

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

IT'S THEIR CRISIS Work or full pay!

HEATH'S millionaire government tell us there is an oil crisis and we must pay for it.

They are preparing mass sackings, lay-offs and cuts in the standard of living of wage and salary earners.

They are blaming the oil sheiks in Arabia, miners, engine drivers—anyone that is, except those who are responsible: the oil companies.

Fattened by vast profits from cheap Arab oil, the oil companies have dictated fuel policy to governments for the last 30 years. And governments have responded by closing more than half the coal mines, shutting down more than half the railway lines and carved up our cities for the great god motor car.

PLUNDER

Last year 20 million tons of petrol and diesel was used up in cars, vans and lorries. Railways, which carried a fifth of all freight and covered nearly 17,000 million passenger miles, used up less than one million tons of oil.

Although they knew that they could not expect cheap oil forever, the oil companies refused to search for new sources of power. In the interests of profit, they plundered the world's valuable oil resources.

Their policies have led to crisis. They must pay for it.

If the government wants to solve the oil crisis, they could do it tomorrow. They could take over the oil companies, and use their vast resources to distribute oil fairly.

SW Political reporter

They could cut out the waste of oil in our society without a penny loss to any worker. For example, expense-account company cars use 8 per cent of the country's total oil. That could be saved, to coin a phrase, at a stroke.

With a third of last year's BP profits, the wages of miners and engine drivers could be doubled. We could get more power and decent, safe, working conditions in both industries.

But of course the government will do none of these things.

They are in power to represent the interests of the oil profiteers. So they have blundered into an oil crisis and, at the same time, an overall economic crisis more serious than anything their system has encountered since the war.

This is their crisis. It is their fault. Spare no tears for the government that slashed the living standards of workers in the interests of profits.

DECENT

Their crisis is our opportunity. The miners, the engineers, train drivers and all other workers demanding decent wages and conditions should step up the fight.

And if and when the government and the employers try to make us pay for their crisis with redundancies and short-time working, our answer is simple.

PICKETS TRIAL: GET READY TO ACT

SIX MEN—John Carpenter, Ken O'Shea, Des Warren, John McKinsie Jones, Ricky Tomlinson and John Liywarch—have been on trial at Shrewsbury Crown Court for 2½ months. They stand charged with unlawful assembly, affray and conspiracy. Their crime? Playing their full part in last year's victorious building workers' official strike.

On Monday the jury will retire to consider their verdict. It could come at any time—that day or the following day. If it is a guilty verdict the judge will then decide what penalties our six brothers are to pay.

Faced with this, no trade unionist worth his or her salt can stand idly by. For workers' basic rights are on trial.

Only the maximum amount of rank and file industrial action against any prison sentences or heavy fines will tell those with wealth and power that workers will not see their comrades railroaded.

- Defend the Shrewsbury 6.
- Defend the right to picket.
- All out for strike action if they are victimised still further with fines and prison sentences.



In jail—tenant who fought Tory Rent Act

THIS is Brian Owen, 27-years-old building worker. He is in prison in Liverpool. His crime is fighting the Tories' Housing Finance Act.

Brian was arrested last Thursday. He is one of the hundreds of tenants on the Tower Hill estate in Kirkby who have been on rent strike for 14 months in defiance of the government's vicious housing policy.

Their council is Labour-controlled. It promised not to implement the Act—then rapidly changed its mind and demanded the increases from workers already under attack from Phases 1 and 2 of the government's wage freeze.

The tenants said no and started their rent strike. Last week writs were issued for some of the tenants for contempt of court. Brian was the first to be arrested.

The rent strike goes on and a daily picket stands outside Walton Jail in solidarity with Brian. Appeals are being made for industrial action in Kirkby to back the rent strike and secure Brian's release.

Full report: page 2.

We say to the Tories: If you cannot run modern society without insecurity, poverty, shortages, and waste—MAKE WAY FOR THOSE WHO CAN.

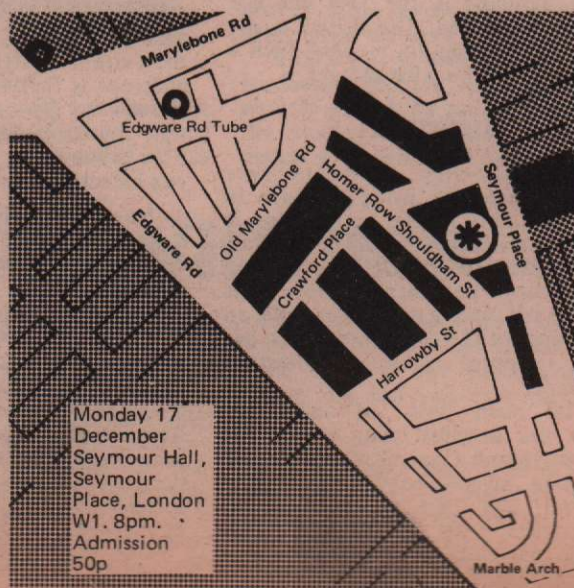
- NO LAY-OFFS.
- WORK OR FULL PAY.

Shrewsbury 24 rally on Monday

Proceeds to pickets' families

We urge every socialist and trade unionist to pack the Socialist Worker rally in support of the Shrewsbury building workers now on trial. They and their families face a grim Christmas.

There will be trade union speakers, including Gerry Kelly of the Birmingham 5, plus entertainment from Jake Thackery and The Combine.



Monday 17 December
Seymour Hall,
Seymour Place, London
W1. 8pm.
Admission 50p

EDITORIAL: PAGE 3 I.S. NATIONAL COMMITTEE
REPORT: PAGE 13 MINES: PAGES 8, 9, 16

TENANT IS JAILED!

His crime: fighting the Tories. His jailers: a Labour council

BRIAN OWEN, a 27-years-old building worker shop steward and father of two children, has been locked up in Liverpool's grim Walton prison, since 8am last Thursday.

He has been refused permission to see a lawyer, denied any exercise and deprived of cigarettes and newspapers.

Brian was arrested in an early-morning raid on the estate where he lives—Tower Hill in Kirkby. Neither he nor another tenant who was also grabbed at the same time and taken in handcuffs to the prison were criminals.

Brian Owen is being held for fighting the Tory government. For the last 14 months he and his wife, together with hundreds of other Tower Hill tenants, have been on total rent strike.

The strike was in protest at the Tory government's Housing Finance Act. This was introduced in October 1972 and has pushed up rents ever since.

Desperate

In Tower Hill alone the cost of a home has already increased by £2 a week or nearly the total workers' wage increase in Phases 1, 2 and 3. During the rent strike, Tower Hill tenants have run up total arrears of almost a quarter of a million pounds.

The jailing of Brian Owen and the threat to imprison at least another 12 is a desperate attempt to try and smash the tenants' movement.

The campaign to try and force the Tower Hill tenants to call off their rent strike and submit to the Tory housing law was launched in



Dot Scott with her children: husband Bruce faces jail.



Tony Boyle (foreground): 'the picket stays'

the spring. At first the local Labour-controlled Kirkby council declared that it would never implement the Act, but it surrendered its principles and did the dirty work of the Tories.

In April the tenants were ordered to supply the local Liverpool County Court with details of where they worked, how much they earned and what their weekly debts were. They refused.

When the court sent the tenants forms to fill in, they collected them and sent them back. When a judge ordered them to appear in person they boycotted him and he ordered their arrest.

He has now accused them of 'contempt' and ordered their indefinite imprisonment until they apologise to him and pay their rent.

Initially 14 tenants—including four women—had warrants issued for their arrest. 12 of them are still outstanding and if the bailiffs are successful in seizing more tenants then the threatened women will be

Report by Roger Rosewell

sent to the notorious Risley remand centre where more than 20 people once committed suicide in less than a year.

Since the arrests on Thursday a daily picket has been held outside Walton prison and on the first night a riot broke out inside. In a demonstration of support, hundreds of prisoners rattled their mugs in response to the chants of 'Free the Tenants' outside.

In desperation the governor sent for Tony Boyle, secretary of the Tower Hill Action Group, and ordered him to call the picket off. 'Only if you free the tenants,' said Tony. 'No,' said the governor. 'Then we stay,' was the reply.

The tenants have appealed for industrial action. The first strike took place only an hour after the

arrests, when 80 printing workers in SOGAT at Anglia Paper Products in Kirkby walked out.

Vera Killen, the Mother of the Chapel [shop steward] told me: 'The jailings are disgusting. The rent strike is quite right. Rents keep going up but wages only once a year. You've got to stand firm some time. We just can't keep paying out—we can't afford it.'

The strikers joined 150 tenants and marched round the Kirkby Industrial Estate, visiting many of the major factories.

But apart from Anglia Papers the response to the tenants' appeal for strike action has been poor.

There are many reasons for this, including the closeness of Christmas, and lack of publicity about the continuing struggle against the Housing Finance Act. But most important of all has been the attitude of many so-called Merseyside left-wingers.

The local Kirkby Labour Party

has done nothing and the tenants' own MP—Harold Wilson—has been conspicuous by his absence. Many other people and groups have refused their support and the most glaring has been the local Merseyside Communist Party.

But despite all this the tenants are still fighting. Mrs Dot Scott, a mother of three whose husband Bruce is one of those still facing imprisonment said: 'Of course I'm worried sick about the whole thing. I don't want Bruce to go to Walton, but we've decided that if he has to, then he will.'

The other tenant arrested with Brian Owen has 'purged his contempt' and has been released.

Before Brian was jailed he told me: 'I am proud to be a part of this rent strike. The Tower Hill tenants are fighting a battle on behalf of the whole working class.'

Defeated

'I've no regrets about what we have done. If the rest of the country had fought like we have then the Housing Finance Act would have been smashed a year ago. If the Labour Party and the TUC had shown as much determination as the workers on Tower Hill this government could have been defeated.'

'I don't want to go to prison. But if that's where I've got to go for fighting the Tories then so be it.'

Tony Boyle, secretary of the Tower Hill Action Committee summed up the struggle: 'Brian Owen is a political prisoner. He's a victim of the Tory government and its Labour cronies on Kirkby Council.'

'The Tories put him in jail. Now it's up to us to get him out.'

Britain tightens its grip on Ireland

WHEN TALKS on power sharing in the Northern Ireland Assembly started in early October predictions of total and absolute failure for the scheme came from right-wing Loyalists and Republicans alike.

But the growing unity of interest between the Protestant and Catholic middle classes has been rapid and is now almost complete. Within two months an executive made up of Unionists and Social Democratic Labour Party members has been formed, and now a Council of Ireland between North and South has emerged after only a few days' discussions.

The executive will take office at the beginning of January and the Council of Ireland will follow shortly.

The Assembly and its executive are simply the latest means by which British big business will try to tighten its grip on the Six Counties. The Council of Ireland will play the same role for all 32 counties.

It is intended to rationalise British economic domination and exploitation North and South.

In the North, Britain owns 80 per cent of all industrial wealth along with 50 per cent in the South. Ireland as a whole is Britain's second largest trading partner. These hard economic facts have forced the British to consider the alternatives to which they

by Mike Miller

Loyalist opposition to the Assembly and the Council is widespread, but is in a state of chaos. It has no idea how to defeat the plan.

