behind the scenes deal with Nkomo.

Meanwhile in Salisbury last week Smith called on Britain and the US to explain why they are taking so long to convene the all-party conference on a no preconditions basis that he agreed in Washington last month.

Eritrea

THE REACTIONARY Ethiopian military dictatorship has launched a fresh attempt to crush the liberation struggle in Eritrea.

40,000 troops have been assigned the task of recapturing the city of Keren, according to an EPLF spokesman.

This new offensive includes more active participation of Cuban and Soviet "advisors", concentrated largely behind the front line in support and heavy artillery detachments, but fighting no less tenaciously to repress the Eritrean people.



Portuguese President Eanes

Callaghan had to conclude with them was a more formal affair of trade deals and bargaining in arms.

The significance of Eanes' visit to Britain was shown in the way he was prepared to leave Portugal when the government crisis was still unresolved.

Even during the short period of his stay, new threats to his bonapartist rule erupted.

The Portuguese Communist Party has needed all its resources to hold back the latest upsurge from the workers and peasants they claim to lead.

Despite their efforts, peasants in the Alentejo region have mobilised to resist the para-military forces sent in by the government to smash their cooperatives and restore the land

ARGENTINA

AN OPEN CONFERENCE on Argentina, under the general title 'Building Solidarity' has been called for Saturday December 2 by the British Argentina Committee.

The conference, which will be held in the Student Union building, Brownlow Hill, Liverpool, will discuss the adoption of Argentinian political prisoners and ways in which the British working class can aid the struggle against the Videla dictatorship.

Details from: BAC, 52, Acre Lane, London SW2. Credentials £1.



Argentinian dictator Videla

Chairman Hua for chop?

'When will Hua Kuo-feng be arrested?' is a very reasonable question to be asking in Peking, as the 'demaioisation' of the Chinese leadership gathers pace.

The position of Hua, who rose to the top through the Cultural Revolution, was formerly a close ally of the 'gang of four' and was groomed as his successor by Mao himself, is being seriously undermined by the most recent shifts:

*the appearance of wall posters in Peking attacking Mao Tse Tung.

*the rehabilitation of Peng Chen, former Mayor of Peking and one of the early victims of the Cultural Revolution.

*the arrest and probable execution of former Red Guard leaders. These include Miss Nieh Yuan-tzu, the Peking philosophy lecturer whose 'big character' poster (sponsored and welcomed by Mao) unleashed the pogrom against academics in 1966.

*the complete 'reversal of verdict' on the Cultural Revolution campaigns against intellectuals now described as a form of 'fascist ideological dictatorship'.

*The broad hint that the 'fake trials' and 'erroneous verdicts' were the responsibility of 'a certain higher leader' (i.e. Mao!)

The rehabilitation, and the new purges, by Teng Hsiao-ping's faction of the leadership are—like Krushchev's 'destalinisation'—all being prepared secretly from 'on top'.

Settle accounts

The mass of Chinese workers, who would welcome the opportunity to settle accounts with the careerist tyrants of the Cultural Revolution, and—no doubt—with many of their more recent successors are being strictly excluded.

But the pace of the political 'reverses' reveals the extreme pressures acting on the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party.



Friendless Hua seen here embracing Tito



SPAIN'S WORKERS' PARTIES SINK TO NEW DEPTHS

It has been increasingly difficult in the last few weeks to tell the difference in Spain between fascists, "reformed" Francoists, reformists, CP Stalinists, Maoists, and Basque and Catalan nationalists.

All of them have been marching, sometimes in the same demonstrations, "against terrorism".

All these political forces have been competing with each other to stage public shows of support for the Spanish bourgeois state and its repressive apparatus.

The first of these right wing orgies took place in Bilbao on October 28.

Organised by the right wing Basque Nationalist

Party (PNV), it was supported by both the Socialist Party and the CP as well as the Maoist Workers' Revolutionary Organisation (ORT).

Of the main unions, the Stalinist-dominated Workers Commissions supported the march. Only the UGT (related to the Socialist Party) told its members to stay away.

30,000 strong

Even with the backing of parties which obtained 90% of the votes in last June's elections, this demonstration was joined by no more than about 30,000, which while large enough, compares unfavourably with both the organisers' expectations and other recent

demonstrations in Bilbao.

In the last two years, demonstrations against the government's economic policy or in favour of Basque national rights have regularly drawn ten times as many participants.

This reflects the fact that the latest campaign of the Basque separatist ETA (Euskadi and Freedom) has a great deal of popular sympathy in Euskadi, since it has been directed almost exclusively against members of the armed police and the civil guard and against Francoist local officials.

But the PNV's reactionary initiative was later repeated by other parties in the rest of Spain.

It was actually on the initial proposal of the Maoist ORT—immediately

taken up by the Socialist Party, the CP and the Workers Commissions that on November 10 sizeable "anti-terrorist" demonstrations were organised all over Spain.

These were joined by the government party—the UCD, and sections of the extreme right wing as well as the other main Maoist group—the Party of Labour (PTE).

Held back

Once again the UGT in most areas held back from supporting them.

These reactionary mobilisations are all part of the lead-up to next month's constitutional referendum.

This, as ETA knows, could be crucial in shifting



CP leader Carrillo

the thin veneer of stability and democracy which Adolfo Suarez has managed (with CP, Socialist and Maoist support) to paste over Franco's crumbling state.

Martial law

Already virtual martial law exists in parts of Euskadi which is covered with road blocks.

Meetings to campaign for a 'No' vote or boycott of the referendum have been banned.

ETA's campaign in which 25 policemen have been killed this year has, for all its failure to offer political direction, focussed attention on the absolutely unchanged nature of the Francoist repressive apparatus as Spain prepares to vote into force its "democratic" constitution.

The main workers' parties—reformist, "Euro-communist" or Maoist—are, therefore, using their "anti-terrorist" campaign to cover up their nefarious collaboration with the ruling class in building the pretence of "democracy" under the protection of Franco's police and army.

Their demonstrations are designed to shift attention from the real opponents of democracy in Spain—the Francoist UCD and its repressive apparatus—by

putting the blame on ETA.

The workers' leaders shamefully march against the killers of Francoist policemen, side by side with those who have been responsible even within the last few weeks for brutal repression and murder of workers demonstrating for their democratic rights.

It is the same workers' leaders who are holding back the workers on other fronts such as the fight for adequate wages and against unemployment.

Here the UGT bureaucracy, under Nicholas Redondo, is playing its full part alongside Marcelino and the leaders of the Stalinist Workers Commissions.

Both of them are continuing to negotiate with the "democratic" Francoist government about the renewal of last year's hated social contract (the Moncloa Pact).

Both the UGT and the Commissions have agreed to the principle of a ceiling on wages.

So far they have rejected the proposed government figure of 12.5 per cent—compared with 22% last year and with a current inflation rate of 16%.

Lukewarm

But it is clear that both organisations have given such hesitant and lukewarm opposition to the proposals that Suarez has been confident enough to say publicly that he is prepared—Callaghan-style—to try to enforce his wage limits without official union cooperation.

There is no doubt that under these conditions the build-up of mass discontent over falling living standards and rising unemployment, like the widespread demand in Euskadi and Catalonia for real national rights, is becoming increasingly difficult for the Francoists and their reformist, Stalinist and Maoist allies to contain.



Italian workers march through Rome

ITALIAN STALINISTS UNDER PRESSURE

New cracks and fissures have once more begun to appear across the facade of the fragile edifice of capitalist rule in Italy.

One of these showed up last week across the face of the ruling Christian Democratic Party.

The former Industry Minister Donat Cattin, who recently transferred to be Deputy General Secretary of the Christian Democratic Party, has launched a bitter public attack on his proposed successor.

To succeed Cattin, Premier Andreotti has appointed a well-known Bologna University economist called Romano Prodi.

He is not a member of any political party but is believed to have been appointed by agreement with the Communist Party, by whom he is regarded as

a "sympathetic Christian Democrat".

Cattin's anger reflects his rapid move to the right of the party.

Right wingers are now arguing for a sharp break in the Christian Democrats' alliance with the CP which allows Stalinist leader Berlinguer to nominate ministers in exchange for parliamentary support.

Restive

The Stalinists are themselves beginning to show restiveness about the present arrangement.

Top Stalinist spokesmen, after some months of silence on the issue, have once again started publicly to demand seats in the cabinet.

As on the previous occasions it has been made, this demand reflects the speed with which the Stalinist leaders see the control of

the mass movement slipping from their grasp.

The immediate sign of this is a new wave of strikes—especially in the public sector—in support of wage demands and in protest against all the restrictive economic policies of the CP-supported Andreotti government.

But the strategy of the Stalinists remains the same as ever—to attempt to hold down the workers' movement by holding in front of it the prospect of "a share of power".

Of course, the Stalinist leaders know that this is only a delaying action.

Share of power

If ever they get their "share of power" they intend to use it in the manner of the British Labour government—to impose the demands of capitalism on the working

class.

Their only alternative would be for them to lead the defence of the interests and conditions of Italian workers.

Destruction

But that they will never do because they know that a real struggle of that kind cannot stop short of the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism—an event which would inevitably also bring with it the destruction of the bureaucratic Stalinist leadership itself.

But it is the growing rift between the masses of Italian workers, seeking a way to fight for their own interests, and the Stalinist bureaucrats, fighting to hold down the struggle for those interests, which now represents for Italian capitalism the most dangerous fissure of all.

FREE ASTRID!

Months of speculation that Yugoslavia would extradite four Germans wanted for "terrorism" in exchange for Serbo-Croat nationalists held in West Germany ended last weekend with the announcement that the four were to be set free.

The decision is unexpected because the Stalinist regimes have increasingly co-operated with capitalist countries on the question of terrorism and in particular the question of aircraft hijackers from the West.

The decision to release the four was based on the legal merits of the case according to the Yugoslav authorities.

The decision comes at a time when Astrid Proll, also wanted in West Germany as a suspected terrorist remains in custody in Britain awaiting extradition proceedings, despite the fact that friends have now raised

£62,000 bail money.

In fear of her life if she is extradited to Germany where a number of urban guerrillas have been murdered in jail, Astrid Proll has now been incarcerated in prison for two months since her arrest on September 18.

The West German authorities continue to put back the date by which they expect to be able to produce evidence against her in extradition proceedings.

This is despite the fact that the crimes in which she is supposed to be involved took place in 1971 and criminal proceedings were actually started against her in Germany, before she fled to Britain.

The labour movement must demand that the Home Secretary Merlyn Rees immediately release Astrid Proll and drop the extradition proceedings against her.

She has committed no crimes against the workers movement in Britain or in Germany.

RAID ON NF MEETING

NUPE steward proves to be Fascist organiser



NF leader Tyndall

A secret meeting of fascists in a council community centre in Oxford was broken up and dispersed by a united front of political groups including the WSL last week.

The meeting was the third this year that members of the National Front have called under the name of the Albion Club in the Donnington Community Centre.

There were fewer than a dozen fascists present and they were caught totally unprepared when up to 100 anti-fascists stormed the meeting.

The fascists were bundled out of the room and much of their racist and fascist propaganda was set fire to outside the hall.

Other material was obviously not destroyed. *Socialist Press* has received photocopies of internal branch documents and other material which exposes virtually the entire local membership of the Front.

A covering letter with the photostats said that the originals had been returned to the fascists to avoid the possibility of police raids on anti-fascists.

Opportunism

Despite the success of the raid it has also shown the deep seated opportunism and sectarianism of the Socialist Workers Party who, because the action implied a clear class position of no platform for fascists, were forced to march under their own banner instead of that of the pacifist ANL.

Incredibly, and without informing any of the other groups involved, the SWP had invited along what they regard as a 'progressive' section of the capitalist press in the shape of a reporter and a photographer from the *Oxford Journal*.

While members and supporters of the WSL (and some of the SWP's own members) carried out the removal of the fascists on the understanding that forces of the state were not present, the *Journal* had itself a field day.

The next Friday the SWP had their reward. The *Journal*—distributed free to 115,000 homes in Oxfordshire, carried a page one splash story: 'Mob Law Boots Out NF'.

This 'progressive' story began:

"A mob of ultra left wing demonstrators forcibly ejected eight National Front members from a council hall where they were holding a meeting on Monday night. The Front supporters were kicked and punched; their leaflets scattered and burned; and the hall turned upside down."

This criminal piece of irresponsibility by the SWP is not a single mistake.

It is the logical outcome of immersing themselves into the pacifist ANL.

Their natural allies are not the working class, but the 'progressive' sections of the bourgeoisie.

In the event the individual political leanings of the reporter present counted for little. The witch-hunt was the result.



Stalinist NUPE official George Anderson

On the night the SWP IMG and WSL each gathered separately, supposedly to strike together. The SWP had other ideas and set off ten minutes early.

Members of the WSL saw the SWP group approaching the hall and immediately entered the building with them.

After it was all over, and it might be reasonably expected that police cars were on their way to the hall, the IMG were at that very moment, and according to plan, marching straight towards the building.

The criminal sectarianism of the SWP could have resulted in a large number of arrests.

The results of the raid have been highly productive. The fascists have been badly organised and frightened by the strength and numbers of the opposition.

Collect information

One fascist from the Cowley Assembly plant, confronted with several car workers immediately declared that he was there to collect information against the fascists!

He is a member of the notorious 5/837 branch set up by local TGWU official David Buckle to attempt to break the strength of the 5/293 and 5/55 branches.

Copies of the documents sent to *Socialist Press* reveal that the NF is a ramshackle small organisation of not more than 25-30 members throughout Oxfordshire—but that they have been receiving inquiries and money from new supporters.

Most of their members do not come from Oxford itself, where a history of class struggle has not allowed the fascists to grow, but from isolated small villages around the county. There are also several members in Banbury.

A campaign is to be launched into the labour movement to prevent the growth of fascism in the area, using the information gained.

NUPE steward

One of the most revealing facts already to emerge is that the organiser locally is Bill Young, a NUPE shop steward at Brasenose College, Oxford.

In May this year the now defunct Oxford Anti-Fascist Committee wrote to George Anderson, Assistant Divisional Officer of NUPE and a leading Stalinist, asking that Young be removed from office.

In a long and evasive reply Anderson quoted union policy



PHOTO: Mike Tomlinson, IFL

not to expel fascists unless "the National Executive were satisfied that the member concerned had broken the rules".

He called the AFC letter—which was a pretty tame and timid approach—"an intolerable interference in our organisation".

He said that he had no complaints of ill treatment from members at Brasenose. The letter ended with a tiring piece of rhetoric on his commitment to 'equality', making it clear that Anderson would take no action.

Now the documents make it clear that Young is the driving force behind the Nazis locally.

Bank statements made out to the National Front, Oxford and Area Group, also carry the address T.W. Young, 80 Hugh Allen Crescent, New Marston, Oxford.

Letters from members to the same address come in envelopes addressed B.W. Young.

There is also evidence that Young has drawn around him at least one other member of NUPE.

Clearly if the NF can be said to have an industrial base in Oxford at all it is within this NUPE University branch, which at a time when similar low paid workers have been fighting for union organisation all over the

country has declined dramatically in membership over the past few years due to the sabotage of Anderson and other officials. On the ANL in Oxford the Stalinists block with the SWP. Now it is revealed that Anderson has been defending the leading NF member in the area!

Another name to crop up regularly is Mrs Isla Atherley of Hazel Cottage, Charlbury.

She has for a decade bombarded the letters column of the *Oxford Mail* with her poisonous views on Rhodesia, race, birching, and other NF favourite subjects.

None of her letters has admitted membership of the National Front.

In the bundle of photostats is a £10 cheque from her made out to the National Front.

A covering letter says this is for 'election expenses', confirming that the NF intend to try to stand a candidate locally.

Atherley writes: "I am delighted at the purchase of a London HQ. It sounds as if it were a magnificent building."

The WSL now intends to campaign for labour movement action over the Front and to demand that the Trades Council and Labour Party take united class action to prevent the standing of an NF candidate.