The Loyalist para-military organisations have declared that their terror campaign against the Catholic civilian population will resume again on 1 January if the IRA are not defeated by then. The British Army is doing nothing to prevent such a resurgence of Loyalist attacks.

Support

The right-wing politicians have been reduced to using violence in the Assembly itself to prevent it from functioning. The UDA, one-time mass movement of Loyalist militants, has declined to a mere shadow of its former self, and is now demanding an independent Ulster, an idea which has little support among Protestant workers.

The main point of opposition from the Loyalist camp is that the executive and Council of Ireland are stepping stones towards a united Ireland, and that the granting of ministerial posts to the SDLP will mean an end to the Protestants' privileged position over Catholics.

But they can only offer as an alternative a turning back of the

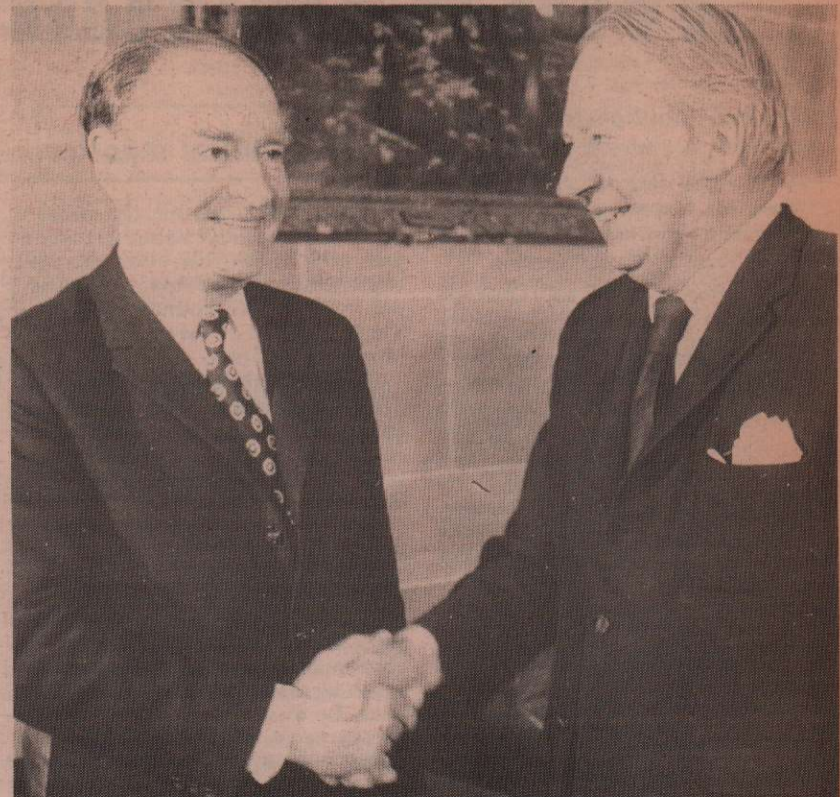
clock to the 'good old days' of Orange Unionist one-party rule, something which is completely out of step with the needs of British imperialism. Anti-British attitudes are widespread in Loyalist working-class areas, but the militant nationalism of the Provos and the liberal reformism of the Officials, in the absence of any clear working-class politics, have not been able to win these workers away from their right-wing leadership.

On the Republican side there is also a great deal of confusion. The most common attitude in the Catholic ghettos is that the SDLP should be allowed to get on with the job, and that the Catholics have, for the first time in the history of the state, a real and effective voice in running affairs.

No doubt this notion will be strengthened by the British regime when they release a number of internees before Christmas, allowing the SDLP to claim credit.

In fact the opposition to the new political structure within the Catholic ghettos is more and more confined to those who have been Republican activists or those who are personally affected by the continuation of internment or who have suffered more than most at the hands of the army.

One woman with a son interned and her husband on the run said, 'We have sacrificed too much to give up now.' But that unfortunately is a



Irish Prime Minister Cosgrave with Heath at the end of the Council of Ireland talks

sentiment not shared by many. It is assumed by a great many Catholics that the Council of Ireland will look after their interests and will eventually lead to a united Ireland.

More concessions may be necessary if the British plan is to succeed. But at the same time the army continues its harassment and arrests.

Illusion

Last week another unarmed young Catholic was shot dead in Divis flats by trigger-happy soldiers. Protest marches are still banned and violence is used to prevent any attempt to rebuild a mass movement.

But there can be no doubt that

the answer to the Assembly, the executive and the Council of Ireland lies in the streets. It is a dangerous illusion to imagine that the SDLP can produce the goods.

The struggle against repression must go on, but if it is to avoid the mistakes of the past—mistakes which enabled the SDLP to get where they are today—it must begin to go beyond the idea of liberal democracy on the one hand and a united Ireland without any change in the economic and social structure on the other.

The job of winning support away from the SDLP is a hard and long one. But it will be successful only when socialist politics are in the fore of the struggle.

Students to step up fight on grants

by Simon Turner

STUDENTS have suffered heavily under the last few years of runaway prices. As catering and residence charges rocket the money in the pockets of most students has remained virtually static.

To make matters worse the grants system discriminates against married women, unmarried mothers, health students and all those not on degree courses. This means that more than half the students do not get even the meagre £485 a year—a mere £9.30 a week.

The National Union of Students has been involved in discussions with the Department of Education and Science over the level of grants for the next three years. As term draws to a close, detailed plans for the grants campaign in the colleges are being finalised.

The NUS executive has decided that there will be a one-day strike and mass national demonstration on 8 February in London, followed by a 'week of action' later that month.

All possible tactics should be used during this week, including occupations of colleges. It must be made clear to the government that disruptions during this week are typical of the student unrest it can expect if it continues with the present grants policy which denies the right of people from working-class homes to go to college.

Campaign

The student sub-committee of the International Socialists, meeting last week, emphasised that the grants campaign should be a central activity for all IS students in the months ahead. Because of the importance of the campaign, a special pamphlet is being produced for sale in the colleges next term. And the next issue of the IS student bulletin will contain detailed briefing of the action IS Societies should undertake.

The emphasis now must be on producing leaflets in the colleges on the need for the national campaign and putting resolutions before local union meetings that lay out a clear programme of action at college level. Such resolutions should stress the need to make the national rent strike effective, and press for direct action, including canteen boycotts, occupations, massive support for the 8 February demonstration and participation in the week of action.

On no account should local demands be tacked on to these actions. It must be made absolutely clear that this is a national campaign with national demands. Mixing local and national campaigns can only lead to utter confusion and, in the event of defeat, to total demoralisation.

The grants campaign has to be seen in the context of the overall fight against Phase Three. Students are not a 'special case'. Unless powerful groups of workers defeat the government we are not going to encounter success.

This has to be hammered home at college level by calling for support for workers in struggle such as the miners, the ambulancemen and the Shrewsbury 24, supplying donations and collections, and helping on picket lines where requested.

Simon Turner is an executive member of NUS and IS students organiser.

SOCIALIST WORKER

HOW MUCH of the present 'crisis' talk is scaremongering designed to whip up support for the government against the miners, train drivers and other workers?

Some at least. There is no question that the television and the press are using the oil situation as a weapon in their propaganda war in support of the government's Phase Three swindle.

Of course there is an energy shortage. It was already becoming apparent long before the October-Middle East war. In the summer there was a petrol shortage in the USA, a shortage which the big oil companies used to put the squeeze on the remaining independent distributors. But this energy crisis is not an act of God or even, fundamentally, of the oil sheiks. It is a result of the past policies of capitalist governments and oil companies.

Take the case of Britain. As late as 1960, three-quarters of all energy requirements were met by home-produced coal. In the years that followed the industry was deliberately run down. The number of pits was cut from 700 to 280. The number of miners was reduced by 350,000.

Now coal supplies less than 40 per cent of energy requirements. Why? In a word, profits. Government energy policy was largely influenced by the oil companies.

The government is now prattling about putting the 'national interest' first. Its own policies put the interests of the profiteers first. Incidentally, just how seriously the oil barons take the 'national interest' is shown by their recent behaviour. There have actually been no cuts from the September level in the supply of Arab oil to Britain. Why then the shortage?

'The oil industry, in the person of Mr Gerald Wagner, chairman of the board of Royal Dutch Shell,' reports The Economist, 'finally admitted

'National interest' not our interest

on Dutch television on Tuesday night, what many people knew was happening but would not say aloud: that Shell and the other international companies are sharing out their oil amongst their customers so that Britain and France are not getting the benefit of their pro-Arab policies.'

Why? Again, in a word, profits. The 'national interest' argument is all very well for miners and workers generally, it is not allowed to interfere with the serious business of maximising present and future profits.

We are not advocates of economic nationalism. We do not believe in 'national interests'. There are only class interests. But the present oil distribution scandal proves that the government's appeal to 'national interest' is completely fraudulent.

If the government was at all serious in its pretended beliefs it would take over the oil stocks and the oil installations. It would itself distribute oil on a scheme of priorities to prevent lay-offs.

Listen to The Economist again. 'Arab crude oil is not short at the refineries yet and the shortage is just as likely to be caused by hoarding.' Why? Because the oil companies know that new price increases are coming. The more they hold back, the bigger the profits.

WHAT WE THINK

So it is in every field. Inflation is now accelerating. The official National Institute's prediction is that it will be worse in 1974 than in the past year.

The government's wage restriction policy has been very successful so far. Workers face the choice of breaking Phase Three or suffering real cuts in living standards. There is a straight conflict of interest between the government's so-called 'counter-inflation' policy, which is designed to increase profits, and the interests of working people.

In these circumstances the renewed back-door discussions between TUC leaders and the government through the NEDC can only help the enemy. The TUC should be exposing the government's policy for the fraud it is and organising active help for the miners and all other workers in conflict with government policy. It should be promoting unity in action between miners, engineers and other sections.

The only way to protect, let alone increase, working class living standards is by defeating Phase Three. The TUC should be organising resistance now to the threatened lay offs. It should be fighting for work or full pay when lay offs occur.

The present crisis was not made by working people. Working people must not be led by the TUC into paying the price of capitalist policies. More than ever the need is for a determined struggle in the unions for policies of active resistance to the Tory government.

It is all the more urgent because a much bigger crisis is coming in 1974, a crisis of capitalism on a world scale, an international recession. Nobody doubts it. The only question is who is to pay for it. A policy of collaboration means that workers will pay. The collaborators must be defeated—and a powerful rank and file movement in the unions is the force to do it.

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WYATT'S PLIGHT —GETTING VERY RICH

by SW Reporter
WOODROW WYATT, former Labour MP for Bosworth (a mining area), fresh from his red-baiting triumphs on Anglia Television, is at it again in his weekly column in the Sunday Mirror.

Last Sunday he was on about the crisis, complaining in the main that the 'middle classes' were suffering as much if not more than the workers.

But these middle class sufferers do not include anyone lucky enough to hold shares in Woodrow Wyatt Holdings, a printing company which makes most of its money from printing luxury journals for the middle classes, such as Country Life.

PROFITS

Last week the group declared its results for 1973. Turnover was up from £2.2 million to £2.7 million, an increase of 23 per cent.