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MOB LAW BOOTS OUT NF

VIOLENCE flared... as a demonstrator burns a mass of National Front literature. Circled is a Front supporter who was repeatedly kicked outside the Donnington Community Centre. Above left: The first punch, here as the "Revolutionary Left" surrounds a Front member.

By HEARLYN KEMENY
A MOB of ultra-left wing demonstrators forcibly ejected eight National Front members from a Council hall where they were holding a meeting on Monday night. The Front supporters were kicked and punched; their leaflets scattered and burnt; and the hall turned upside down. The eight were photographed for the anti-fascists' files before being bundled out of Donnington Community Centre. One was kicked virtually senseless on the ground outside. "We wanted to protest against fascists being allowed to use Council premises," said a demonstrator. About 100 members of the Socialist Workers Party, the Workers Socialist League and the International Marxist Group gathered for what they described as a 'picket'. They had heard that the Oxfordshire area branch of the National Front were meeting in the community centre near Iliff Road. "We wanted to know how many there were and what they looked like — and we wanted to disrupt the meeting," said a member of the SWP. Inside the community centre, eight National Front members were holding a meeting. The room had been booked in the name of the "Albion Club". Camera flashed at the *See P2

Punches fly as National Front men take a beating

demonstrators burst into the hall. Slogans were exchanged as the National Front members were bundled out of the building. Organisers were heard to shout: "Cool it, we just want to get them out," but violence flared. A briefcase containing National Front literature

The witch-hunting Oxford Journal front page

Trotskyism Today

Theoretical Journal of the Workers Socialist League

Number 3 includes:

- * WSL British Perspectives
- * The Poisoned Well (document for submission to XIth World Congress of USFI).
- * The Spartacist School of Invention.

Price 60p plus 20p p&p from WSL, 31, Dartmouth Park Hill, London NW5 1HR.

Deeper into the EEC mire...?

By 1980 every man, woman and child in Britain will effectively be paying £15 per head in order to keep British capitalism in the reactionary Common Market set-up.

This cost leaves out the massively inflated food prices—anything up to 2½ times the level of world prices—which are built into the EEC system itself, and have formed a major component of the fall in working class living standards since the unholy coalition of Labourites, Tories and Liberals forced through a referendum vote for entry under the Wilson government.

Wine lakes

70% of the EEC's budget goes to preserving the scandalous "Common Agricultural Policy" and financing the continental butter mountains and wine lakes.

Precious little of it will find its way back in any form of

Fight needed for socialist United States of Europe

benefit to the British workers, who by 1980 will be taxed to provide the lion's share of the cash, which is then handed out to employers and small farmers in the supposedly "needy" capitalist states of Europe, such as Belgium, Holland, France and Denmark.

But proposals are going full steam ahead to draw the British economy further into this chaotic mire.

The planned European Monetary System, which is widely acknowledged to prompt a new round of public spending cuts, deflation and unemployment in Britain, is being aggressively pressed by Callaghan's reactionary German Social Democratic "comrade" Helmut Schmidt.

German capitalists and their reformist errand boys believe that tying the British pound

sterling into a fixed relationship with the strong German Deutsch mark would force the Callaghan government to implement the further attacks on the British working class they are longing to see.

One-time Labour cabinet minister—now top 'Eurocrat'—Roy Jenkins has added his voice to the chorus of European leaders insisting that Britain should sign up for the EMS



Shipbuilding jobs under Labour axe

The real face of Labour's "nationalisation" of only bankrupt sections of British capitalism was revealed last week.

The announcement of £108 million losses in British Shipbuilders was followed almost at once with revelations of the gargantuan job-slashing programme now planned in a bid to make the industry profitable.

And at the same time union leaders are playing along with a pay plan which promises the most miserable rises offered by any employer outside British Leyland.

As a result shipyard workers face:

- *12,300 sackings—linked to speed up for the 74,000 left in work.

- *Centralised pay bargaining in the hands of appointed officials.

- *A rise this year of well under 5%.

- *Some grades to receive no pay rise for 2½ years.

The pay proposals were strangely praised as "revolutionary" by one member of the shipbuilding committee of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, which is recommending the deal.

But the rates on offer are a measly £80 for skilled men, £70 for semi-skilled and £62 for unskilled.

Despite an ostentatious show of opposition to the sackings by Boilermakers' leader John Chalmers, there is no prospect that he or his fellow union bureaucrats will call any form of action to enforce his demand for the redundant workforce to be retained on full pay until they find work.

They have in essence accepted the argument that workers should tailor their demands to the financial state of British Shipbuilders—which is only an aspect of the international crisis affecting the industry in every capitalist country.

Meanwhile the private firms that feed off lucrative contracts



PHOTO: Chris Davies, Report

Chalmers

with British Shipbuilders continue to draw profits from the misery and exploitation of shipyard workers.

The Labour leaders took a conscious decision to force this crunch situation in the shipyards by imposing a limit on the deficit of the 'nationalised' firm—just as the government is the motive force behind the attacks on jobs and conditions in British Leyland and British Steel.

In taking these steps they show how their concept of nationalisation operates solely in the interests of the crisis-ridden capitalist class.

The books of the nationalised industries must be opened to elected committees of trade unionists to reveal the sections of big business that exploit the state sector.

Such information is essential ammunition in demonstrating the inability of reforms within capitalism to guarantee jobs or working conditions, and the necessity for the expropriation of major industry and the banks as a step towards a planned socialist economy.

Such a course means an all out fight for the removal of the existing labour and trade union leaders and the building of a principled revolutionary leadership.



Carter with Schmidt



Pressing for the EMS—Giscard

PRESS GANG



As Aubrey, Berry and Campbell walked free from court last week, the warning of the Judge, Mr Justice Mars-Jones must have rung in their ears.

In reply to counsel's claim that Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act would be unlikely to be used again, the Judge remarked that he doubted whether that was true.

He also warned John Berry, the ex-soldier, that if anyone else came up on a similar charge, he or she would be certain to be sent to prison.

In that sense, Aubrey, Berry and Campbell have not won their case. What is much more obvious, however, is that the State has lost.

The collapse of the serious charges, the public admissions of jury vetting, the discharging of a jury headed by a former SAS man and the Judge's remarks that the Section 1 charges were 'oppressive' have made a mockery of the £250,000 political show trial. The state has strained every fibre to give birth to a badly maimed mouse.

The capitalist press has lost little time in pointing this out. Long articles favourable to the defendants, or at least critical of Sam Silkin and his anonymous advisors, have appeared in the *Guardian*, the *Sunday Times* and the *Observer*.

In what sense then do these papers oppose the power of the state to control the disclosure of information about its activities?

John Berry described SIGINT and other secret organisations as a 'state within the state'.

This description is not stretched in the slightest to encompass the D notice system, which the editors of every single capitalist paper support.

Nor have the capitalist papers who now congratulate the defendants, shown the slightest interest in defending them during the trial.

It took "gratuitous journalistic gossip" on a TV programme to reveal that the first jury had a foreman committed in advance to return guilty verdicts on all charges.

Every single national paper was aware of this fact. Far from exposing it they took a dim view of the method used by Christopher Hitchens to reveal the truth.

To have revealed these facts in print during the trial would have been to invite contempt charges. That is always and invariably put first by these self-styled defenders of civil liberties.

In the same way the national papers first used the opportunity of Parliamentary privilege to name Colonel Hugh Johnstone (Colonel B of the committal proceedings) and then

as soon as the Director of Public Prosecutions stated that the cloak of Parliamentary privilege had just been torn up deleted his name from later editions, and in the case of the *Times* and the *Telegraph* attacked the MPs for naming him.

It is clear that capitalist papers in a bourgeois democracy have a self-interest in holding the censorship laws at bay.

"Reasonable"

They are equally committed to ensuring that no-one be allowed to go further than the 'reasonable' friends of the state who edit the national papers are prepared to go.

The *Sunday Times* concluded its long article on the trial (Sam Silkin's Whitehall Farce) with complete complacency in the immunity of the capitalist press from repression, because of its willingness to practice moderation.

"What everyone in Old Bailey Court Number One had now realised, however, was that if Berry had phrased his letter to the Defence Campaign more sensibly, and if Campbell and Aubrey had been on the staff of a large newspaper with access to good legal advice and a training in more prudent interviewing, the case would never have been brought."

from the outset.

The driving force behind the pell-mell dash to establish the EMS is the renewed moves towards recession and trade war in the crucial US economy.

Employers in the European nations fear that individually their economies do not have the strength to withstand the pressures of such an international confrontation.

But they also cherish the absurd illusion that simply by providing a stabilised European currency they can open up a new period of economic expansion.

The reality is that even if the EMS proves viable in the short term, it can only lead in the longer term to a further collapse of the dollar as the main international reserve currency, and a major lurch towards a breakdown of world trade.

And none of the cosmetic deals to cover over the weakness of paper currencies can help tackle the root problem—the continuous fall in the rate of profit.

The only way out of this dilemma is an unprecedented rationalisation of capital through wholesale closures, drastic speed up and further attacks on living standards.

Which ever way the European heads of state move on the EMS and the European budget, such attacks—foreshadowed in the planned sackings in British Leyland and British Shipbuilders—are inevitable.

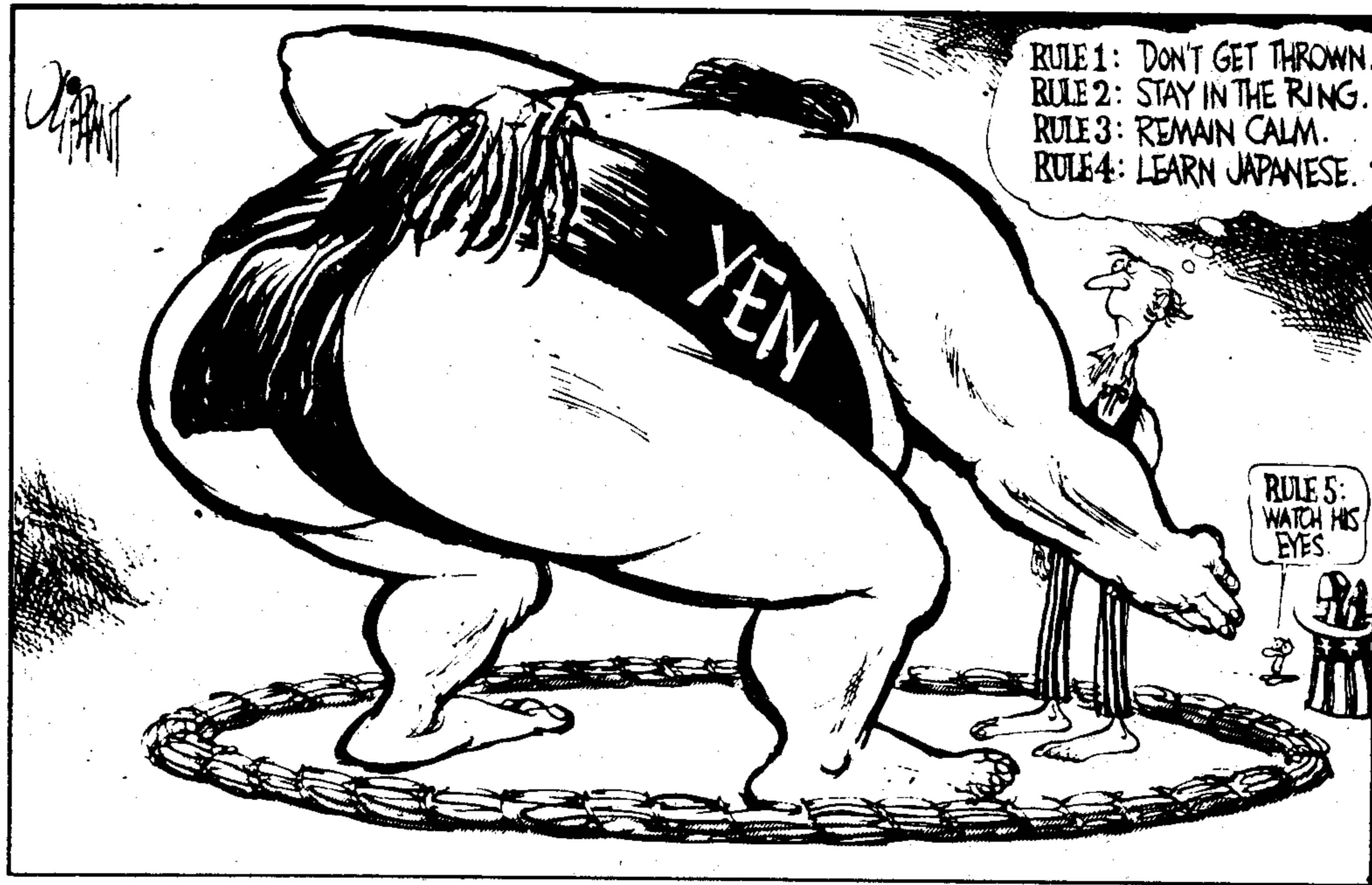
No worker should imagine that the Callaghan leadership or supposed 'left' critics can offer an answer to this. A revolutionary leadership is crucial.

A central plank of policy of such a revolutionary leadership must be to ensure the break up of the European bloc of capitalists within the EEC, and the struggle in every country for the overthrow of capitalism and the formation of a Socialist United States of Europe.



PHOTO: Ray Smith, IFL

Mass meeting of shipyard workers



Oliphant © 1978 Washington Star



Gold dealers

DOLLAR CRISIS DRIVES ATTACK ON US WHO

When *Newsweek* correspondents went looking for quotes on President Carter's so-called "anti-inflation" package, they found the Teamsters union leadership gathered at a golf tournament in southern California.

"The rifle is pointed at our contract", said one wealthy bureaucrat, presumably between greens.

That "contract" is the master pay contract covering 400,000 Teamster truck drivers, due for negotiation next March.

The present contract was won after a three-day national strike in which truck drivers blockaded main highways and fought gun battles with police—and provided a 32% rise over 3 years, plus an unlimited cost-of-living clause giving automatic increases to match price rises.

But now, in a period of double-digit inflation in the USA, President Carter has called for a 7% limit on pay increases, linked to a supposed 6-6½% limit on prices.

Collision course

In other words Carter's government is set on a collision course with the workers' movement on pay.

However, even since these measures were announced, still further attacks have been unleashed on American workers.

As the dollar sank like a stone on the international money markets earlier this month and the gold price soared, Carter was faced with the prospect that this chaos could severely disrupt the entire capitalist world economy.

He was forced to implement severe measures to restore confidence in the dollar. This meant arranging credits totalling \$30 billion backed up by a sharp and dramatic credit squeeze at home and cutbacks in government spending which can only mean the prospect of recession in the key US economy.