Profits were up from £121,522 to £212,377—an increase of 75 per cent. The company's ability to raise profits three times faster than turnover is almost entirely due to the government's restrictions on wages.

In his review of the year, suffering Woodrow Wyatt reports: 'It is the intention of the board, subject to satisfactory increase in profits, to recommend an increase in dividends



WYATT: £9000 and more to come

for the current year.'
The man who will benefit most from this decision is Woodrow Wyatt, who owns 1,759,575 shares in his

own company. Last year, Mr Wyatt paid himself £9000 in dividends. This year he will pay himself very much more.

DIVIDENDS

In other words, the suffering Mr Wyatt—who in the same Mirror column attacks NUM leaders as irresponsible and undemocratic—is paying himself by his own decision about five times more than any miner in the country earns—for doing exactly nothing except reap in the profits from excessive exploitation of his print workers.

That's just in dividends of course. It doesn't include the hundreds of pounds a week he makes from filling the Sunday Mirror and other newspapers with undiluted hypocrisy.

Civil Service shaken by sudden strike

TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND Civil Service typists, secretaries and machine operators were called out on strike last week by their union, the Civil and Public Services Association.

The move by the union leadership was quite unexpected but despite the short notice 80 per cent of the members concerned answered the strike call.

Within seven hours the Civil Service Department capitulated and made an offer for these grades. Many CPSA members were puzzled at the sudden burst of militancy from their leadership. Many militants think that general secretary Bill Kendall acted to clear all the minority claims so that he could get on with the job of selling the grossly inadequate offer made to the main clerical grades.

This offer has to have the approval of all grades, including the typists and machine grades. The longer the minority grades have to wait for an offer the longer the clerical members have to study and recognise the inadequacy of Bill Kendall's package.

The rank and file group in the union, Redder Tape, have circulated a document exposing the offer and calling for its rejection. Redder Tape's policy is for an all out strike for back pay to 1 January 1973 and for a £10 increase from 1 January 1974. Militants are also demanding a special conference to lay out a strategy for victory.

Women occupy factory

GLASGOW: 300 workers, mainly women, at Maclaren Controls, threatened with the sack from Wednesday onwards, occupied the factory on Tuesday.

OLD AND COLD: TWO MORE VICTIMS

LAST WEEK Socialist Worker's lead story pointed to the lying hypocrisy of Prime Minister Heath's justification for his incomes policy. Heath claims that it is designed to protect old age pensioners and others on fixed incomes.

Socialist Worker reported that Heath's 'protection' would lead to the tragic, premature and unnecessary death of at least 50,000 old people this winter thanks to grossly inadequate pensions.

In the last few days details of two of the deaths on Heath's hands have come to light.

On Friday last week Florence Smith aged 63 was found dead in her home in Hogarth Street, Nottingham. She was found lying on the stone floor under the kitchen sink. She had been lying there dead for a week.

Miss Smith was not able to afford any heating whatsoever in her house and her diet consisted entirely of milk and lemonade. She had no bed

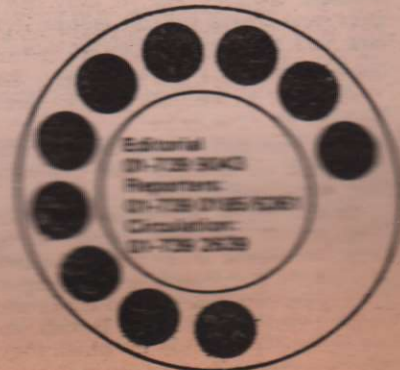
and slept on the floor wrapped in an old blanket.

A neighbour who had reported Miss Smith's condition to the city welfare department several times said: 'She was living in terrible circumstances and losing weight all the time. Anyone could have seen what was going to happen.'

At a Coroner's Court in Hackney last week a verdict of accidental death was recorded on Mrs Alice Schwarz. Poverty stricken Mrs

Schwarz heated up a fire brick in the oven to warm the bed in which she spent most of her time. The bed caught fire and she was burned to death.

The Coroner said: 'This is an old-fashioned way of warming beds. I think people are well advised to find safer methods.' He forgot to mention that Mrs Schwarz could not afford an electric blanket or to boil kettles to keep a water bottle constantly hot.





The war they're trying to hide

by Ian Birchall

FOR many people the war in Vietnam is 'over', now that US troops have departed. But for the ordinary people of South Vietnam little has changed. Since what was laughingly described as the 'ceasefire' last January, fighting has produced 100,000 casualties, including 50,000 dead—far more than died in the recent Middle East War.

Allegations that Communist forces are planning a new offensive are simply designed to cover up the fact that the main aggression is coming from President Thieu's pro-American puppet regime in Saigon.

In October Thieu said: 'We must have timely actions to prevent the enemy from carrying out a new offensive like the offensive of March last year.' In plain English: We take aggressive action now, just in case the other side might have thought of doing so later.

Meanwhile Thieu, in the name of 'economic development', is giving his businessmen and army officer friends rights to so-called virgin land—in fact driving out those who live on it and work it.

Massive

Despite the formal departure of US troops, the Americans have not abandoned their interests in Vietnam. According to the Provisional Revolutionary Government, the United States has sent 500 planes, 600 tanks, 200 gunships, 150,000 tons of bombs and 200,000 tons of artillery shells to Saigon since January. The PRG also claims that nearly 20,000 US military personnel are still in South Vietnam in civilian guise.

The massive American 'aid' programme is doing little or nothing for the working people of South Vietnam. Indeed, 80 per cent of the so-called Food for Peace programme goes to Saigon's army, navy and air force, while less than one per cent of US aid goes to agriculture, health and education.

Meanwhile the South Vietnamese economy rots. Already this year the currency has been devalued nine times and prices have risen by 55 per cent. Saigon has actually had to import nearly half a million tons of rice from the United States.

Thieu's only answer to the people's problems is torture and repression. The ceasefire agreement required the release of political prisoners—so Thieu simply reclassified them all as common-law criminals. American aid is being used to set up a police records system which, by the end of 1975, will have records on 12 million people, two-thirds of the total population.

Refugees

In Cambodia too the war drags on. Liberation forces now control 90 per cent of the country, where live four-fifths of its people. The pro-American Lon Nol government controls little outside the capital Phnom Penh—and here half the two million population are refugees.

Once again the US answer is to increase military aid to Lon Nol—next year it will be 350 million dollars, and a resumption of the bombing is possible.

All too easily Indochina will again become the 'forgotten war'. Socialists and trade unionists in Britain and throughout the world should not allow this to happen.

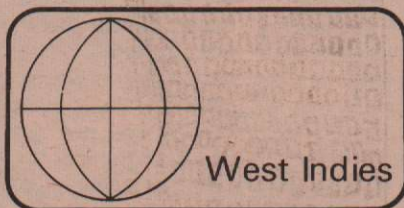
There can be no peace, no progress, certainly no development towards socialism in Indochina until the United States and its puppets have been driven out once and for all. To all those fighting to achieve this end, we must give our whole-hearted support.

GENERAL STRIKE OVER POLICE ATTACK

by Norah Carlin

WORKERS on the West Indian Island of Grenada have stepped up their struggle against corrupt millionaire prime minister Eric Gairy. A general strike was called last month to demand the abolition of the notorious secret police.

It was supported by all sections of workers in Grenada, and even by the Technical and Allied Workers' Union, which Gairy has



tried to turn into a pro-government union and forced workers to join.

The strike was sparked off by the vicious beating up by the secret police of three members of the

New Jewel Movement. This movement demands the destruction of Gairy's corrupt state and the reorganisation of the economy, which at present depends heavily on agricultural exports, tourism, and concessions to American gangsters.

It opposes the dispossession of small farmers, who have been removed in favour of Gairy's personal friends, and proposes the setting up of peasants' co-operatives. Its programme also includes people's assemblies in workplaces and

villages, and a national assembly of delegates subject to instant recall.

Gairy at first promised an inquiry into the latest beatings, but showed signs of turning it into a witch-hunt against the New Jewel Movement instead. He also proposed to disband the secret police and replace it by a 'volunteer force'.

But the trade unions called a general strike, and gave him until Wednesday to abolish the secret force completely or face renewed strikes. They have the support of church bodies and doctors' and lawyers' professional associations.

SPARK

Grenada is due to become 'independent' of Britain in a few weeks' time. The island's workers and small farmers are determined that independence shall not be a sham, with power remaining in the hands of the small clique who have already held it for the last 20 years.

The wave of strikes against Gairy last May, sparked off by the assassination of an unemployed youth, were represented by the British press as being 'against independence'. But 10,000 supported an alternative independence rally organised by the New Jewel Movement, which opposed Gairy's expensive independence ceremonies and demanded real independence with control for the people of Grenada themselves.



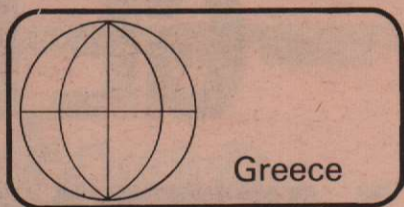
Part of the 10,000 crowd at the New Jewel Movement's anti-government independence rally

Junta is covering up popular rising

THE following declaration was issued by the students and workers occupying Athens Polytechnic on 17 November, just before the bloody attack on them by the Greek junta's army.

'The character of the present struggle, which started with the students and now embraces the whole people, is a struggle against both the military dictatorship and the local and foreign monopolies that support it. It is a struggle for power to pass into the hands of the people.'

'Because we consider the polytechnic, under the occupation of students and workers, a real base for our struggle at this moment, we propose the continuation of the occupation and the setting up of joint worker-student groups that will carry the message of our fight to the



building workers, to the factories and to today's rally of peasants at Megara.

'These must spread the call for committees to be set up at every place of work with the aim of preparing for the workers to come out on an economic and political strike.'

'Down with rising prices. Americans out. Down with the junta. All the people out on to the streets. Set up factory committees. For a united action front.'

Both the old junta and the new one which replaced it a week later have been trying desperately to cover up the popular rising last month with accusations that it was a 'conspiracy of agents provocateurs', that the Polytechnic was occupied by 'anarchists and extremists egged on by royalist enemies of the republic', that there was bloodshed only because 'Guevarists, Trotskyists and Maoists quarrelled among themselves,' and so on.

The 'democratic opposition' to the regime—the old politicians who served the Greek bosses and US interests before the military took over in 1967—joined in denouncing 'sinister and suspect elements' infiltrating the students. At the same time these politicians are helping the

new regime to buy time by refraining from attacking it and expressing the hope that it will 'help heal the rift between the armed forces and the people.'

The 'new' junta is simply a reshuffle among the various cliques that made up the old one, minus former president Papadopoulos. The overthrow of Papadopoulos ended a long-nursed plan for 'normalisation', and now the military must find new manoeuvres to bring about a more stable capitalist government. To unite enough of the warring military and political factions, it needs a period free from militant outbursts of the mass movement.

That is why the new regime is keeping hundreds of students and workers who were arrested under Papadopoulos locked away

Abolished

The continuity between the old junta and the new is clearest in the field of economic policy. The attack on the working class is kept up relentlessly. Since last spring increased unemployment and worse conditions for Greek workers have been put forward as the cure for inflation.