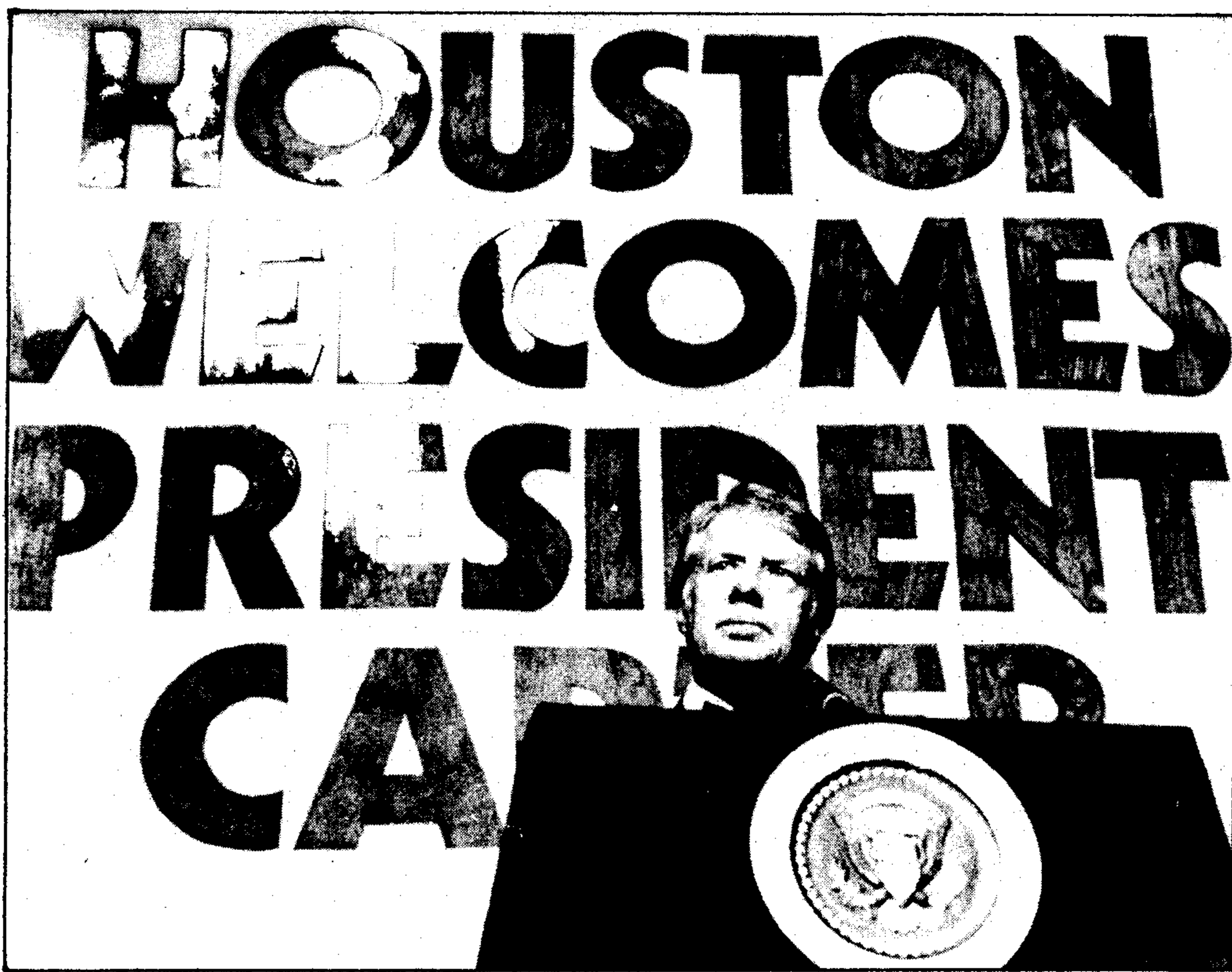
In moves which foreshadowed a similar though smaller scale credit squeeze in Britain, Carter raised the base interest rate by 1% to a new record 9.5%.

By raising the cost of borrowing money, this measure is designed to act—in the US and Britain alike—as a means of holding back industrial growth, and attracting foreign investment.

Unemployment

It offers improved profits to bankers and speculators, while forcing ailing sections of industry to the wall and increasing the number of unemployed.

Carter also raised the amount of cash reserves the banks are obliged to hold—thus again restricting the amount of money available for loans to



individuals and industry, and pressuring US bankers to borrow dollars on the international market rather than issue them from their own stocks.

This, it is hoped, will create an artificial demand to drive up the price of the billions of increasingly devalued paper dollars now circulating in Europe and elsewhere as a result of years of chronic US trade deficits.

Recession

But in doing so, Carter is taking another step towards recession at home.

And in a move to hold down the soaring price of gold, which had risen to a record \$242.60 per ounce as a result of the growing lack of confidence in paper currencies, Carter decided to increase sales of gold from the Fort Knox hoard to 1.5 million ounces a month.

His hope is that such a volume of gold released onto the market will force down the price and thus restore some credibility for paper dollars.

But he knows all too well that such trickery will not resolve the problem so long as government spending continues at a huge deficit, and low productivity levels in US

industry hold back profitability.

An all-out attack by employers on the living standards and working conditions of the American working class is essential for US capitalism.

Carter's "anti-inflation" plan has already axed social services and 20,000 Federal jobs in the public sector. But this is simply the tip of the iceberg. Workers face an onslaught on all sides.

Carter's watered down "energy policy", designed to cut the huge US oil deficit will drive up prices, force confrontation in the coal industry, and threaten jobs, while decontrolled prices of natural gas will increase domestic fuel bills.

Income tax cuts and cuts in taxes on businesses benefit only managers and capitalists, while the 'cuts' are more than clawed back from workers by an increase in social security tax.

Even the *Wall Street Journal* pointed out that:

"The taxpayers have been had again... Taxes still are going up, not down..."

Prior to the emergency dollar support measures, Carter was reportedly preparing drastic cutbacks in government spending during the current year: there is little doubt that he will now proceed with such an "austerity" programme.

In this he will be backed up by the increasingly right wing administrations at state level within the US. The recent mid-term elections featured panels of Democrat and Republican candidates so reactionary that even arch right winger Ronald Reagan declared with satisfaction that "There were no liberals in this campaign".

Cut budgets

Candidates from the Republican "Grand Old Party" and the allegedly 'friend of labour' Democratic Party vied with each other in proclamations of hostility to the working class—in particular hostility to public service workers—and in attempts to outbid each other's promises to cut state budgets and thus minimise taxes.

Nearly all of the 77 newly elected candidates are pledged to such policies.

Proposals to limit public spending were passed in four states; and in six others proposals to cut taxes were approved.

Such policies, however, were not expected to, and did not, win the support of American workers. A mere 37% of the registered electorate turned out to take a choice between a Republican Tweedledee or a

Democrat Tweedledum.

One exception to this appears to have been in the state of Missouri, where, as reported previously in *Socialist Press*, employers had waged a multi-million pound campaign in support of a 'Right to Work' law.

If passed this would have outlawed the union closed shop, as is the case in some 20 states.

Union bureaucrats were forced to fight this move, and a substantial rank and file campaign amongst union members—including incentive schemes to ensure that trade unionists registered to vote—ensured that the reactionary proposition was thrown out by 60% to 40%.

Ban on gays

Unfortunately no such labour movement mobilisation was undertaken in California, the largest US state.

Despite this, however, an extreme right wing proposal that would have banned known homosexuals from teaching was rejected.

Re-elected Democrat Governor Jerry Brown had opposed the measure, but so, surprisingly had Republican Ronald Reagan, and the rejection of this proposition therefore went strangely alongside the massive support to a proposal to *expand* the state's death penalty laws, and the surprise election of a Republican lieutenant governor.

An even more tight-fisted Congress and an even more right wing network of State governors now faces a working class whose fighting spirit is indicated by militant struggles over the last 12 months and determined abstention from the mockery of elections in which there are effectively no workers candidates.

This situation strikes fear into the heart of the US trade union bureaucracy. Least of all do these wealthy parasites on the workers' movement wish to see the flowering of a political movement independent of the bourgeois parties.

But at the same time they find the old-style collusion with the Democrats more difficult than ever.

Sackings

Carter is not only refusing to lift a finger to implement election pledges such as national health insurance; but he is actually imposing wage controls, federal sackings, social service cuts and tax increases.

Carter's attempt to impose

his "anti-inflation" package by mutual agreement rather than by law means that the full burden of controlling the wages militancy of the working class falls onto the shoulders of an increasingly hard pressed trade union bureaucracy.

And these officials, for all their willingness to serve US capital, are painfully aware that Carter's much-vaunted price controls offer more get-outs than a collander.

The White House is already talking of permitting increases up to 9.5%—and the deregulation of gas prices will raise energy costs by up to \$50 billion.

Union leaders are plainly reluctant to police Carter's wage controls. 84-year old AFL-CIO chief George Meany has issued a series of sharp rebukes to Carter—though not on the policy itself.

Sooner than stand in the front line of wage controls, Meany and his co-thinkers including AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer Lane Kirkland have demanded *statutory* wage and price controls!

Distanced

Other sections of the union bureaucracy have attempted to distance themselves still further from Carter's policies. United Rubber Workers leader Peter Bommarito has declared that he will not be paying attention to the voluntary guidelines in next April's review for 75,000 workers.

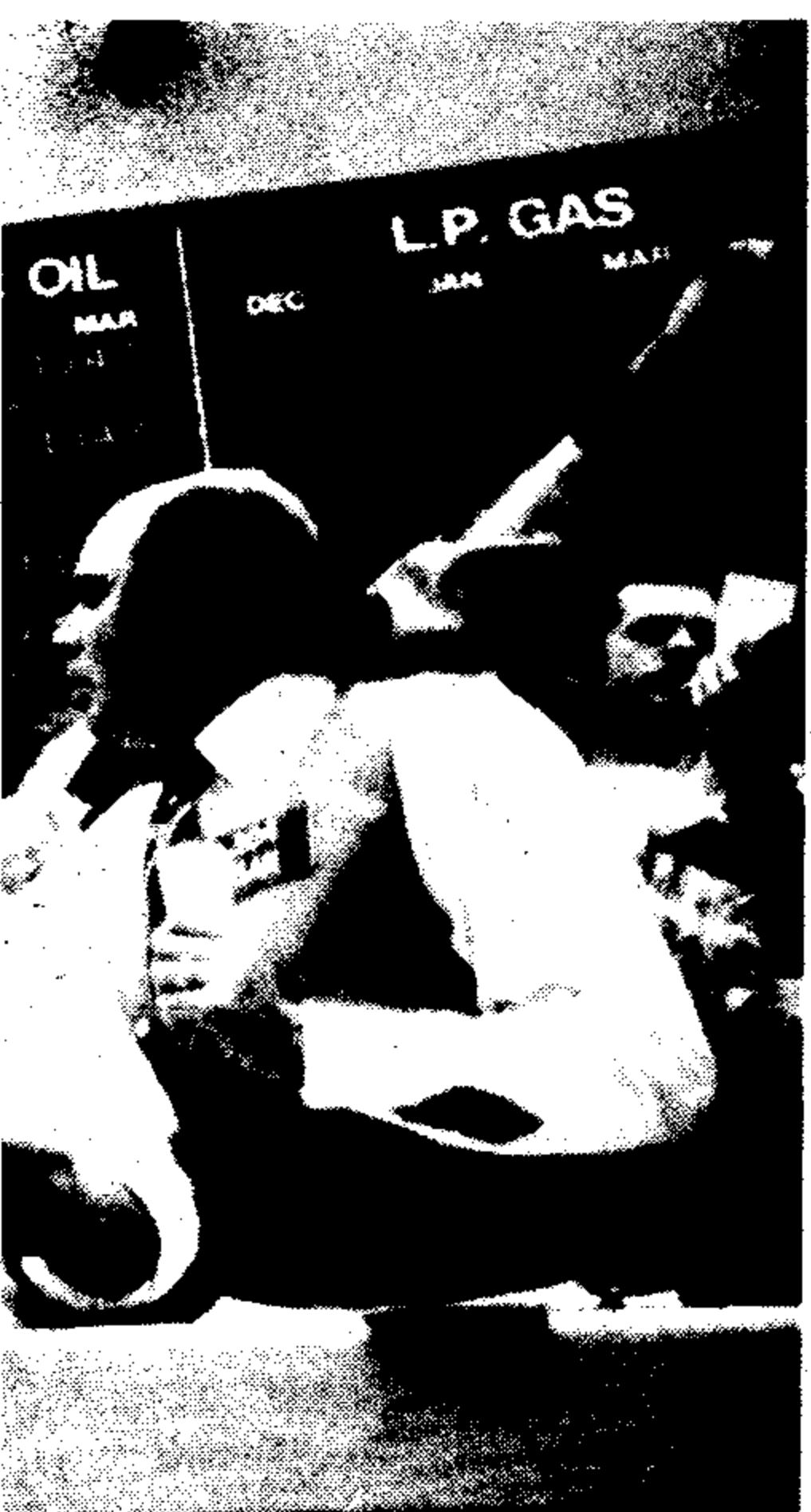
Machinists' union boss William Winpisinger has also told his negotiators to ignore Carter's guidelines and a 39% three-year deal for 4,000 Texas machinists has just been signed.

60,000 Oil, Chemical and Atomic workers; 150,000 Electrical workers; 150,000 garment workers; 700,000 construction workers and 750,000 Auto workers next year join the 400,000 Teamsters in the pay struggle.

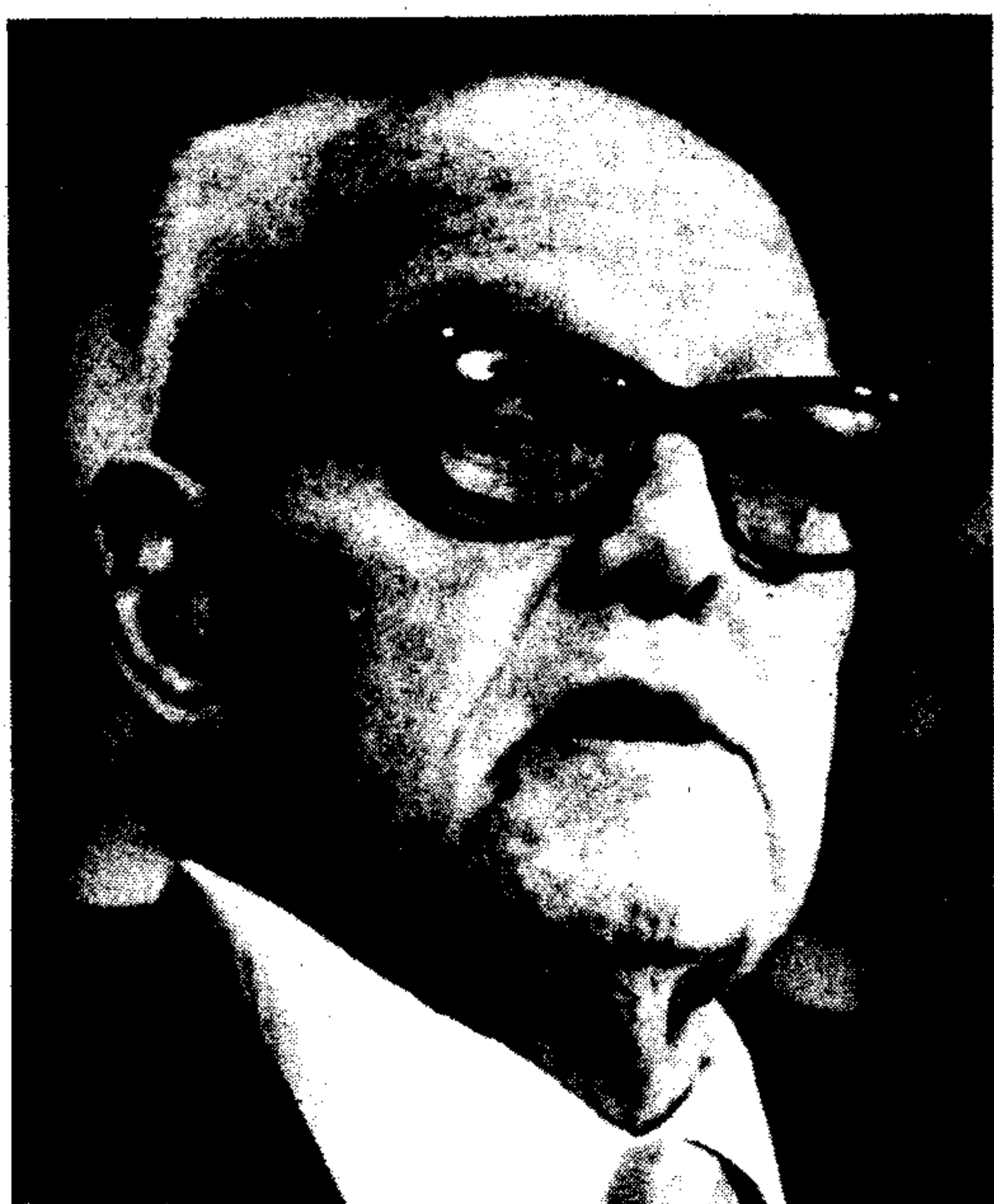
As they face growing inflation and mounting attacks from the employers in the drive for speed-up and rationalisation, they will increasingly take their cue from the historic struggle of the United Mine Workers earlier this year.

But the dilemma to be resolved is the complete lack of a leadership within the organised workers' movement that will fight for the political independence of the working class.

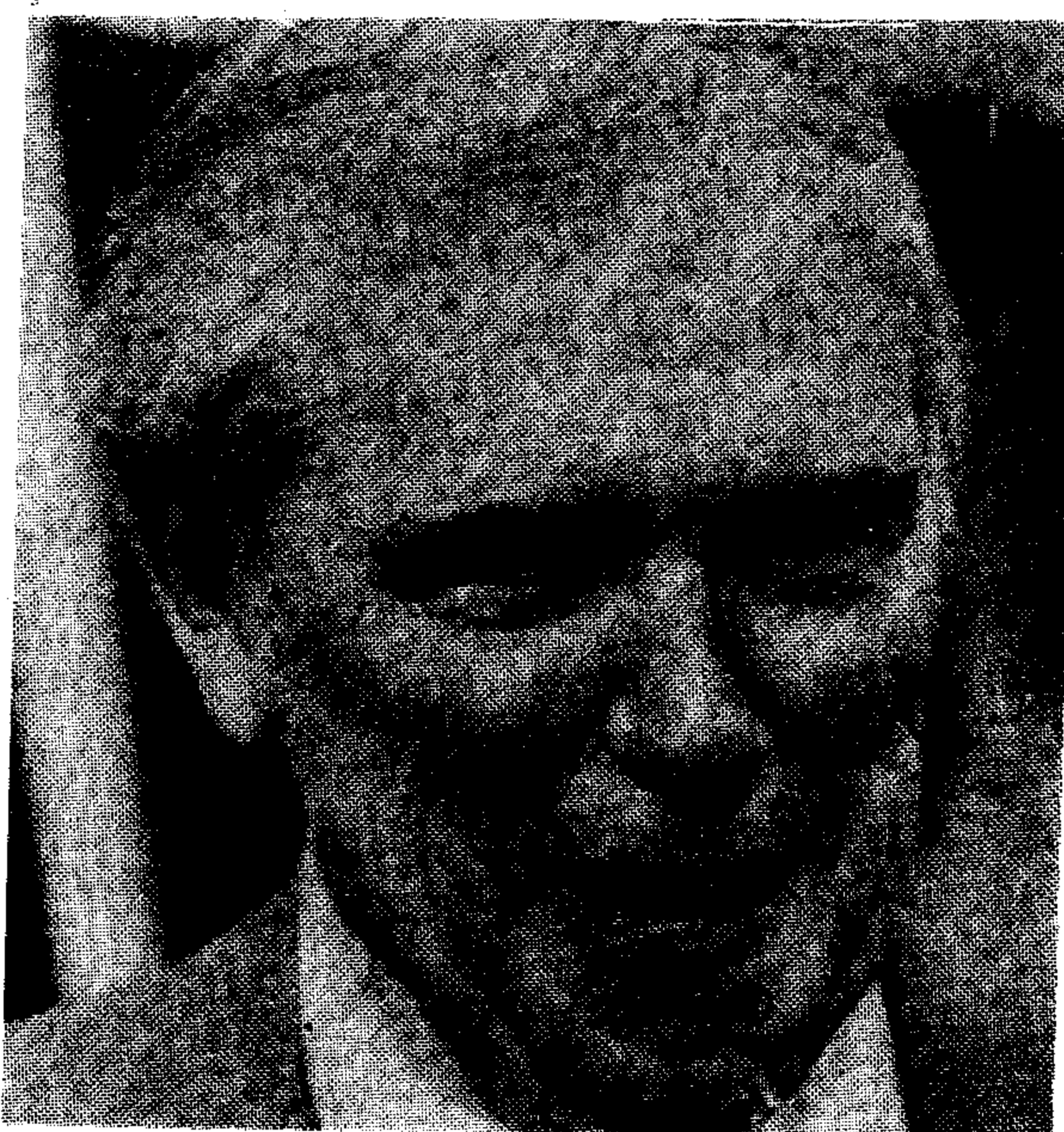
A clear break is needed from collaboration with Democrats and Republicans.



Wild during the dollar crisis



Meany



Fraser



Winpisinger

ON WORKERS



Public sector union leader Wurf

Yet the gist of their bill as summarised in the SWP's weekly paper *The Militant* is almost indistinguishable from a utopian Democratic "New Deal"—omitting any reference at all to nationalisation:

- *What's really needed to combat unemployment is the emergency job bill proposed by the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party. That bill would:
- *Provide unemployment compensation at union scale for all those without jobs.
- *Take the present \$126 billion war budget and use it to finance a public works programme to clean up and rebuild this country.
- *Reduce the workweek to thirty hours, with no reduction in pay.
- *Institute a programme of affirmative-action quotas to end discrimination in hiring, training and promotion for women, Blacks, Chicanos, and Puerto Ricans".

(Militant, October 27)

Hogwash

Such a programme would not only *not* solve unemployment (what about the workers in the \$126 billion arms industry?), but amounts to no more than redistributing the material resources already existing within the capitalist system.

Yet this appalling liberal hogwash is retailed as a "socialist" answer.

But perhaps worst of all, in a period when both the capitalist parties and the labour bureaucracy have been doing everything in their power to divert the working class away from political action and industrial action to win their demands, is the way in which this SWP "bill" professes a purely *parliamentary* way forward for the working class.

As such it harmonises completely with other aspects of the SWP's propaganda.

Uncritical

Agitation on women's rights is focussed around uncritical support for the Equal Rights Amendment, which numbers right wing Republicans as well

as numerous right wing Democrats amongst its supporters.

And, carried away by the large scale of some of the cross-class demonstrations called to back the ERA, the Socialist Workers Party suggests that mere *demonstrations* can win far more sweeping concessions from the employers.

"We need more demonstrations like that—with the full power of the UAW and all labour behind them—to win the ERA and other urgent needs of working people. For example:

- *A shorter workweek with no cut in pay to provide millions of jobs.
- *Free top quality health care for all.
- *An end to Washington's military spending, to free billions of dollars for jobs and social services... (etc)"

(Militant October 20)

Of course token protests and demonstrations—however big—will not force such concessions from the vicious US employers.

And once again the article leaves out the key demand for the *nationalisation* of industry without which public works programmes become merely state handouts for chosen employers.

Another aspect of the SWP campaign can be seen in their tail-ending of the anti-nuclear bandwagon.

Popular front

Here the demands put forward are equally dire and the politics of one SWP leaflet on the issue and the popular frontist Mobilisation for Survival in which the party is involved smack strongly of the Communist Party.

"In its first year the Mobilisation for Survival has made an important contribution to the struggle for world peace by mobilising people in the tens of thousands for nuclear disarmament."

The confusion of demands at the end is devoid of any programme for action by the working class:

"Zero nuclear weapons! Ban nuclear power! Fund human needs! Stop the Arms Race! Hands off Cuba! US out of Africa and Iran!"

The Mobilisation for Survival according to *The Militant* includes:

"a broad range of peace, religious and political groups".

"These include American Friends Service Committee, War Resisters' League, SWP, Clergy and Laity Concerned [!], Rocky Flats Action Group and various anti-nuclear power alliances."

No answer

Such methods and alliances—shown in every aspect of the SWP's political work—offer no way forward for the US workers' movement.

What is needed is an all-out struggle for the demands and method of the Trotskyist Transitional Programme in the context of a fight throughout the trade union movement for a break from the Democrats and the building of a Labour Party.

There is no short cut around such a course of action; but today's conditions in the class struggle in the USA provide the best opportunity for such a fight for many years.

By John Lister

feasible. We don't think it's a viable idea at this point in American history. It's just not a good idea at the current time in the American political scene. It just simply cannot work."

But 63% of the registered US electorate plainly believe that the present structure of two capitalist parties cannot work.

Radical right wing

And a booklet issued by the AFL-CIO which spells out the anti-union strategy of the "New radical right wing" political groups indicates clearly that the launching of a labour party is easily within the organisational grasp of the trade union movement.

Arguing simply for a vote

their argument is equally valid to demonstrate the viability of a labour party in the USA.

In fighting for such a political break, Trotskyists campaign not for simply a section of Democratic politicians to change their Party name and proceed with the same policies.

Nor do we argue for the building of a party confined to the reformist perspective of the British Labour Party, whose "socialism" is restricted to a form of words but which remains in practice at the level of seeking peaceful parliamentary reforms *within* capitalism.

We argue that in making a historic break from the parties of the capitalist class, the American workers' movement

What is lacking is an adequate revolutionary movement that clearly grasps the necessity of the fight at all stages for the political independence of the working class.

The largest group in the USA calling itself Trotskyist—the Socialist Workers Party—has deserted this basic element of revolutionary politics.

Single issues

Its intervention into the mid-term election campaign was a long horror story of single issue protests and opportunist evasion.

Thousands of copies of its "Emergency Bill to Provide Jobs For All" were circulated in their campaign.

Recent statements by a whole number of union bureaucrats including public sector leader Jerry Wurf, as well as Winpisinger, reflect a growing pressure for such a break within the ranks of the working class and their anxiety to see it headed off.

United Auto Workers leader Douglas Fraser has been at the head of the pack, with his broken-hearted complaint in July that the employers were conducting a "one-sided class war" which had broken the "fragile, unwritten compact" with union leaders!

Fraser went on from this to convene a meeting of selected top bureaucrats from the trade union movement, liberal groupings and 'left' Democratic ginger



Platform at the UAW-convened conference of union bureaucrat and radical campaign leaders

groups in Detroit last month. Represented were 30 union bureaucracies, including a number of unions regarded as staunch conservative followers of George Meany within the AFL-CIO.

But if any workers had looked to such a grouping as offering an alternative to the Democrats they were to be sadly disillusioned.

Instead, speaker after speaker got to the rostrum to demand a "reform" of the Democratic Party.

New party?

And only Bill Means of the American Indian Movement interrupted the speech-making by union bureaucrats and such hopeless groupings as the "Democratic Socialists' Organising Committee" to propose the organisation of:

"a political party which would truly represent the people."

This contribution was completely out of tune with a conference that clearly agreed with Fraser's earlier statement that:

"We're not in favour of a labour party. We don't think it's

against the "Radical right", the booklet concludes by pointing out:

"We have the numbers. If we register our members, if we educate them to this threat... if we get out our vote on election day... we'll win."

"They have the money... but we can raise enough money to ensure adequate funding for candidates we endorse."

"We have the educational apparatus. They have wild propaganda. We have labor publications—international unions, and local councils, thousands of local unions. We must use them as educational tools."

"We have direct access to all members through the mails [!] When they hear directly from their local union, their state and local councils, their international union, they listen. Experience in previous campaigns has proved this." (Workers' Foes... They're Going For Broke)

Drum up votes

Meany and Kirkland want this strength used to drum up votes for the Democrats. But

should also adopt a programme which fully asserts its independent class interests—a programme of democratic and transitional demands starting from today's conditions and today's consciousness, and leading workers to grasp the necessity for social revolution.

No ultimatum

However we are in no position to put forward an ultimatum to the working class. Should sections of the US labour movement begin—however partially and hesitantly, and on however limited a programme—to break from the political apparatus of the bourgeoisie and form an independent working class party, we would regard this as a step forward.

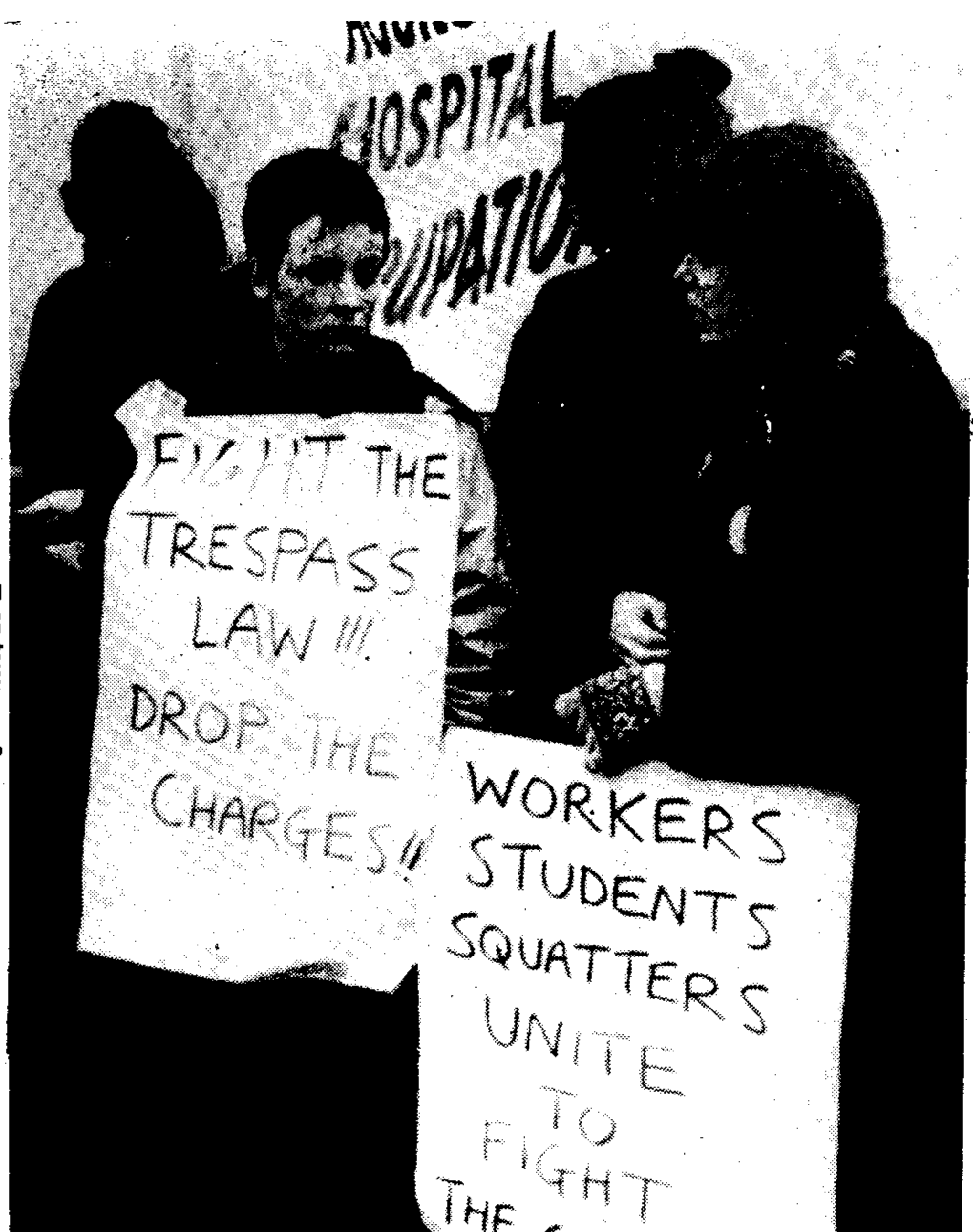
While fighting continuously for the programme of this new party to be in line with our perspective we would support such moves, and try to develop them further.

Many of the objective conditions for the formation of such a party are now rapidly maturing in today's intensified economic and political crisis in the USA.



UAW banner on an ERA demonstration

PHOTO: Laurence Sparham, IFL



CACTL picket outside trial of first CTL prosecution

An effective Campaign against the Criminal Trespass Law is vitally needed by the working class in defence of the tactic of "occupation".

The Criminal Trespass Law (part two of the Criminal Law Act 1977) became enforceable on 1 December 1977 and creates five new criminal offences relating to trespass.

It threatens with jail and heavy fines those taking part in any form of occupation, squat, work-in or sit-in and gives the police new powers to enter and search (without a warrant) in support of an arrest on the grounds of suspicion that one of the five new crimes has been committed.

It provides for jail sentences of up to six months and fines of up to £100.

The aim of this law is to try to deter the working class from fighting back against cuts, unemployment and falling living standards.

"The Criminal Trespass Law must also be set against the increasing and deliberate use of the powers of Parliament, police and the courts to attack the ability of our movement to organise and demonstrate."

"... The line of development is clear and it is equally clear that the movement must prevent it continuing and must be resolved to oppose attempts to develop the use of the law against organised working class action."