The old junta introduced a credit squeeze, increased taxation and stopped the already puny public housing programme. It abolished black market trading—by bringing the price of meat, cheese, eggs and so on up to the black market level. It also dealt with the energy crisis by stiff restrictions in Greece, while production at a new refinery south of Athens was stepped up to keep the US Sixth Fleet supplied.

Now the junta has announced its budget, with huge cuts in public spending, especially in public works, which means yet more unemployment.

Despite the political tricks and the economic onslaught, the militancy of Greek workers, peasants and students has not been broken. In the factories, in the universities and in the countryside their determination is growing to fight until they rid themselves of the military thugs and their backers.

BRIEFING

DENMARK:—All major parties, including the ruling Social Democrats, lost heavily in the Danish general election last week. The voting expressed widespread disillusion with the government's policies, especially with the results of entry into the Common Market, which has meant higher prices and VAT.

The only party on the left which gained at all was the Communist Party, with six new MPs. The Socialist People's Party, which split from the Communist Party in the 1950s and in recent years kept the Social Democrats in power by its parliamentary support, lost six of its 17 seats.

The chaotic result was caused mainly by the large vote for the new Progress Party, led by a millionaire tax lawyer whose publicly stated proposals so far include sacking 90 per cent of civil servants and cutting the social service drastically. The new Centre Democrats, a right-wing split from the Social Democrats, also made significant gains.

SPAIN:—In the clampdown on all political opposition by the new hard-line Spanish government, seven people accused of being members of the Communist Party or the illegal Workers' Commissions have been sentenced to up to eight years in prison. While the main trial of Workers' Com-

mission leaders, arrested last summer at a meeting in Pozuelo monastery, is still being put off, the government seems to be mopping up other supporters of the Commissions as much as it can.

Nationalist movements in the Basque and Catalan provinces have also suffered severe repression. 113 people attending a secret Catalan assembly in a Barcelona church last month were arrested, and several of them are known to have been tortured.

At Bilbao in the Basque region, there have been two extended sit-ins in the bishop's palace in support of the six priests, accused of Basque nationalist activities, who have been detained in the special Zamora prison for priests. The 'Zamora Six' have staged riots and hunger strikes in protest against the existence of this special clerical prison—by agreement between the Spanish government and the Pope—and have demanded to be treated on the same footing as other political prisoners.

AUSTRALIA:—The referendum on whether the federal state should have power to control wages and prices has resulted in a defeat for Gough Whitlam's Labour government. 65 per cent of the voters opposed wage control, and 55 per cent were against price control. Most of the trade union

movement, the Socialist left faction in the Labour Party, and other left-wing organisations had called for a 'no' vote on wage controls and 'yes' to price control.

FRANCE:—The general strike in protest against rising prices, called by the major trade union federations and left-wing parties in France on 6 December, received widespread support. All the ports were at a standstill, and transport was reduced to a fraction of normal. In the engineering industry, support was uneven, but reached 80 per cent in some ports and 60 per cent in the Nord and Loire departments. The Citroen and Simca car factories were closed down completely, and the railwaymen extended the strike to two and a half days in support of their own regrading claim.

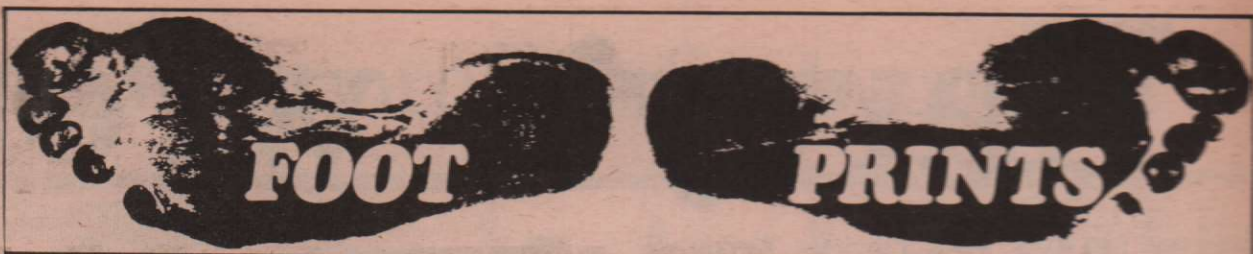
In Paris, news agency teleprinter operators refused, after their 24-hour strike was over, to handle any reports of news which happened during the strike period—including the Finance Minister's latest economic programme, and the results of the National Lottery.

The demonstration by strikers in Paris on the sixth is said to have been the biggest since 1968, with close on 10,000 marchers. Prominent among the marchers were public service workers, and especially hospital workers, who have been involved in widespread struggles over the last few months.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'YOUR RATES: Residents are having their amenities ruined by factory workers parking their cars outside their homes. House-owners should be entitled to compensation.'

—from the council by-election address of Leo Butcher, Liberal candidate for Brentwater, Brent.



Evans

A

B

SOCIALIST WORKER FUEL CRISIS CHRISTMAS QUIZ
WHICH OF THE TWO ABOVE IS AN "ESSENTIAL SERVICE"?

B
GOVERNMENT ANSWER:

Grotty Ottey

ROY OTTEY, the full-time secretary of the Midlands Power Group of the National Union of Mineworkers, is against strike action, against the miners' overtime ban and against all militant activity in the pits.

He is a member of the NUM executive and voted in favour of a membership ballot on the overtime ban.

Like any other union official who is elected for life, Ottey gets paid about twice as much as the average faceworker in Midlands pits.

But that is not all. Ottey also sits as a part-time member of the Midlands Electricity Board which, of course, is the Coal Board's main customer in the area. While the miners are banning overtime, in other words, and especially if the miners go on strike, no organisation is squeezed more than the Midlands Electricity Board.

Socialist Worker reporter Laurie Flynn rang Ottey last week to check that he was a member of the electricity board. After expressing the view that no one could conceivably be interested in such trivia, Ottey confirmed that he was. The following conversation then took place:

Flynn: Could you tell me, Mr Ottey, how much you get paid for your services at the Electricity Board?

Ottey: No comment.
Laurie Flynn tried to explain that we were not looking for comment. We wanted facts. But Ottey was very shy about the whole business.

The press office of the Electricity Council was more helpful. Mr Ottey, they disclosed, like all other part-time members of regional electricity boards, gets £1000 a year (£20 a week) for attending a few meetings.

Ottey argues for a ballot among miners because, as he tells his members, he has faith in democracy.

Begged

This faith was put to the test at the end of last year when Jim Clarke, then a member of the NUM power group at Lea Hall, moved at the Lea Hall branch that a motion be put down for the National Power Group Conference agenda calling for the regular election of all full-time NUM officials. When the motion reached Roy Ottey in his office, he summoned the branch chairman and secretary and begged them to get the branch committee to withdraw the motion.

The chairman and secretary reluctantly responded, but the branch committee refused to contemplate the withdrawal.

Democracy triumphed once again at the October branch of the Lea Hall branch this year, after Ottey had made a passionate speech for no action of any kind against the Coal Board or the government.

Jim Clarke moved for a total rejection of the offer and for calling on the executive for any action they thought necessary to win the full claim.

The motion was carried by 85 voted to 2.

As Roy Ottey might put it: No comment.

THE BOYS IN BLUE

DETECTIVE Inspector Bryan Constant has left the police force after admitting that he had shown blue films captured in anti-porn raids to police officers at Bedford police station.

'It was one of the most obscene things I had ever seen,' the Inspector explained to the Sunday People. 'I showed it to the men in the station to harden their attitudes to such filth.'

Sunday sermon for the miners

'AS THE miners' ban on overtime takes on more and more the appearance of a confrontation or trial of strength between the government and the coal-mining community, the task of newspapers and television is to bring the issues into the open and to subject them to cool examination.'

A fine start to a Sunday sermon in The Observer, but if what followed was a cool examination, then someone should give that paper's leader writer a dictionary for Christmas.

This highly-paid gentleman, sitting in his comfy office, went on to say that in the miners' situation 'it is very easy for misunderstandings to occur and for bitterness to grow'. He then created a few misunderstandings and set out to stir up as much bitterness as he could.

Apparently the miners are fighting not the government's pay code, but everyone who doesn't happen to be a miner. If they win, the rest of us lose while poor Ted Heath stands helplessly by.

You've heard it all before, so I won't bother to repeat the arguments. The Observer shouldn't have bothered either, because this leader was just a cutting job of what all the other papers were saying.

The headlines told their own story: 'Why Moderate Joe is losing to the left' from the Sunday Times. 'Daly, Pit Firebrand', from the Sunday Telegraph, and in the same paper: 'Militants urge Pit Strike.'

The constant use of such emotive words doesn't exactly satisfy The Observer's laughable demand for a cool examination.

Splash

But it is the popular press that is taking the greatest pleasure in trying to smash the miners. The Sun, for example, which has a fair number of those dreadful people among its readers, has consistently done the dirty on them. Last Thursday's paper had the biggest splash headline since the Sun came out over the Australian horizon: 'Miners give Ted the Frozen mitt.'

Now I wouldn't like to shake Ted Heath's hot and sweaty hand either, but I wasn't aware that he was holding it out to the miners in friendship, so why put the ball into their court?

Underneath and at first glance obviously connected with the main story was another headline: 'Brr . . . Power cuts loom.'

My God, what are the miners up to now? Hold on. This story has nothing to do with the miners but you've got to read to the end to find that out. Another group of workers is also fighting the government's pay code. You mean, the

miners aren't alone? Most of the story was about the weather—just to get things into perspective—with a quick mention, in case you didn't know who is to blame for the cold, that the Central Electricity Board maintenance men were refusing to work out of hours.

It is interesting, by the way, that the press warns every day that there may be power cuts tonight, without them ever materialising. Could this be more propaganda?

Just to rub the message in, the Sun, on page two, started its leader with 'Yesterday was the coldest November day this century. But more chilling than the weather was the freeze-up between ministers and miners at No 10.'

Stubborn

'The miners said No. The Prime Minister said No. One side will have to give in sooner or later. That side MUST be the miners. And it MUST be sooner.'

'Last night it was clear what the miners mean to do now: NOTHING. Their Executive is not even to meet again until December 13.'

'In the face of such brute stubbornness, what will Mr Heath do?'

The Sun didn't actually know, and ended pathetically: 'Whatever he does, his position is without doubt strengthened by the bloody-mindedness of the miners' leaders.'

A newcomer to the crisis would be forgiven for believing, after reading this, that every miner in the country was out on strike, living it up in front of the television set on Social Security paid for by the rest of us working our fingers to the bone for peanuts and freezing at the same time.

For the dear old Sun forgot the first rule of journalism, which is to give the facts. At no time did the Sun mention that all the miners are doing at the moment is refusing to stay down those dark, death-laden pits one minute longer than their contracts say they have to.

Leonard Hill



BLESS THIS HOUSE, OH LORD WE PRAY....

ANYONE who doesn't believe in God should study the above picture very closely.

The modern building is the second stage of the new Bootle Technical College. If the third stage had been built according to plan, the building in the foreground—59 Balliol Road—would have been demolished. But the third stage has been delayed for many years and 59 Balliol Road still stands.

This is a triumph for the Almighty, because 59 Balliol Road is the Bootle headquarters of the Knights of St Columba, a Roman Catholic organisation.

The work of the Lord in Bootle is ably assisted by a number of members of Bootle Council, including Councillor J P Hearty, who is chairman of the education committee and a Roman Catholic deputy headmaster. Councillor Hearty has been campaigning recently in the local press for more religion in Bootle schools. With his wife, Councillor Mrs E R Hearty, he is a regular attender of Knights of St Columba functions.

So is the deputy chairman of the education committee, Miss M F Morley, a Roman Catholic school-teacher, and so is Councillor J McCabe, one of the education com-

mittee's and the Knights' longest-standing members.

Other known members of the Knights on the council are Joseph Mahon, brother of Simon Mahon, MP for Bootle, who received the Order of Knight Commander of Saint Gregory from the Pope a few years ago for 'services to the Catholic community in Bootle,' Councillor J Benton, Mr Mahon's election agent, Councillor W Lloyd, who is 'Grand Knight of the Number 12 Council of the Knights of St Columba,' and Councillor J Marray, last year's Mayor.

This year's Mayor, Bill Wiseman, who got the special award of merit from the Engineers' Union earlier this year and was in his time one of the union's most ardent supporters of the late Lord Carron, former AUEW president, is also a keen supporter of the Knights.

So is Councillor Bert Moore, who works for Wimpeys. So is Councillor N Fanning, who is a member of Catholic Action's Anti-Communist Committee, which draws up blacklists of militants, communists and subversives in the area.

My many correspondents in Bootle are certain that the Lord is alive and will be living with friends at 59 Balliol Road for several years yet.

Harry's wrong— here's why

HARRY SELBY'S letter (Socialist Worker, 8 December) claims that Paul Foot's article and Jimmy McCallum's letter didn't have 'a single word of analysis'.

Can I spell it out simply to him?

The Labour Party is completely discredited throughout the country. He says 'perhaps the working class have rejected the Labour Party'. He can say that again and perhaps he'll get the message.

Since Harry's defeat the right-wing have once again, led by Jenkins, Prentice and Wilson, called on the miners and railwaymen to call off any challenge to the Tory Phase 3 legislation.

The fact is people in Scotland, Wales or Darlington take no notice who the candidate is any more. So no matter how much you support the workers in struggle you become tarred with the same rotten brush.

It is no good saying when you talk about the Housing Finance Act 'We in the Govan Labour Party led the political fight right up to the end and still resist'—when only Clay Cross is left to carry on the fight in reality.

Where are the Prentices, Jenkins, Foots, Williams, Shorts fighting?

Harry Selby may ask, who am I to attack him? All I can say is that I joined the Labour Party in 1964. I helped to get Labour MPs elected, remained to fight on the doorstep again for Ted Fletcher, a 'Tribune' MP, saw Labour bring in wage freezes, put up prescription charges, 'In Place of Strife', and various other anti-working class measures.

I stayed in until I couldn't take it any longer—and got out.

Since then I have joined the International Socialists. 'What kind of marxists are these?' asks Harry.

Can I tell him that we are the only people who have a chance of building a rank and file party to challenge the capitalist state. Believe me or not Harry, the reformist traitors in your party never will—and the workers know that. — DES WRIGHT, Darlington.

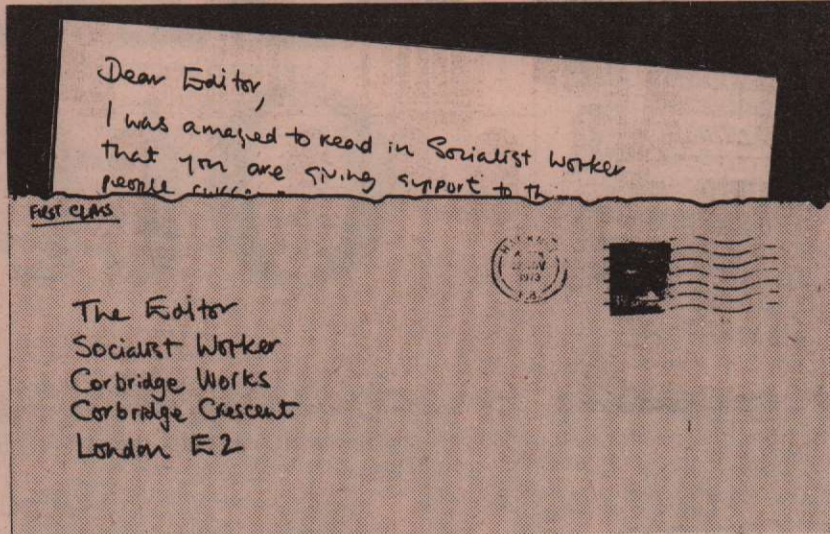
Journalists— he's all wrong

ON BEHALF of many militant journalists in this country may I thank you for your enlightened comment on B J Lynch's letter (Socialist Worker 1 December).

Sadly, the letter smacks of an attitude which I thought had been buried long ago among thinking trade unionists—that anyone who wears a white collar is middle class and totally unfit for membership of a trade union.

It might interest Mr Lynch to know that while we were picketing our offices while on strike we received magnificent support from many Transport union drivers. Would it also astound him to know that a few TGWU drivers also said that they wouldn't respect picket lines for any other sod's sake, and that they'd rather have their union cards torn up than lose their delivery bonus for helping out a load of bloody journalists?

There may be revolting scab types in many unions, but we shouldn't



A warm welcome from the 'warmest in London N.9.'

AMONG my mail the other morning was a circular offering to sell me a central heating system. This was in the form of a type-written letter with special 'individual' inserts in the text—references to 'the whole McNally family' and 'the warmest in London N9'.

Wondering which big firm was spending its excess profits on such an extravagant advertising gimmick, I was surprised to find a reply paid envelope addressed to the 'National Coal Board'—presumably the same Coal Board that can't afford to give the miners a living wage.

Not being able to afford central heating under Phase Three, I used the reply paid envelope to send the Coal Board a message—'Pay the Miners Now'. I hope any other readers who get this wasteful advert will do the same:—C McNALLY, London N9.

judge each other according to the worst form of behaviour among our own groups.

Does Mr Lynch really believe that all members of the Press agree with the views and methods of their employers? If a paper takes a certain line you can bet your boots that it stems from the top—it's capitalism and our capitalist managements that he should really waste his vitriol upon—not the many sincere and hard fighting socialists of the NUJ.

Criticising us for the actions of capitalists because they are working within, and therefore bolstering, the capitalist system. They might reply within, and therefore bolstering, the capitalist system. They might reply that, as long as circumstances force you to work within a certain framework, you should do your best to change that framework rather than opt out of the struggle.

For heaven's sake let's not forget that the enemy is management and not our fellow workers. And let us not forget that the most powerful weapon we can forge for the bosses is division within our own ranks!

May I thank you for giving accurate and encouraging publicity to our struggle through the medium of this excellent paper? We're a small union which has been trampled over in the past and which is determined

not to let the same thing happen this time.

Oh yes, and about the £15. It adds to the myth, I suppose, that all journalists are very well paid.

I'm a senior with over two years' seniority behind me and I get £3 over the average industrial wage.

My paper, and many more, made huge profits this year. In fact, if our management paid every single journalist who works for them an extra £15 it would amount to the huge sum of 3 per cent of their annual profits.

Without necessarily breaking Phase Three (though God knows, every trade unionist should make a private vow to work towards this end) we want a promise from our miserly bosses that they'll give us a reasonable share of their huge wealth whenever they're allowed to do so.

Keep up the great work with SW, and please keep us journalists informed of the national situation:—STEWART PERKINS, Newport.

Mental hospitals— it's not just Russia

THERE HAS been much chatter lately about the internment of Soviet intellectuals in mental hospitals. While not wishing to detract from sympathy for their plight I feel that by concentrating on that one should not be misled into thinking that our methods are more humane or less open to political manipulation.

The majority of people diagnosed as mentally ill in this country are working class. Driven to madness by unemployment, slum housing, lousy underpaid jobs, overcrowded schools and inadequate social services.

The benevolence of the state in most cases mean a stay in an overcrowded asylum, electric shocks, numbing drugs, isolation, industrial therapy. All received with an induced passivity that everyone else (doctors, social workers, nurses, therapists of various kinds) know what's best for you—except you.

The 1959 Mental Health Act enforces legal recognition of your 'non-productive' disease. 'Until you agree that you are ill you will remain here and realise our necessity for you to accept your lot and get working again... Normality!'

The power of psychiatry is insidious. How long will it be before 'remanding for medical reports' included strikers and left-wingers who will be decided to be suffering from diseases in urgent need of treatment?

There must be some consideration in the class struggle to include the position of psychiatric casualties. It has to be realised that psychiatry backed by the legal system is just another way for the ruling class to deal effectively with the people who can't or won't jump through the fiery hoop when ordered:—MICHAEL MILLER (Student psychiatric nurse), London N10.

What kind of committee is it?

THE Coventry 74 AUEW branch supports the building workers on trial and pledges its members to support them both morally, financially and, wherever possible, physically.

As a result of a resolution to this effect being passed the branch sends a regular donation to the Defence Fund every fortnight and we have a collection every branch night to boost this.

We also sent a resolution to the AUEW district committee. In contrast to the branch, the district committee members said they did not know who or what was meant by the North Wales 24. One district committee member even went so far as to claim that our delegate (without specifically naming him of course!) and a 'few others' were trying to disrupt the district committee for their own ends.

What a disgraceful state of affairs when people oppose a resolution calling for support for other trade unionists in very serious trouble on the basis of a claim that they do not know 'who or what' is meant by the North Wales 24!

Following this cowardly lack of support our branch will place before members of a largely apathetic district committee every single piece of information ever written about the North Wales 24.

We will then see what further excuses they can find before we force them to support the North Wales 24. Can it be possible that the district committee members are largely out of touch with reality?—JOHN WORTH, branch president, Coventry 74 AUEW.

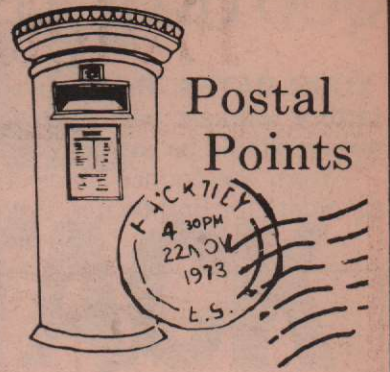
GPO misers

MY SON Trevor was a GPO postman-driver for three years.

In that time he was off three times. On 3 November he was dismissed with no final warning. Not content with that the GPO advised the Department of Employment that he was dismissed for 'misconduct' and his benefit was stopped.

Is it any wonder that the GPO gives such bad service when petty bureaucrats misuse their brief authority? To sack a young man of 24 and stop his dole six weeks before Christmas is a typical example of the worst of pre-war capitalism.