CACTL leaflet We endorse what is written here by CACTL about the Criminal Trespass Law.

More than leaflets

Unfortunately the fight against such pernicious laws require a lot more than just words and leaflets.

The recent CACTL conference, like so many others unfortunately illustrated the inability of the CACTL committee to give any real direction or effective programme to the labour movement as to how to defeat the Act.

We acknowledge the extremely valuable work CACTL has done in providing information on the implications of the new laws.

They have given some real help to occupations, when they occur, through legal advice, organisational assistance and by putting them in touch with previous occupations which have practical experience to contribute.

Experience shows that if sections of the movement

PHOTO: Andrew Ward, Report



are not 'educated' on the Criminal Trespass Law and shown its limitations and how to use them, then they enter into occupation ill-prepared.

Such a position makes them likely to fall victim to the Criminal Trespass Law.

Precedents

One example of this was the occupation of Smiths Crisp factory at Aintree.

The more the Criminal Trespass Law is implemented unchallenged, the more the forces of the State will have precedents and credibility to refer to.

This will encourage them to widen interpretations of the Act and introduce more repressive legislation.

The key question is therefore to stop the CTL from being used and make it impotent as part of a fight for its repeal. This cannot be done by simply advising occupiers or squatters to read *Workplace occupations and the law*, excellent though it is as a legal guide.

On numerous occasions, occupations have become, through CACTL, extremely well versed on the Criminal Trespass Law, but that has not stopped these occupations being smashed through the state machinery of the courts, as was the case in both Huntley Street and the South Oxford Nursery.

General advice

It is no good just offering general advice about local occupations receiving all possible assistance from the labour movement.

The crucial point that only the threat of indefinite strike action in support of occupations is an effective

deterrent to the Criminal Trespass Law being used.

Only twice during the entire conference in contributions from WSL members, were attempts made to raise the limitations of occupations that are not linked to supporting strike action.

And yet again only in the WSL contributions was the point made that the greatest block to strike action comes from the very people who should organise it—the trade union officials.

CACTL was formed in 1974 and was initially backed more by students, community, squatters and housing organisations than by the labour movement.

The Criminal Trespass Law was presented misguidedly by the media as no more than a law to make 'squatting' illegal—which it doesn't.

Falling prey to 'divide and rule' tactics, the full political implications of the Act were not taken up

immediately by the workers movement.

Now, however, since over 250,000 workers have been involved in more than 300 occupations to fight off redundancies, closures and in disputes, the trade union movement is seeing the need to become increasingly involved in the fight against the law and paying attention to CACTL.

Although there were under 200 delegates in attendance at the conference, a majority were trade union delegates representing sections of workers looking for a lead.

Weakest

Throughout the conference the cry was continually heard that the Criminal Trespass Law is being used against the weakest, most disorganised sections, and this must be stopped by the full strength of the labour movement 'supporting' these sections



Huntley St. squatters picket Camden Housing Aid Centre

STRIKE SUPPORT NEEDED TO BEAT TRESPASS LAW

Lesson of CACTL conference

housing being allocated only to the married family unit, single people and single parent families were forced into action.

They therefore set out to "expropriate" private property piecemeal as the need arose.

We have the situation now of mass squats such as that at Huntley Street, organised in the face of cuts in public expenditure on housing, soaring mortgage rates and escalating rents.

Over 30,000 homeless people are currently squatting some of the 850,000 empty houses in England and Wales.

Stood firm

The Huntley Street occupation housed 160 people, 30 of them children.

The squatters stood firm, refusing to accept eviction without rehousing.

They eventually received such an agreement and did not expect eviction.

Next morning, however, the eviction took place in an unprecedented orgy of police violence.

500 police, four JCB bulldozers, police cars and Special Patrol Group units armed with riot gear smashed their way into Huntley Street.

Defence squads

These weaker sections of the working class must be defended by the strength of the workers' movement through strike action and well-organised mass workers defence squads.

But such concrete policies for defence were not raised at the conference.

Sharing a similar experience, Christine Potter from the Hounslow Hospital occupation raided over a year ago, also spoke on the platform.

She emphasised continually that health service workers cannot maintain an occupation alone.

Yet again she followed this by no more than a woolly call for "support" from the trade union movement and the public for their health service.

We say this support for occupations can only be that of strike action.

In the afternoon session trade union bureaucrats were praised by Hounslow and by the CACTL committee for their support in fighting the Criminal Trespass Law.

This support included sending out leaflets condemning such repressive proposals as those made by

The Huntley St. eviction

(in particular, squatters).

One of the strongest calls for 'support' came from Rupert Downing, speaking on the Huntley Street eviction.

He explained that the problem that plagued the Huntley Street squat was the isolation and division of the squatters movement from the unions.

He quite rightly explained that the squatters movement should have the backing of the working class as it is a part of the class struggle against homelessness and private property.

He argued that squatting is part of a fight for the political right of the homeless to win decent housing for all.

The recent history of squatting dates back to 1945 when after the war servicemen returned to find that they were homeless.

Bomb damage, Defence Ministry appropriations and the lack of a war time housing programme had created huge shortages of housing.

Parliament was told that 45,000 people were though thought to be squatting.

The government at once accused the squatters of "jumping the waiting list".

This accusation has dogged the squatting movement ever since.

Lack of buildings

This, together with the fact that squatting in existing buildings does not even begin to tackle the general problem of a lack of adequate buildings, accounts for a lot of the prejudice against squatting within the trade union movement.

1960, however, saw the start of the mass movement of squatters. With council

MISSING THE POINT ON S. AFRICA

FRANK BRIDGES reviews "How Long Will South Africa Survive" by R.W. Johnson, published by Macmillans.

PHOTO: Andrew Ward, Report



The first eviction under the Criminal Trespass Law

Metropolitan Police Chief McNee to the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure which are clearly intended for use against pickets and workers in struggle.

Among the bureaucrats praised for assisting CACTL in this way was the TGWU Region 1.

A WSL speaker had to point out that far from assisting fighting these proposals the TGWU Region 1 officials were actively conniving with the police in secret deals restricting the number of pickets outside the Garners restaurants.

The TGWU Region 1 delegate replied that this agreement on picketing was made to assist the police, who "understandably" did not want a mass picket in the centre of Piccadilly!

Expose

The conference highlighted the necessity for a strategy to defend occupations and expose the trade union officials who block the full mobilisation of the working class.

This means:

*Early preparation of independent workers committees to plan and defend occupations—where necessary through workers defence squads.

*Full support for occupations by supporting strike action and by trade unions maintaining adequate services and supplies to the occupations, e.g. electricity, water, telephones etc.

*No secret deals between union leaders and the authorities or the police.

*Open the books of council housing departments to show the profits siphoned off by private contractors, suppliers and banks. For a crash programme of house building based on the expropriation of these firms without compensation under workers control.

*Labour movement defence of those charged under the Criminal Trespass Law as part of the struggle to have the law repealed.

At a time when class conflict intensifies throughout Southern Africa and the imperialists scramble to crush and divert the forward movement of the working class, Johnson's book provides a useful insight into the secret diplomacy that occurs continuously.

In particular Johnson examines the roles and inter-relationships of the greatest imperialist power, the United States, and imperialism's African stronghold and primary supplier of gold, South Africa.

The events surrounding the struggles in Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa for the overthrow of white rule are examined in the light of both the short term interests of the national capital of the USA, South Africa and France and the overall imperialist strategy of consolidating and expanding its area of operation.

Intervention

This approach gives us an insight into the imperialist intervention in the national struggles of Southern Africa—especially the military invasion of Angola.

It also sheds some light on the Geneva Conference and other Anglo-American attempts at imposing control on the course of events in Zimbabwe.

Running through his narration are examples of the manipulation of the international monetary system.

He shows how the gold price and the exchange rate are used as a weapon both in the rivalries between national capital and against the working class internationally.

Johnson argues that the common interest of Southern Africa and France in raising the gold price despite opposition from the United States has brought conflicts, bargains and trade offs between the leading imperialist powers that resulted in the fluctuations of the gold price, the dollar, and French franc.

He shows the link between this and the invasion of Angola.

Superficial

Although Johnson's book is certainly useful, its superficial 'Marxist' perspective reflects more capitalism's concern with the challenge to the South African state, than any serious attempt to examine that challenge.

It takes for granted what Johnson sees as the "weakness" and "passivity" of the black working class of South Africa and its allegiance to an "incompetent" leadership—namely the traditional nationalist movements (African National Congress and the Pan-Africanist Congress) and the Stalinist South African Communist Party.

Johnson then ventures into an examination of the South African situation and discovers conflict as a series



Strike by black workers

of episodic events—rather than as a process of class struggle between conflicting interests.

Of these events Johnson provides comprehensive details.

On the basis of the information, he draws some correct conclusions.

No socialist utopia can be built in a South Africa tied to international capitalism, he declares.

The spontaneous opposition of the black working class is, he shows, not in itself sufficient to destroy the capitalist state.

And he correctly insists that the ANC, CP, and PAC have proved incapable of providing the leadership necessary to build the South African revolution.

False assumption

But Johnson reaches these conclusions without breaking from his false assumptions of the passivity of the working class and their inevitable allegiance to an incompetent leadership.

Johnson's empirical information had led him to the implicit conclusion that the ineffectiveness and theoretical vacuousness of

the ANC/CP and PAC play a crucial part in the defence of the South African state.

Lacking any basic political analysis he does not recognise however that the role of the traditional nationalist movement and the CP does not arise from their 'incompetence' on the one hand and Vorster's brilliance on the other.

Alliance

It arises from the fact that these reformists and Stalinists deny the political independence of the working class in favour of a popular front policy of alliance with "progressive" sections of the bourgeoisie.

The failure of workers' opposition to pose any direct threat to the ruling class is not the result of the "inefficiency" of their leaders.

It is entirely in line with these leaders' political perspective. The ANC/CP and PAC operate in terms of a programme that calls for the mass of workers to do no more than reform the capitalist state in the interests of the black petty bourgeoisie and bourgeoisie.

It is in the pursuit of

fact holding the workers in check and thus ensuring the continuity of capitalist rule.

Thus it is that Johnson is forced by his starting point to reach the conclusion that the Sharpeville and Soweto uprisings (which he characterises as '1905's') have no serious prospect of political development.

Conversely revolutionaries recognise that the 'incompetence' of the ANC/CP and PAC are no more than the reflection of their counter-revolutionary politics. Revolutionaries recognise that the working class is a revolutionary class by virtue of the fact that its independent class interests are irreconcilable with those of the ruling class and are thus able to see a very real basis for the forward development of the class struggle inside South Africa.

Such a development is not automatic. On the contrary, *Socialist Press* has consistently pointed to the way in which the lack of a revolutionary alternative is allowing reformist opportunists to assume leadership and divert the struggle in their own interests.

Way forward

The South African proletariat requires intervention, on the basis of a programme and method of struggle which challenges the existing course of the working class; provides an organisational and political way forward; and exposes the political bankruptcy of those who would claim to be leaders.

Such an intervention and method of struggle must be based on a transitional programme of demands to defend the interests of the working class and achieve their independent political mobilisation to overthrow capitalism and its state machine.

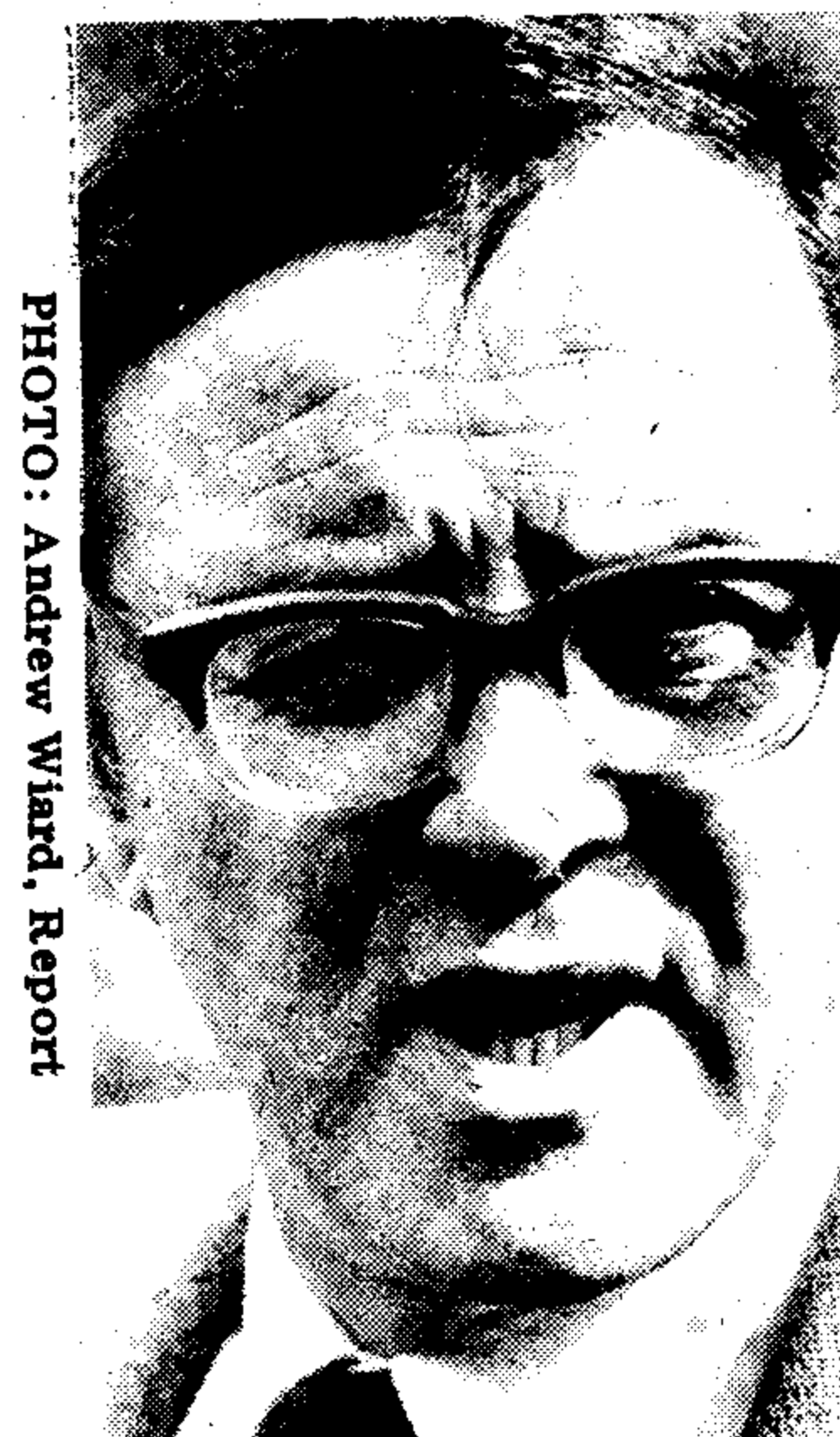
The South African state will only be able to contain and control the opposition of workers for as long as it is protected not merely by its own strength, but by the collusion and betrayals of the Stalinists and reformist misleaders of the working class.

One force and one force alone is capable of destroying racism and capitalism in South Africa—the working class, mobilised by a leadership around a programme which expresses its independent class interests.



French missile now made in South Africa

PHOTO: Andrew Ward, Report



Home Secretary Rees

What's so great about the WSL?



Teachers call for sliding scale

At a well-attended meeting of the Havering National Union of Teachers in Outer East London, over fifty teachers overwhelmingly carried a fighting resolution on teachers' salaries.

The three main points of the resolution are:
 *Immediate restoration of teachers salaries to the level attained by the Houghton Award of April 1974 (about a 25% increase).
 *A cost-of-living clause to fully compensate for the effects of inflation as prices rise—based on a price index drawn up by the union itself not government figures.
 *Industrial action, including national strike action, if the claim is not met.

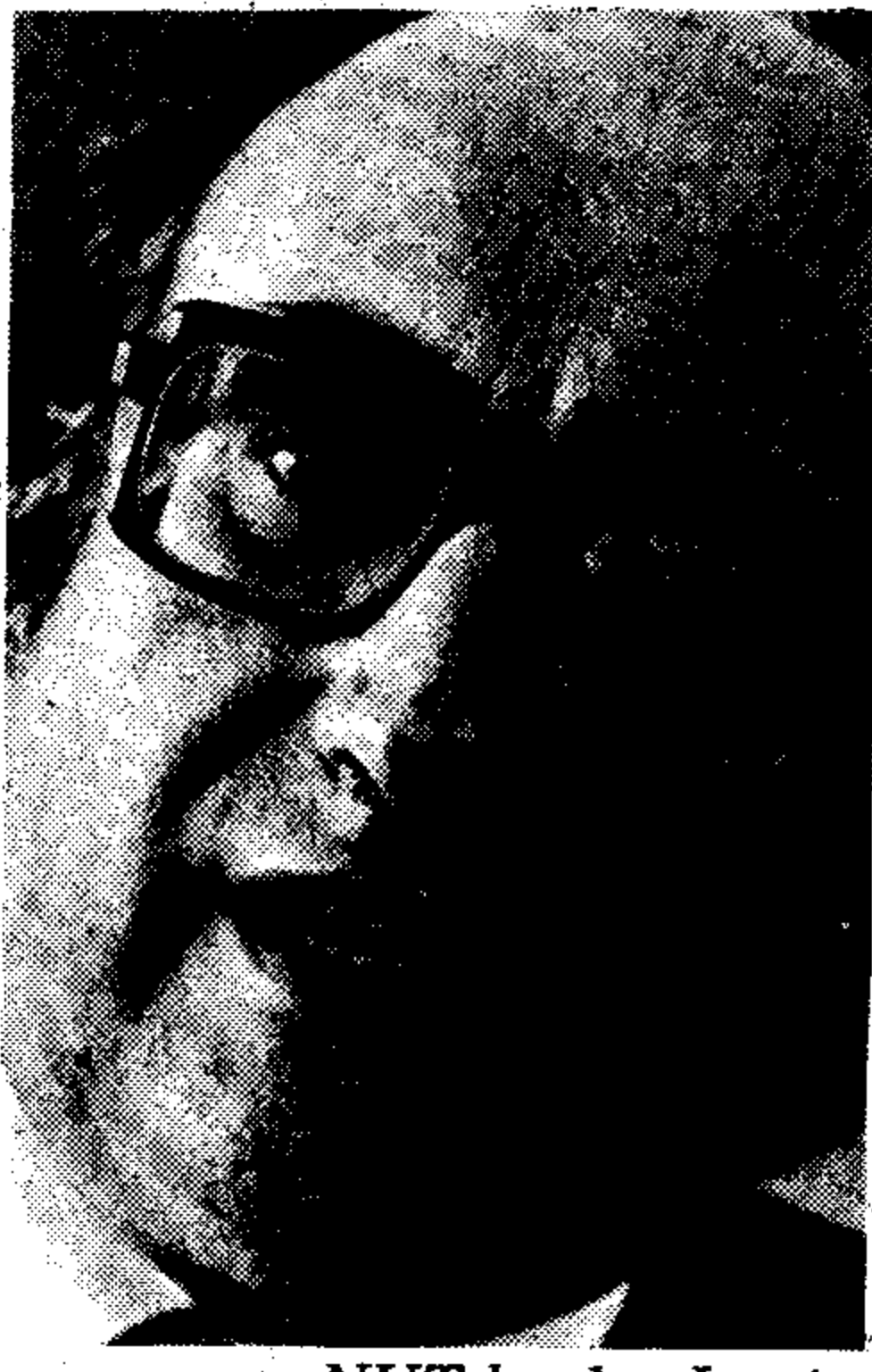
an historic decline in the buying power of their salaries.
 The Havering Association is by no means noted for its militancy in the past, though it recently passed a motion demanding a Special Salaries Conference.
 Support was without doubt gained because the resolution is not merely a 'militant' salaries claim, which, even if won, would be rapidly eroded by inflation.

Its policies are those consistently advocated by Workers Socialist League members in the teaching profession and *Socialist Press* urges teachers to present similar motions and fight for the prioritisation of the Havering motion on the Conference agenda.

Frustration

The passing of such a policy reflects the frustration felt by teachers everywhere, who, along with the working class, have suffered

Such a policy is currently being touted by the 'Rank and File' and 'Socialist Teachers Alliance' groupings in the union (backed by the Socialist Workers Party and International Marxist Group respectively).
 The fight for the full cost-of-living clause (a sliding scale of salaries) offers a permanent answer to inflation's effects on pay.
 This policy challenges the basis of capitalism and the right of the employer, in this case the state itself, to fix wages to accord with its requirements.



NUT leader Jarvis



PHOTO: Laurence Spaham, IFL

Quite frankly, we're unique!

We're the only movement that fights patiently and relentlessly for the building of a Trotskyist party capable of mobilising the working class in the struggle for state power and the establishment of a socialist society.
 In doing so, the WSL alone does not shrink from head-on battles with the existing leaders of the working class—whether these be 'left' talking Labourites union bureaucrats, or Stalinists of the Communist Party.
 In these battles we set out to prove to workers both in theory and in practice the necessity for a new leadership and for a programme of *transitional demands* which, starting from today's problems and today's consciousness within the working class, lead workers in

struggle to grasp the need for socialist revolution.
 For this reason, though we are smaller than some self-styled 'revolutionary' groups, the WSL has featured in the forefront of pay struggles in British Leyland, in the fight against the sale of jobs by TUC leaders, in the struggle against the cuts, in unionisation struggles, and in the fight against bureaucratic dictatorship within the unions.
 This method of approach—rejecting any descent to simple trade union militancy, and any form of concession to the counter-revolutionary reformist or Stalinist bureaucracy—is of course essential for the working class not only in Britain but *internationally*.
 In taking up international issues the WSL points out not only the obligation of British workers to support the Irish liberation struggle and revolut-

ionary struggles such as those in Iran and Southern Africa, but also the necessity for the reconstruction of the Trotskyist Fourth International as the organising centre of the world party of socialist revolution.
 The WSL is not the biggest movement on the left in Britain nor is it the easiest to be a member of. But in its approach to both theory and practice it is the only really serious revolutionary movement.
 When you look at the struggles now under way and the problems faced by the working class, the necessity for a principled leadership is unmistakable.
WHY NOT JOIN US? Fill in the form below for more details, or approach your local branch, who will gladly supply more information about our programme, policies, and perspectives.

MORE DETAILS

Please send me more information about the Workers Socialist League.

Name

Address

Send to: WSL, 31, Dartmouth Park Hill, London NW5 1HR

Garners strikers' new test

A challenge now faces the Strike Committee in the marathon 10-month recognition battle at Garners Steak Houses.
 If the present balance of forces between the strikers, the management and the TGWU union bureaucracy is to be tipped in favour of the strikers a new initiative is necessary.

campaign for these policies has forced certain concessions from the TGWU bureaucracy.
 Regional officials Staden and Shorter have grudgingly agreed to advance an extra £6 strike pay every 15 days out of the £3,200 reserve fund now being held by the Regional F&GP.

bureaucrats provided in excess of £36 per week to the Grunwick strikers.
 But it is not only money that has been stinted by the TGWU bureaucracy. They have also resolutely

ever, the recent fall in support on the picket lines has been checked, and Garners' trade is once again plunging.
 A fight now for a TGWU national delegate conference

Conference

A national TGWU delegate conference must be convened, within which the Strike Committee can raise the fight for its long-thwarted demands of full-scale blacking, full financial support, and mass picketing of Garners.
 Already the sustained

This falls far short of the strikers' demand for £36 per week strike pay, financed if necessary by a Regional levy.
 Were the officials to agree to such financial backing for the strike it would amount to a clear declaration of war on Garners boss Margolis.
 Many unions smaller than the TGWU do pay such amounts of strike pay. Even the right wing APEX



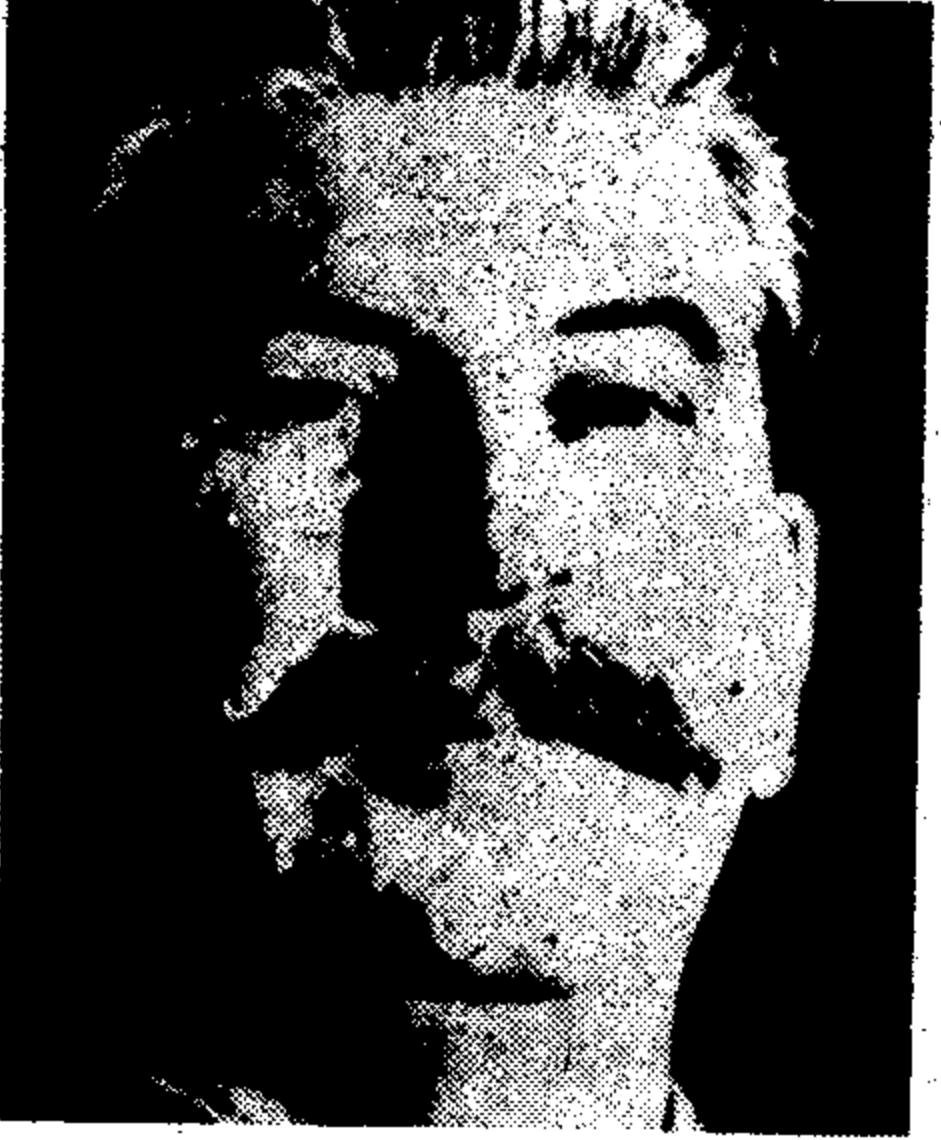
PHOTO: Laurence Spaham, IFL

Garners pickets

obstructed the strikers' demand that each trade group in the 500,000-strong London Region "adopt" a Garners restaurant for regular picketing.
 The latest move to head-off this call is yet another delegate conference for hotel and catering workers by the Food, Drink and Tobacco trade group.
 Two such conferences have already been called with abortive results.
 Indeed the last one saw full time catering officer George Abrahams mobilise a mere two stewards to attend!
 Despite this obstruction by the bureaucracy, how-

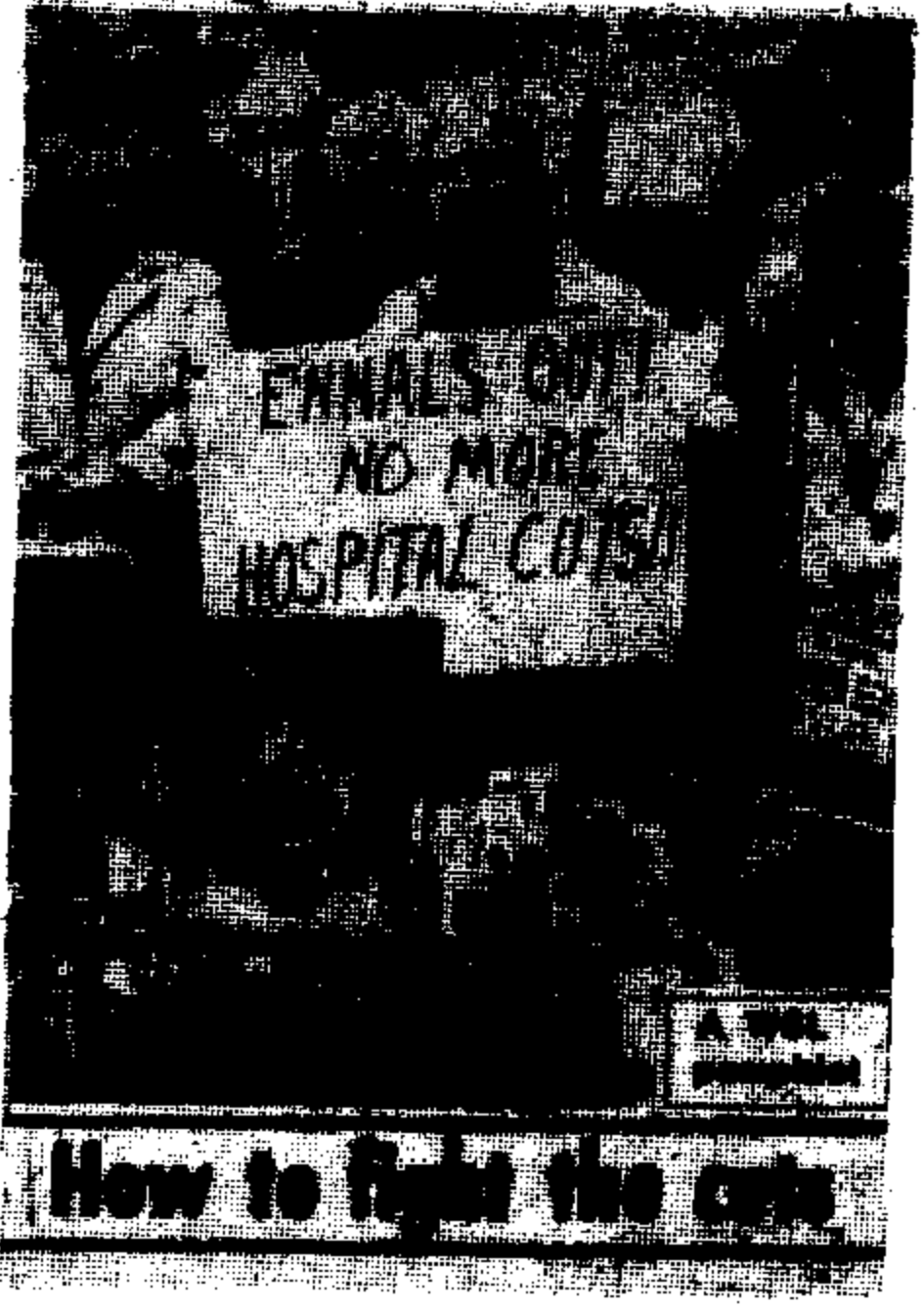
could give the strike the added impetus it needs for victory. Such a conference should organise support for the following policies.
 *Allow the strike committee to administer the reserve fund.
 *£36 per week strike pay, financed by a London Region levy.
 *Saturday night mass pickets.
 *Each trade group to adopt a restaurant for picketing.
 *Full-scale secondary blacking of Garners' suppliers.

'Communists' Against Revolution



The key book for understanding post-war Stalinism. 166pp, £1.75 plus 20p post and packing from WSL, 31, Dartmouth Park Hill, London NW5 1HR

THE KEY TO THE CUTS FIGHT!