The Union of Post Office Workers had the audacity to agree with this. —F HACKETT, Hull



THANKS—AND WE CAN WIN!... on behalf of miners, and a mining community, you are certainly giving remarkable help in support of the mineworkers providing we can hold the present unity which has not been surpassed this side of World War II. The rank and file have never before remained so steadfast and united. Nothing must be allowed to limit the present resolution:—W THOMPSON, Kirkby-in-Ashfield.

THIS letter is to inform you that at the November meeting of the Cardiff AUEW TASS branch brothers from local engineering factories, the Gas Board, British Leyland and the East Moors steel works passed the following motion:—

This Branch proposes that complete opposition be made to the Conservative Party's policy of attempting to stop inflation by freezing wages in Phase Three, and requests the Executive Committee, AUEW TASS to join in united action with the Miners' NUM:—MICHAEL PEARSON, AUEW (TASS), Cardiff.

MORE ON TACTICS?... it seems to me basic to the whole working class movement that Socialist Worker as a general co-ordinator of working class day-to-day battles must be more precise and clear. In this situation where the 'big guns' of the labour movement are to be trained on the enemy it is essential to explain the tactics of assault.

The 'artillery' of the miners, power-workers, engineers, railwaymen etc, must be openly shown to be part of a struggle which is mainly directed at knocking out the enemies strong points—to open the floodgate to the heroic PBI (poor bloody infantry). Hospital workers, firemen, tenants and many other less privileged groups of the working class.

I know this is International Socialist policy, but Socialist Worker must drive the lesson home, primarily to preserve solidarity amongst the PBI and labour movement as a whole:—MICHAEL WOLSTENCROFT, Manchester.

DO IT TO THEM... we should sequester everything owned by the Donaldsons, Heaths and the Tories. The same goes for the Labour councils who have betrayed their pledge to fight the Tory rent act. The proceeds should be turned over to the people who have been betrayed by these councillors:—J PREEN, London SW18.

A BAZAAR OCCASION... On 1 December the Communist Party held a bazaar at Chiswick Town Hall. While tea and buns and second hand clothing was sold inside the National Front were handing out leaflets advertising fascist propaganda at the entrance! While this went on an NF loudspeaker car hurled racial abuse at the town's black population...

There were no attempts to organise a show of strength to counter these thugs and expose their fascist policies. To explain the true nature of the NF to passers-by who were being handed racist propaganda. There wasn't even an attempt to silence their loudspeaker. They just carried on selling tea and buns... —FRED McCORMICK, Hounslow.

ON THE OTHER HAND... The NF held a public meeting in Canterbury. Pickets about 150 strong turned out from the university, composed of International Socialists, International Marxists and Communist Party members. Also present were trades council members and a few Kent miners—a concrete sign of student-worker solidarity. The police showed who their friends were by splitting the picket in half and creating a way through for the NF supporters. The meeting was held behind locked doors and members of the picket were refused entry by the police:—STEVE MARICOTT, Canterbury.

an International Socialists pamphlet 10p

ROGER KLINE

can
Socialism
come
through
Parliament?

Roger Kline's CAN SOCIALISM COME THROUGH PARLIAMENT? draws the lessons from the antics of the Labour Party, in government and in opposition, as reformers of capitalism, and argues what we can do to bring socialism.

10p plus 3p postage (10 or more copies post free) from IS BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Eviction for tenants, big profits for tycoons



The two faces of the Calthorpe Estate that the building bosses will profit from: the area for new warehouses and the smart houses for the well-off. Pictures: Chris Davies (Report)

HUNDREDS of working-class tenants in central London are threatened with eviction or sky-high rents as profit-hungry speculators move in.

One large building firm, the Lyon Group, will make a profit of around £8 million from a development in Camden. This bonanza is made possible by a racket involving the manipulation of various charitable institutions, including a 'housing association'.

The plan is to tart up the houses and attract well-heeled middle-class tenants.

Part of the Calthorpe Estate, along the Gray's Inn Road, in the London Borough of Camden, has recently been sold to the Community Housing Association by the Lyon Group, the landlords for the past four years. The rest of the estate—which is to be developed as warehouses and offices—has been kept by Lyon.

The CHA purchase has been financed by a loan from a charitable trust supported by a housing trust run by a collection of builders, property developers and estate agents.

The Calthorpe Estate consisted of an old industrial estate and several streets of Georgian houses—a very desirable area to house the ever-growing armies of well-off middle class people needed to work in the City.

At least 200 people are housed in the 83 houses sold to CHA. Many of them have been maintained badly by the two landlords in the last ten years—a company controlled by Maxwell Joseph and the Lyon Group. While the profits of these two companies have been steadily rising, houses have remained in a poor state of repair and at least one is without electricity.

After several years of negotiations Lyon received planning permission for a comprehensive development of the area earlier this year. And it is here that the plot really thickens, because most of the residential content has been sold to the Community Housing Association.

Coincidence

The Association has produced plans for converting the 83 houses to 240 flats—accommodation in many cases completely unsuitable for the families already living in the area.

A key person in the negotiations leading up to the sale of the houses has been a Brian Leaver, who by sheer coincidence works as an agent for Lyon and is a manager of CHA. On 19 March 1973 the Community Housing Association borrowed £995,000 from a company called Benesco, as a temporary loan to buy the houses. But Leaver had already written to Camden's Chairman of Housing saying that the money had been borrowed and contracts to buy the property had been exchanged. Leaver wanted the council to lend CHA a total of £2.254 million to pay back the Benesco loan and to convert the houses.

Yet the most recent information about Benesco shows that the company had never traded and had no assets: it was in no shape to lend nearly £1 million to anyone, never mind a housing association.

Homes racket soaks council



OLIVE HODLEY (left) lives on the Calthorpe Estate. She was the common law wife of one of the estate's tenants. When he died, Olive maintained the property. When the Community Housing Association started its wheeler-dealing on the estate, it decided that Olive was a prime person to evict to make way for respectable, well-heeled middle-class tenants. They took Olive to court and asked to have her evicted on the grounds that she was not a 'married woman'. The Calthorpe Estate Tenants' Association fought and won Olive's case. They are going to have plenty more battles on their hands to stop the profiteers.

And Leaver had approached the council after the purchase of the property had been arranged and contracts exchanged. If Camden refused to lend the money to CHA, there was nowhere else CHA could get it.

If the councillors wanted to keep any control over what happened in the Calthorpe Estate, Leaver was holding a gun to their heads.

The other great mystery is, who was behind Benesco? Although Benesco refuse to reveal their source of finance, the loan in fact came from the World of Property Housing Trust.

This trust was founded in 1969 by Francis Bennison—the right-wing solicitor who brought a private legal action against Peter Hain for stopping the South African cricket tour.

The current chairman is Gabriel Harrison, chairman of the massive Amalgamated Investment and Property Company. Among its vice-chairmen are three builders, two property developers, three surveyors and a merchant banker, accountant, solicitor and architect. These include a Wates, a McAlpine, and a representative of the merchant bank, Lazards.

It is inconceivable that Brian Leaver, a partner in one of the biggest firms of London estate agents, wouldn't know several of these people.

It is now clear what happened.

Lyon has permission to construct more than 200,000 square feet of office space, warehousing and shops on the old industrial estate, but only 89,000 square feet of residential accommodation.

Most central London boroughs operate an unofficial rule of thumb that in any development there must be at least as much residential accommodation as commercial content. If this is applied to the Lyon scheme, it is clear that the residential content is accounted for only by including the Calthorpe estate that is owned by CHA.

Profit

Lyon has done a deal with the planning authorities that he would ensure the residential content but would not pay for it himself. Through the services of Brian Leaver, Camden Council will foot the bill.

Lyon will pocket nearly £1 million from the sale of the houses. On the commercial development, if the offices can be let at £7 a square foot and the warehouses at £2 a square foot, Lyon will make a capital profit in excess of £8 million by the end of the deal.

The council will almost certainly lend the money to the CHA, though on stringent conditions, but this will not be much consolation to the

tenants as the ownership of the houses will still be in the hands of CHA.

One of the features of housing associations is that the tenants have no security of tenure because they are excluded from the protection of the Rent Act. The implementation of the Housing Finance Act will mean that many tenants face massive increases in rents they will not be able to afford.

Plans the CHA have circularised to tenants show a large number of small flats totally unsuitable for many of the families that live there now.

These three factors will inevitably

drive out the working people who have lived in the area for years to make way for the middle-class splendour that Lyon wants so much to complement his development next door.

The whole story exposes the way in which property developers are quite adept at coping with less than co-operative local authorities and how they can harness the allegedly charitable institutions to their own ends.

And for all the property men can the working-class tenants they force out will have to join London's growing army of homeless families.

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Investigation by T.H. Rogmorton

From a South Wales colliery, a look behind the glo

I'm a high paid miner

who's better off on sick

ALL THE MINERS at Morlais colliery, South Wales, received £25 in their pay packets last week.

The management decided to pay the fixed sum because the Coal Board clerks were banning overtime and accurate pay slips could not be made out.

To their horror, the management have now found that they have been overpaying many of their miners.

Dafryg Anthony, chairman of the National Union of Mine-workers lodge at Morlais, explained: 'I get £22 a week after stoppages for a 40-hour week. I don't work overtime.'

'So I've been getting £3 a week too much by this system.'

Docked

Dafryg works underground, as does the lodge secretary, Gareth Williams. Last week Gareth was much better off than usual. He was sick.

How, I asked him, could he be better off on sick pay than on his full wage?

'Simple,' explained Gareth. 'I have a wife and three kids and we get £22.50 from Social Security to keep us alive while

I'm sick. On top of that I get a rent rebate of £4.

'When I'm working, I get £22.50 for 40 hours, and I don't work overtime. But I also have to pay my full rent of £5.12. So you see, I'm a "high paid worker", who's better off when he's sick than when he works.

'There are thousands of them in the pits.'

Last week Gareth put out a statement about the Coal Board's expensive advertisements in the

local press. He ridiculed their 'generous' pay offer.

'The gross increase in my wages under the offer,' said the statement, 'will be £2.57 a week. A pound of that will go in rent rebate, another pound will go in tax and 5 per cent of the increase will be docked for pension contributions.'

'I will be left with 85p a week increase. I won't be getting that till March. By then the cost of living will have eaten that away,

and more.'

Eight weeks ago, the 170 miners at Morlais met at pithead meetings to vote on whether or not to ban overtime in support of their union's £13-a-week pay claim.

The voting was as follows:
Night shift: 30 for the overtime ban, none against.

Afternoon shift: 49 for the overtime ban, none against.

Morning shift: 80 for the overtime ban, seven against. All seven voted against because they wanted to go on strike.

By last week, the feeling, if anything, has hardened. The slightest mention of the government brings forth a flurry of oaths. Lifting the overtime ban before the Coal Board offer is substantially improved is not even considered.

Only about 18 per cent of the miners at the pit are used to overtime working. Of these the hardest hit by the overtime ban are the craftsmen in the engineering 'shop', an enormous hanger whose only source of heat is a tiny coal stove.

Unknown

Before the ban, these men worked a standard six-and-a-half day week for a take home pay of £35. Banning overtime means a cut of about £13 a week in wages, but there are compensations.