The booklet which spells out the policies necessary for all-out struggle against the cuts, drawing on practical experience at the EGA and the Oxford Nursery Occupation.

30p plus 10p p&p from the WSL, 31, Dartmouth Park Hill London NW5 1HR.

Printers drive back expulsions, sackings

Immediately following the expulsion from NATSOPA of a number of strikers, management at the Usher Walker printing inks factory in East London sacked eight members of the chapel.

Management actually claimed that they had a closed shop arrangement with the union—though laboratory and office staff are non-union, and have consistently scabbed on the strike.

The speed with which the sackings followed the expulsions clearly indicates that the NATSOPA bureaucracy has collaborated with Usher Walker

in trying to break the strike and wipe out a militant chapel leadership.

But the strikers refused to be driven back to work under these conditions and demanded the dropping of all sackings, expulsions and threats of victimisation as well as the payment of money owed to them as the condition for a return to work.

Their NATSOPA branch committee eventually agreed to this formula and said that the expelled men would be re-admitted to the union.

The company was adamant, however, and said that it refused to rescind the sackings.

This put NATSOPA in a very difficult position. The strikers had agreed to return to work

but were clearly being prevented from doing so by Usher Walker.

Either the employer had to give in or the strike be made official.

The idea of having an official strike on his hands frightened full-time official Dave Hutchinson, and by last Friday he had used some of his power to force Usher Walker to agree to every man's reinstatement.

As we go to press a chapel meeting has been arranged for Monday at which Hutchinson will speak.

If his formula for a return to work is the same one as the one proposed by the chapel earlier, then the strike will almost certainly end.

But the chapel will not

accept the sort of deal which Hutchinson recently made for workers at the Coates printing inks firm.

They were owed hundreds of pounds each by their employer under a bonus scheme agreement.

When they took strike action to recover the money, Hutchinson sabotaged the fight by agreeing that Coates could pay their debts off at the rate of 50p a week for 25 years!

Whatever happens at the Usher Walker chapel meeting, management will not have withdrawn their threats of redundancies on an already undermanned site.

It is also clear that the NATSOPA bureaucrats will not hesitate in helping Usher Walker in their plans to sack workers, if they can get away with it.

Therefore the chapel should seek a written pledge from the Executive Committee of NATSOPA that no redundancies will be permitted.



PHOTO: John Sturrock, Report

Manchester workers march against hospital closure.

Royal tour of NHS cuts

For once, no expense was spared at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead.

But it was closed to patients. Instead that well-known patron of the National Health Service, Elizabeth Windsor paid a visit to the lavishly decorated wards, to mark the official opening of the hospital.

Closed circuit television was laid on to provide pictures of the Queen and Health Service slasher David Ennals to the 95% of the staff not able to see them.

Parasites

No sooner was this troupe of parasites out of the hospital than the cuts resumed in that very area—with 500 acute beds to be axed by the Camden and Islington Area Health Authority including cutbacks at the Royal Free itself!

Meanwhile at the West

London Hospital in Hammsmith, there was another management attempt to victimise the leadership of the NUPE branch—the only branch which embarked on indefinite strike action at the time of the raid on the Hounslow Hospital.

There has been a long-running dispute over the introduction of a clocking-in system. Management deliberately provoked confrontation, which resulted in the central heating system being shut off.

Management then set about a well prepared plan of evacuating all the patients—mainly maternity cases—to the nearby Western Hospital.

This was accompanied according to plan, with a major witch-hunt on the branch leadership in the local and national press.

Although this dispute was temporarily settled by referring it to ACAS, management will be sure to renew their attacks on this branch—and all other militant branches, in order to clear the way for more cuts and redundancies.

Protected

The West London Hospital branch must be protected by all trade unionists—and not by use of ACAS or the bourgeois courts, much favoured by NUPE full time officials.

London health workers can only be protected by the building of a completely independent all-London joint shop stewards committee, which can link together these separate disputes and coordinate action against the cuts and in defence of jobs and work conditions throughout the London Health Service.

ACTION ON LOW PAY
All London Co-ordinating Conference
Saturday 9 December at 2 p.m.
Fountains Abbey Pub
Praed St., London W2
(opposite St. Mary's Hospital Paddington).

FBU SELL OUT

The Fire Brigades Union has called a full conference of the union on November 28 at which they will be proposing accepting an employers' document on the implementation of the 42 hour week.

This document means attacks on all the conditions in the Fire Service.

Included in the document is a new disputes procedure, which involves the setting up of a disputes panel.

It would mean that no brigade would be able to cut without the involvement of a high-ranking union official.

All manning levels are under attack. A "day manning" system is being introduced whereby a station which at the moment has a staff of 40 could be reduced to 8.

This would involve firemen having houses next to the station and being on call from their houses.

The EC is not disputing the introduction of the scheme but saying that the extra 32 should be phased out through non-replacement as they leave.

At the moment the normal situation is for two machines to go to a fire, with five men on the first and four on the second.

The employers want four on each. They also want,

when they are short of labour, to send out a machine with only three men and with another to follow.

The employers also want extra commitment to operational duties such as checking fire installations.

Already there is opposition developing within the union to the executive's sell-out.

Liverpool and Birmingham brigades have come out against it.



PHOTO: John Sturrock, Report

FBU militants lobby their leaders during the strike

Fight AEC shut down!

The open secret that Leyland's AEC plant at Southall is to be closed was finally revealed for all to see last week.

The planned closure next June will axe 2,000 jobs, with work going to plants in Watford, Leyland and Park Royal.

There is not even the pretence left that these jobs can be saved through further speed-up or a further round of redundancies.

Convenor Mick Martin, for all his bleats of protest, has done nothing to lead a fight against Leyland's long-term run-down of the factory.

But Leyland clearly fear that

Martin's members might brush aside his feeble whining and take action against the closure. They have offered a so-called "golden carrot" payment—linked to no action being taken.

This is now the moment of decision for the Southall workforce. Any compensation must be puny when set against possibly years on the dole.

A trade union committee must be elected to fight for access to Leyland's financial books and long term plans as part of the fight to link the Southall fight with workers in Lancashire and elsewhere.

As soon as management attempt to ship out machinery, the plant must be occupied.

Social workers strike goes on

Social workers in cities all over the country are still locked in strike action in conflict with the 5% pay limit, pursuing their demand for regrading.

In Leeds, the strike began on November 2 in defiance of NALGO bureaucrats, who argued that a 53% vote on a secret ballot was not a big enough majority for action!

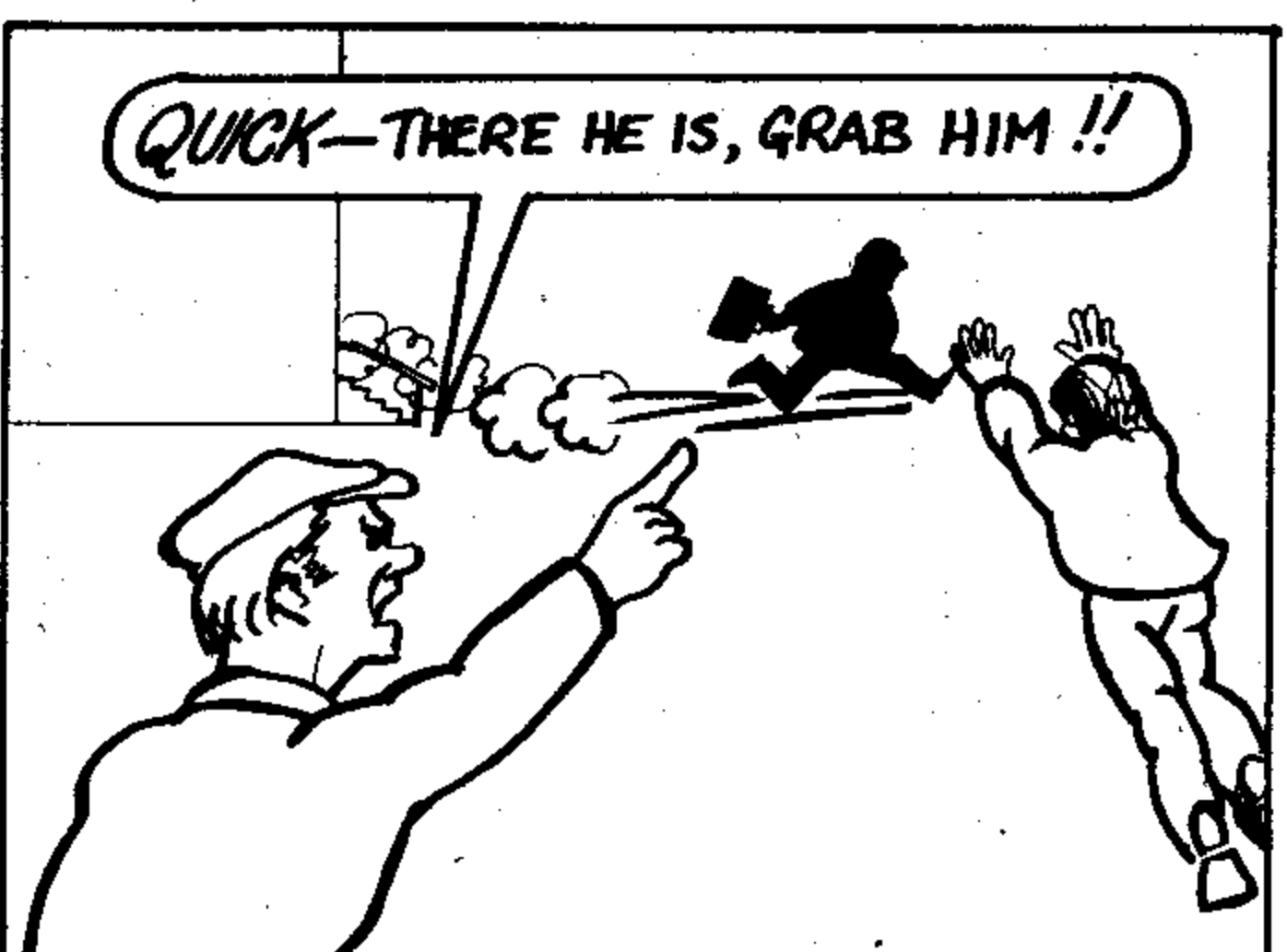
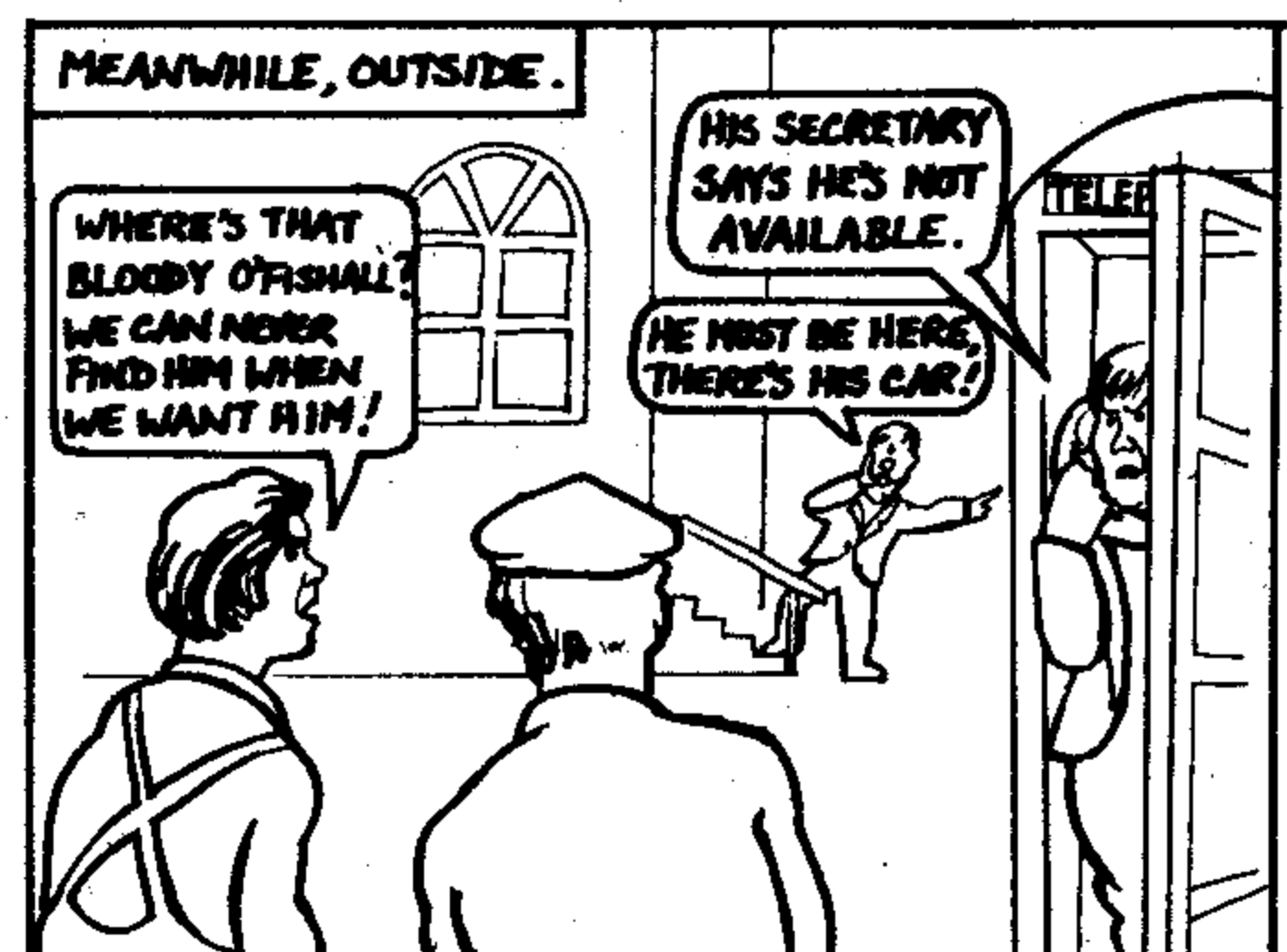
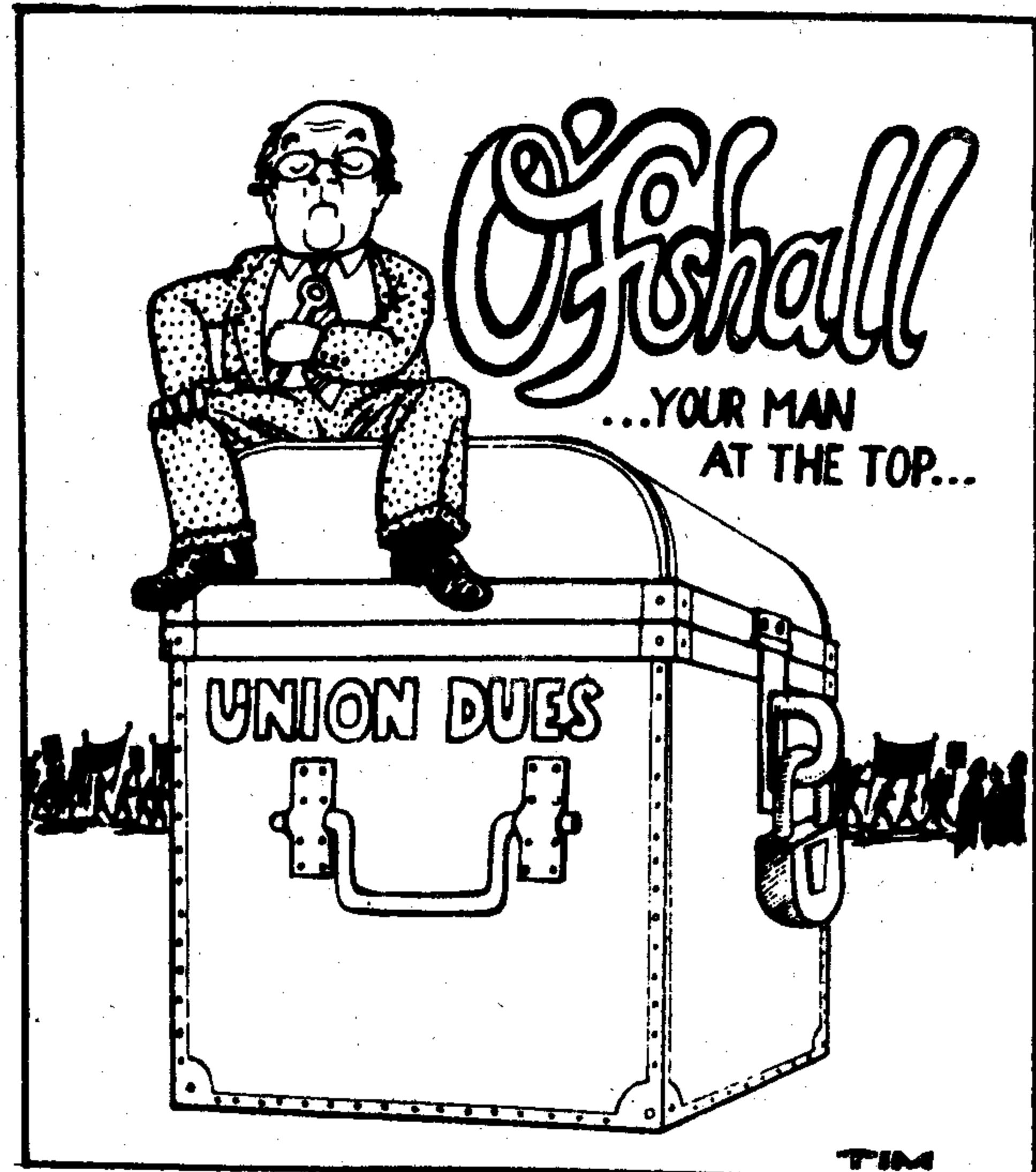
But the position is weak in Leeds as much through the lack of contact with the trade union movement as through any lack of resolve of the membership.