As they gulped their tea and sandwiches during their morning break last Friday, most of them were looking forward to the 'luxury' of a week-end at home with their families, and the unknown pleasures of a Christmas holiday.

Will Weeks is 59, and has been working in the shops around the South Wales pits since he was 16.

'For all those 43 years,' he says, 'I've worked for seven days a week, often going to work



Morlais Colliery: the cage that takes the miners to still operated by an old-fashioned steam engine.

Sunday morning and getting home Monday morning for a cup of tea before I start back again.

'They tell us to think of our country. Well, I don't believe in patriotism.'

'You've got to think of your

fellow man, n haven't work patriotic mot a decent stan sense of digni still working I John Ephg

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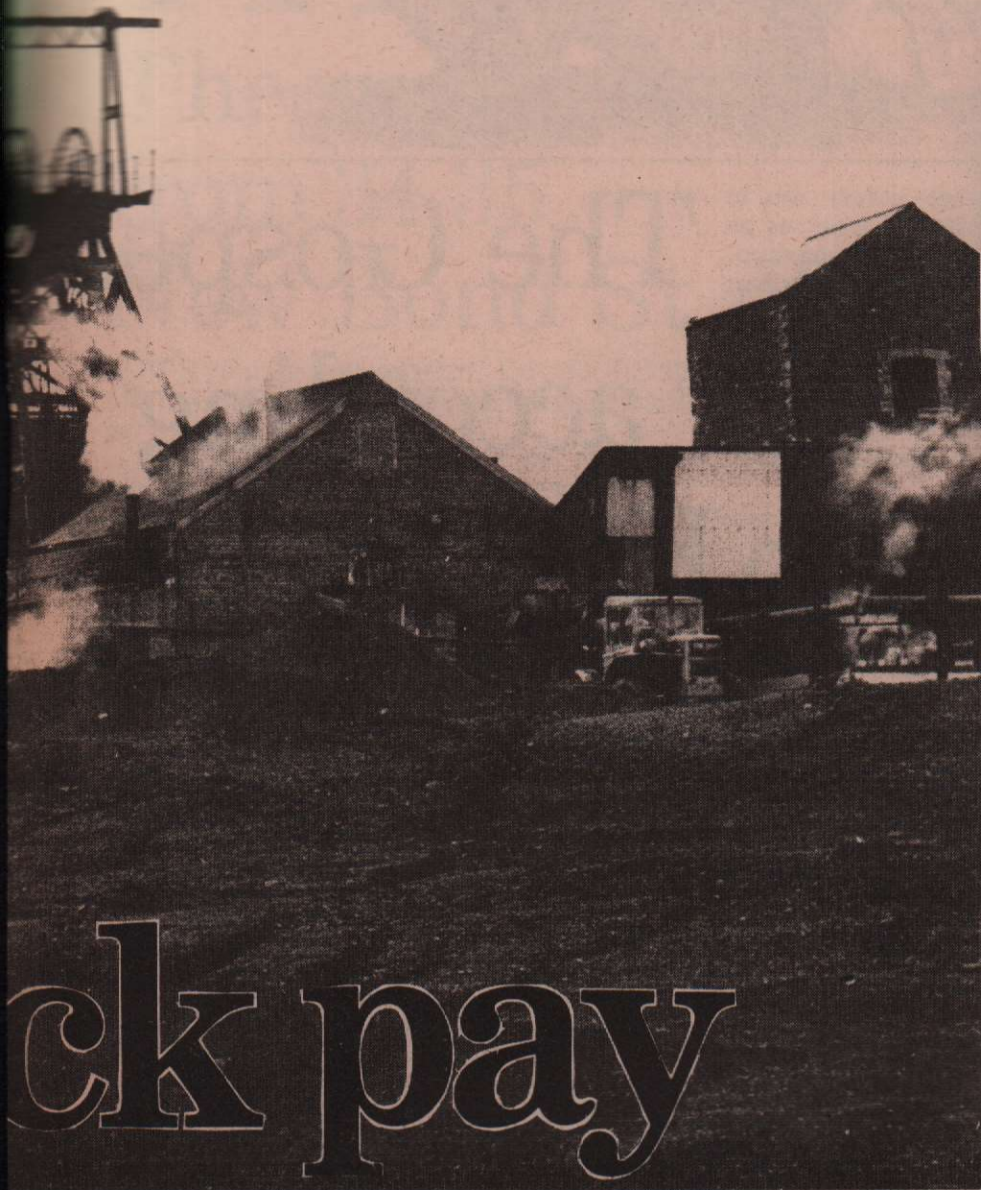
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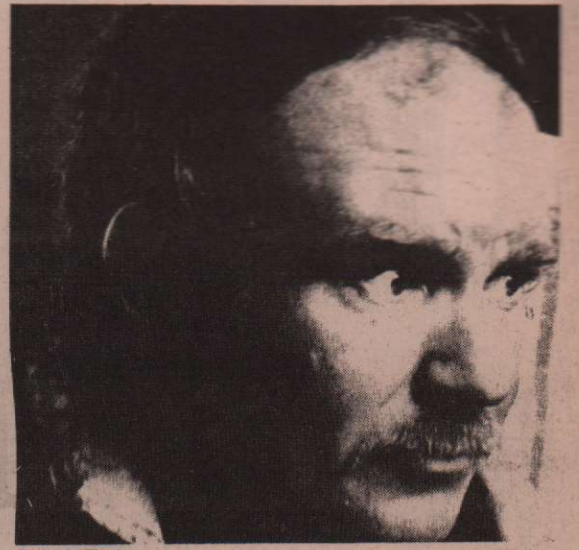


Story by Paul Foot

...ssy propaganda to the grim reality of miners' lives



Gareth Williams



John Ephgrave



Will Weeks



Philip Jones



Dafryg Anthony



Griff Rees

says that the miners are 'the worst-treated community in the country. We have been degraded, and kicked around for a hundred years and we never got anything till 1972.'

'People outside the pits don't know anything about us. They don't have any idea of the noise and stink in which miners work.'

'Here's a simple example. If you saw men crapping on the side of the road, you'd think "How uncivilised!" But we're living in those kind of conditions every day.'

'Yes, you have to crap down there by the side of the road in the dark, and you and your mates will probably have to sit in it before the shift is out.'

Opposite John is a young fitter, Roger Hughes, 20, who doesn't say much. He explains that he has reluctantly decided to go into the police force.

He doesn't like the idea, and hopes it won't clash with his growing interest in socialism.

But he has no choice. He wants to get married, and there is no way, even as a skilled fitter in the most highly-paid section of the Coal Board, that he can buy his own house.

Stopped

That is why craftsmen like Roger are streaming out of the pits. At the neighbouring Brynlliw pit, 27 craftsmen have left in the last 15 months.

This time last year, there were 20 electricians attached to the pit, and that was not enough. Now there are nine.

As Gareth Williams put it: 'Low pay would have stopped the pits almost as fast as the overtime ban will.'

Most of the dayshift miners who stopped to talk as they hurried through the mud from the pit-head to the baths were

convinced that the overtime ban would be enough to finish the Tories.

But there are others who are less certain. A growing number of lodge committee members and younger militants are worried that the government will hang on through a winter overtime ban, blaming shortages on the miners, but keeping essential services and industry going until the spring.

Force

'Griff' Rees, 52, a lodge committee member who has worked at Morlais for four years after 32 years in the Mountain colliery told me: 'We need a strike in the New Year. Let's get it over with. We don't want to prolong the agony.'

As a cluster of miners gathered around arguing against a strike, Philip Jones, a young man recently transferred to Morlais, shouted suddenly: 'A strike is the only way! When it comes to it, we'll have 100 per cent throughout the South Wales coalfield for a strike. It worked before and it will work again!'

The shout of that young miner has more force and conviction than the dangerous hopes of men and union leaders who believe that the overtime ban is 'a new weapon' which will do the job of a strike.

The government and the union leaders will be quick to pounce on any sign of weakness or division among the miners on the strike issue. But the Tories are up against enormous odds.

As John Ephgrave put it: 'The miners' will to resist is something that festers slowly. All of a sudden it starts, it goes, and then nothing can stop it.'

Above are the faces of six miners.

They are part of an industry that the Tories said was redundant. 'Who needs coal?' was the parrot cry in Tory and employer circles a few years ago.

The 1972 strike put a stop to some of that nonsense. And the current 'energy crisis' has put the entire argument into the coffin.

Industry needs coal. But the system is not prepared to pay the men that dig it a half-decent wage. Far from miners holding 'the nation' to ransom, it is that nation—the employers and its government—that bleeds the miners.

That is the importance of the miners' struggle. With massive backing from other workers, they can inflict a blow on the government from which it might not recover.

And that would be a victory not just for the miners but for the only 'nation' that really counts—the working class.

International Socialists Industrial Pamphlet 5p

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ictures: Chris Davies (Report)

C.I.A.

Creeping In Again

THE American CIA is probably the best-publicised secret service in the world. It organises coups in South East Asia, Greece and any other country that shows a lack of proper respect for the 'American way of life'.

A few years ago it was revealed that the CIA had extended its subversive effort to several cultural, political and student organisations and, in particular, the international trade union movement.

Money in vast sums was funnelled into various trade union internationals. The postal workers' international (PTTI) was heavily infiltrated. In the Argentine, when the military staged their coup, the legal government of Goulart was denied the use of the telegraphs to rally loyal army units by the PTTI's Argentine affiliate.

Correspondence between officials of the AFL/CIO—the American equivalent of the TUC—and the US government showed that efforts were being made to infiltrate and subvert unions in Asia, Africa and Western Europe.

At the centre of this web of corruption stood AFL/CIO president George Meany and his international director Jay Lovestone. Lovestone is an interesting example of the ex-Communist Party member who has grown powerful on well-publicised anti-communism. Jay Lovestone was general secretary of the American Communist Party in the late 1920s.

For some years he had displayed considerable talent at changing to the winning side in battles within the Russian Communist Party. But in 1929 his luck deserted him and he found himself on the wrong side of an argument with Stalin. Too late he attempted to change sides but to no avail. He was expelled.

Serious

His past international connections have stood him in good stead in his role as Meany's right-hand man and hammer of the reds.

Every election in one of the trade union internationals was the signal for the Lovestone machine to move into action greasing palms and lobbying for the CIA's man. Too often they were successful.

The disclosures of CIA involvement were a serious blow to the Lovestone machine and for a time the CIA were much subdued. But time has passed and the machine is once more moving into action. Conditions have matured, they think, for another CIA takeover.

The latest prize is the 11 million-member International Metal Workers Federation. The IMF has been one of the more radical of the internationals. Affiliated to it are the Engineering and Transport Unions from Britain, the Autoworkers and Steelworkers from America, and the German, Swedish, Japanese and South American metalworkers' unions. This makes it the biggest and potentially most powerful international of them all.

The chance for Lovestone to get his candidate, Autoworkers



American labour president George Meany—at the centre of the web

official Louis Rebhan, into the post of IMF secretary-general came with a visit to America by leading German trade unionists. Most important of these were Eugene Lederer, president of the German Metalworkers' Union, and German TUC president Heinz Oskar Vetter. The German trade union bank has just invested 150 million dollars in Russia and intends to invest a similar amount in America.