The lack of preparation for action in Leeds contrasts with

the 3-month strike in Newcastle where social workers have sought and obtained support from all sections of local government workers, as well as teachers and firemen.

But the idea of leaving the strike isolated is in no way challenged by the SWP's "rank and file" grouping, the NALGO Action Group.

Last Saturday in Liverpool NAG held a conference on this struggle restricted purely to members of NALGO—thus excluding in advance other sections—such as probation officers—that might be able to give valuable assistance.

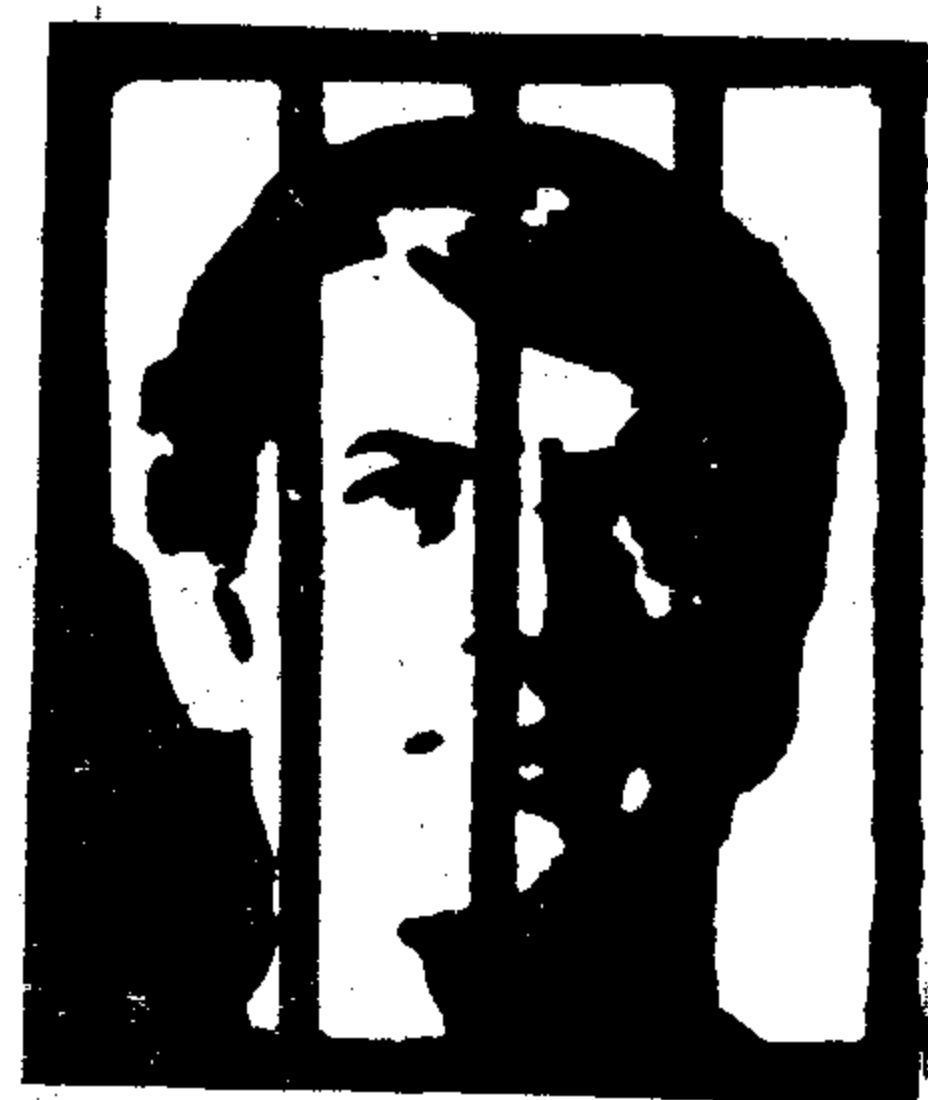


SOCIALIST PRESS



The Shah with some of his few remaining friends

IRELAND: SUPPORT POWS-THROW OUT MASON!



In September 1976 the 'blanket' protest by republican prisoners in the Long Kesh concentration camp began.

Since then, over 300 republican prisoners have defied the most savage and brutal intimidation in their struggle for the restoration of Prisoner of War status stripped from them by Labour's torture chief Roy Mason.

In that time, Mason, as the chosen agent of the Callaghan cabinet, has dispatched SAS undercover murder squads to further repress those that fight for the removal of British imperialism from Ireland.

And, under the thin disguise of prolonged periods—often lasting well over twelve months—he has effectively reintroduced the Tory measure of internment for republicans and socialists

against whom there is little or no evidence.

Diplock courts have also helped to get around the problem of evidence and ensure rapid and easy frame-up convictions.

Meanwhile the continuing practice of torturing "suspects" has been condemned not only by opponents of British imperialism but also by other sources including Amnesty International.

Condemnation

Mason's refusal to make even a pretence of concern for legality or democratic rights has brought widespread condemnation and demands for his resignation from the legal profession—particularly after his recent decision to suspend the right of the accused person to appear in court prior to remand.

But one quarter that has not

taken up the call for his removal is that most able to carry it out—the British labour movement, and in particular the workers' movement in his home constituency of Barnsley.

It is a scandal that Mason carries out his torture and repression as a sponsored MP of the National Union of Mine-workers—with the tacit support of Yorks miners' leader Scargill.

In demonstrating this Sunday in support of the Irish Prisoners of War, for the withdrawal of British troops from Ireland and for the right of the Irish people to self-determination, we consider it essential to link such solidarity with a fight in the British labour movement to drive out Mason and his reactionary cabinet cronies.

Iran—fight now for blacking!

As the Shah tries to force workers back to the factories and refineries literally at the point of British-made bayonets, the blacking of arms supplies to the tyranny becomes a more urgent question than ever.

Last week the 5/293 branch of the Transport and General Workers Union passed a resolution calling upon the union's National Executive, to organise through the TUC, immediate blacking of arms supplies.

TGWU members must demand that this important resolution is taken up by other branches and by docks stewards and acted upon without delay.

Protests

Protest moves against British arms supplies to the Shah have also come from the Union of Sheet Metal Workers in the Royal Ordnance factory at Leeds where many of the arms are made.

These beginnings of concrete solidarity action must be built upon to aid the undiminished struggle in Iran.

In the last week, many of the workers who have been forced back to work under threat have continued to operate various kinds of go-slow and sabotage.

Oil production continued to be well below normal (still as much as two-thirds down according to some reports).

The military premier has explicitly abandoned the previous government's "promise" to release all political prisoners by 10 December.

And he has arrested thousands more including Sanjabi, the leader of the bourgeois "opposition" party the National Front.

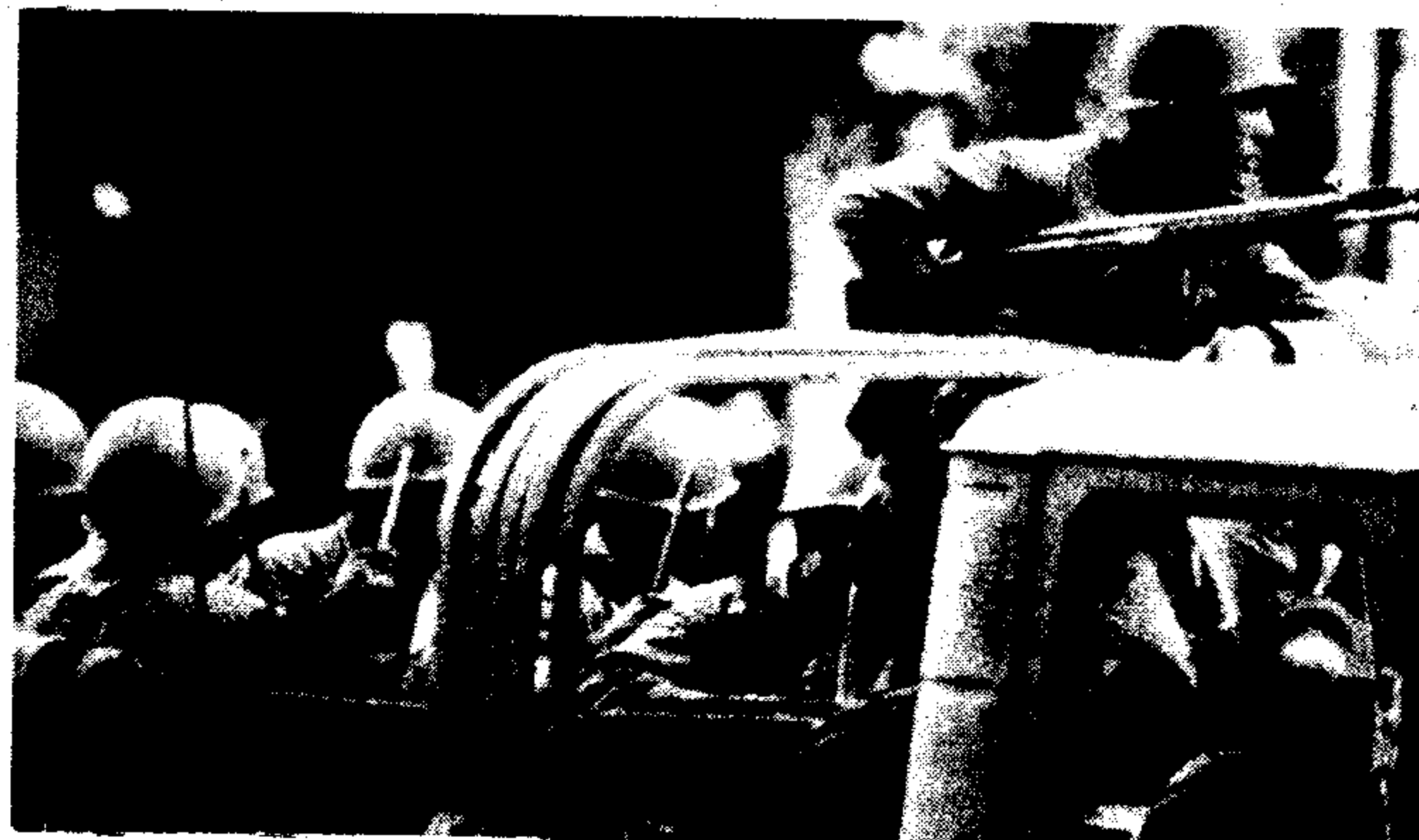
Anti-Shah demonstrations remain a daily event.

And new massive marches are expected to coincide with the important Islamic festival on 10 December.

The Shah has cynically sent his wife on a "religious pilgrimage" to Iraq and has put back official time by half an hour to coincide with the clocks used in the mosques.

But these absurd concessions to religious leaders have produced only derision from the Shah's main enemy.

Despite the evident power of its spontaneous struggle, however, the Iranian working class will remain in danger as long as it has not carried out its most urgent task—the building of a revolutionary leadership.



Troops in Tehran

Mass picket backs ten week strike



Pickets inform a scab of the facts of the strike

Following the lead given by Garners and Sanderson strikers, over 50 trade unionists and students turned out on Monday in response to the House of Holland strike committee's appeal for a mass picket of the company's warehouse.

Pickets had to endure extreme provocation and actual physical violence in a number of sharp confrontations with company scabs, which resulted in the arrest of three pickets.

Despite this the day ended with the balance very strongly in favour of the strikers, who were greatly boosted by the overall success of their first call for mass support on the picket

lines. The TGWU's two full-time officials, competing to outdo each other in suffocating the strike, appeared late on. Their main contribution was to ensure access for a TGWU-driven wagonload of materials!

Blacking of House of Holland goods in the ports (nearly all their material is imported) remains the key demand.

TGWU branches should insist this be implemented immediately as well as raising badly needed funds.

Donations and details of next mass picket from House of Holland Strike Committee, 15, Plowden Close, Aston-Le-Walls, Daventry, Northants.

Care needed in BL fight



The return to work vote at Leyland's Drows Lane Transmissions plant, which had shut down the whole of Austin Morris car production, creates a difficult situation for Leyland workers.

It had lasted two weeks and was called in opposition to BL's 5% plus 'parity' package put forward in answer to the annual wage review.

Drows Lane struck within hours of the 'offer' being made by management.

Their demand was for genuine plant negotiations, as opposed to the terms of the company offer which required acceptance by all plants before any money could be paid.

Although a strong move in itself, the strike was ill prepared.

No preparation

No previous mass meetings had taken place to prepare for it, and no real effort had been made to clearly explain the very complex terms of the offer

which were designed to confuse.

But the strike did bring forward two important developments.

One was that it forced BL management to offer the 5% increase separately from the parity deal—though still only on the basis that it is accepted by all plants.

This separation is important in the fight to break the 5% ceiling in Leyland.

Also important could be the vote at Drows Lane for a second resolution calling for a combine-wide strike on pay.

But convenors such as Arthur Harper must begin to realise that there are particular problems in BL and Vauxhall which require careful preparation and clear programme.

In every confrontation BL management claim to be bankrupt and threaten to close plants down permanently.

The bankruptcy claim has to be met with the demand to open the books and by pointing to the massive profits made in components plants and distribution chains and the

vast sums being paid to the banks in interest and so-called government money.

Closure threats have to be answered by exposure where the threat is tactical and by the counter-threat of occupation where the threat is real.

Meanwhile, though the strike is over, Drows Lane has not voted to accept the 5% offer or the parity package.

And with other plant claims still in process, nothing is yet resolved on this year's pay round in BL cars.

*In Cowley further negotiations on the Assembly Plant's £27 claim are to be held at a final stage conference on Friday involving full time officials.

This will mean that the planned mass meeting will not now be held until next week.

WORKERS SOCIALIST LEAGUE
Public Meeting
"The fight against wage control."
Thursday 30 November
at 8.00 p.m.
Oddfellow Arms
AYLESBURY

Rally boosts fund

The collection taken at the highly successful rally to celebrate one year of the weekly Socialist Press raised over £100—a mark of the determination of supporters of our paper to ensure its continued growth and development.

With a further £76 arriving at the office last week this brings our total so far this month to £515.16.

We are now in sight of our monthly target of £600. We therefore urge all readers and supporters of Socialist Press to help us reach our target during the next week.

Donations should be sent to:
Socialist Press Monthly Fund
31, Dartmouth Park Hill
London NW5 1HR