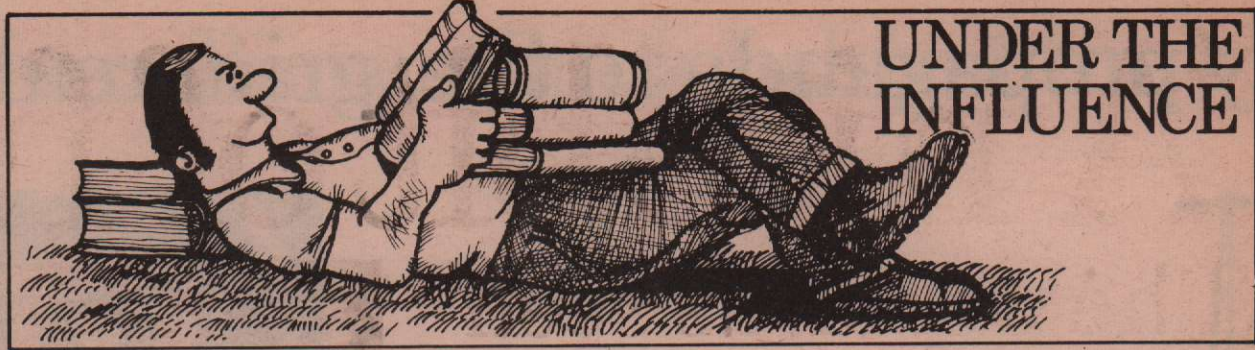
Reject

In discussions with Meany a deal has been worked out. The AFL/CIO will consider returning to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions—which would put a feather in Vetter's cap, and Lederer will become president of the IMF—in return for German support of Rebhan's candidacy as secretary-general.

British trade unionists, particularly AUEW members, should reject the CIA, Lovestone and his co-plotters. The IMF is no revolutionary organisation but it has done useful work on the question of multi-national companies in the vehicle building, electronics and engineering industries.

If the CIA, as the offensive arm of American capital, is to get its agents and its influence powerful in the IMF it will be in a key position to sabotage the small but growing offensive against the multi-national companies.

Jim Higgins



MY INTRODUCTION to wage slavery was in 1933. That was the year I started work as an apprentice in a large Manchester engineering shop.

In those days it was the custom and practice that apprentices were sent to work with the best craftsmen in the shop. It was my good fortune to work with old George, who was a first-rate craftsman, a militant shop steward and a thorough-going marxist.

What set George apart from many other trade union activists employed in the shop was his realisation that union problems were political both in origin and solution.

There was no gap between his work as a top craftsman, his activity as a militant, and as a marxist. On the contrary, each was the logical outcome of the others. On the bench he produced the best in engineering, he had pride in his craft. He had grown up in engineering—his grandfather was a founder of the union, had been at Peterloo and had been on first name terms with Frederick Engels.

Behind George lay generations of craftsmanship and of organising ability. He was in his element in battle. He knew about class struggle not as an abstract theory but as an important and vital part of his life. He had grown up with it, fought it daily in the workshop.

From George I received a dual education in marxism and engineering. George couldn't speak about anything or to anyone without dealing with the capitalist system.

Each dinner time—we had one hour in those days—gathered round our bench would be 20-30 workers of all ages, sat on pieces of machinery, boxes, or even the floor. They came to hear George spread the gospel according to Marx.



Right from the kick-off George would take a firm grip on that small audience and with clarity and emotion expound the marxist position. The audience, like Oliver Twist, daily came back for more.

At this time occurred an incident I will never forget. On the works board was displayed a notice to the effect that, due to certain disruptive elements in the main machine shop, the management had invited a prominent economist from one of the bosses' organisations to talk or even debate with this marxist. That is, provided the marxist felt he could hold his own, in debate, with this most erudite capitalist theoretician.

The challenge was accepted, the meeting arranged, we were even allowed an extra 15 minutes dinner

The Gospel according to Karl Marx



Under the Influence—where socialists write about the books that helped make them revolutionaries—is this week by Wally Preston, life-long Manchester trade union militant and chairman of the recent Socialist Worker Industrial Conference, who writes about **The Communist Manifesto** (available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4, 10p plus 4p postage).

time to attend. What a debate! Everyone and his brother attended, labourers, craftsmen, office workers, management, directors who had never been seen before in the works.

A local parson chaired the debate. George wanted blood and he got it, a hatchet job on the economist's case. He not only decimated his argument but mentally castrated him.

After this debunking of the bosses' representative, shop floor organisation received a tremendous boost. Many workers, myself included, were anxious to get to grips with marxist philosophy. How should we go about it? What should we read? Could we understand it? With these and other similar questions we bombarded George.

Within the minute he had recommended and sold us each a copy of the Communist Manifesto, price 3d. Read it, digest it, and we'll discuss any points arising from it tomorrow dinner, he said.

I can still recall my sheer excitement on reading the manifesto. What a panorama it opened—it hit me like a blow from Joe Louis.

The knowledge of history I pos-

sessed, having left school at 14, was through the tinted spectacles of historians at all times concerned with the reign and death of this king and that queen and the adventures of sea captains. History appeared an endless jumble of great men, of little importance to everyday life.

From the manifesto I read of the history of class struggle, history stripped of the blare of trumpets, the crescendo roll of drums, of the amorous adventures of libidinous monarchs and their court lackeys, history that showed the working class what the exploited and enslaved classes were before it, what it is itself and what it must become.



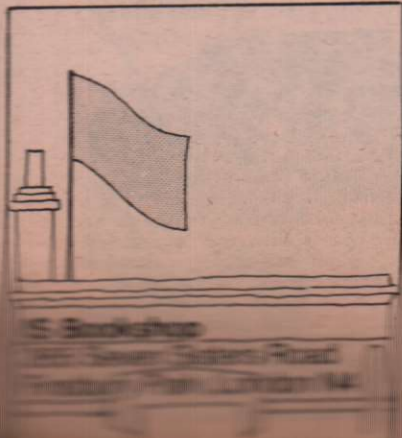
In the 1888 preface to the Manifesto Engels writes:

'In every historical epoch the prevailing mode of economic production and exchange, and the social organisation necessarily following it, form the basis upon which is built up, and from which alone can be explained, the political and intellectual history of that epoch; that consequently the whole history of mankind (since the dissolution of primitive tribal society, holding land in common ownership) has been a history of class struggles, contests between exploiting and exploited, ruling and oppressed classes; that the history of these class struggles form a series of evolutions in which, nowadays, a stage has been reached where the exploited and oppressed class—the proletariat—cannot attain its emancipation from the sway of the exploiting and ruling class—the bourgeoisie—without, at the same time, and once and for all, emancipating society at large from all exploitation, oppression class distinctions and class struggles.'

'Freeman and slave, patrician and plebeian, lord and serf, guildmaster and journeyman, in a word oppressor and oppressed, stood in constant opposition to one another, carried on an uninterrupted, now hidden, now open fight, a fight that each time ended either in a revolutionary reconstruction of society at large or in the common ruin of the contending classes.'

Would that space allowed me to quote more from this masterpiece. The Manifesto remains to this day unapproached as an introduction to the study of marxism.

Recently, at a day school on marxism, I quoted from the Manifesto. For a moment my thoughts wandered back to those machine shop meetings 40 years ago, and I thought how pleased old George would be to know.



'A nice bit of furniture'

The world, as seen
from 34-35
New Bond St, W1

HOW'S your accommodation? Do you find it difficult paying the rent? Are you paying off a mortgage perhaps? Are you trying to get a mortgage?

Pity you weren't in London the other week. You could have picked up a fisherman's cottage for £400.

Finding it difficult to afford meat? Getting tired of mince?

Well, you could have bought a sheep, and the hillside it's standing on for only £150.

Of course they weren't *real*, you couldn't have lived in the cottage, or eaten the sheep. They were both paintings, and both were sold at Sothebys.

Sothebys is one of the glories of Britain, doing wonders for the export trade, part of the traditions of the country. 'Leading auctioneers and appraisers of fine art since 1744' as they say themselves.

Sothebys is in 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1. An expensive part of London. Above the impressive Georgian frontage is a tasteful Ancient

Egyptian bust. Inside a series of rooms' littered with 'fine art'—and a cash desk. The cheapest work of art you can buy there is the programme—that'll only set you back thirty bob.

Every day auctions take place. Paintings, books, wine, furniture, jewelry, antiques. Today it's paintings in the big hall upstairs. A long room with green baize walls, and a high skylight.

Round the walls are the goods—large paintings, small paintings, paintings of eighteenth century ancestors. The great, great granddaddies of our present rulers.

Still hard at it making money for them. The scene in the room is like a painting itself. People in suede coats, car coats, expensive clothes—they look different to the people in most streets, except perhaps Bond Street. Old fashioned but rich.

'£1000-£1200-£1400-£1600-£1800 on the left? On the left. Sold to you for £2000,' says the auctioneer.

It is a large landscape painting. 'Elizabeth's total pension allowance is £10.08 a week. She pays £3 towards the rent which went up £1 last year and is being put up further this winter.



'With only £3.70 in her shopping purse she has been virtually unable to buy fresh fruit or meat this year . . . ' Socialist Worker, 1 December.

'Jolly good,' says a friend of the man who has bought the painting. 'Splendid little painting. Nice bit of furniture.'

The sales technique has got pretty subtle over the last 200 years. It is



Inflation means that for people who have everything a good way to hang on to it is to put money into 'art' whether paintings, wine or antiques. Nigel Fountain looks at the London Auctioneers, Sothebys.

PREVIEW

SATURDAY: BBC-1. For those who roll around to Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy, which doesn't include the previewer, their first feature length film PARDON US is on. 'Imprisoned for brewing beer during the prohibition era, they turn prison life into a constant riot.'

SUNDAY: ITV, 10.15pm. 'I am not a particularly retentive bloke, but I am blessed with a retentive memory. I spend a lot of time in pubs, because I like drinking; and although I have an undisciplined mind I retain the essence of what I hear. Everything I write is based on past experiences and memories.' The quote comes from Jim Allen, writer of IN THE HEEL OF THE HUNT. Allen is an excellent writer whose earlier plays, such as The Rank and File and The Lump, dealt with the Pilkingtons strike and the building industry respectively. This play is also set on a building site, in the Pennines, and is about a young militant. It should be well worth seeing.

TUESDAY: BBC-1. Tony Parker has written lengthily on prison life over the last few years. THE LAST LIGHTHOUSE is about another kind of confinement, the keeper of the Bishop Rock Lighthouse 28 miles off Lands End. It is the Tuesday Documentary. Nice job if you can get it . . .

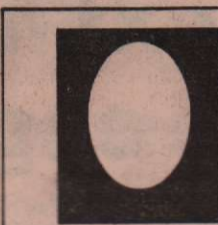


Late and unlamented: Hoover

THURSDAY: BBC-1. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is investigated in DON'T SHOOT, G MAN! on Midweek. The reporter spent a fortnight at the FBI headquarters in Washington and at the training academy in Virginia. It features the current replacement for the evil old, and happily dead, J Edgar Hoover, Clarence Kelly. 'Is it too powerful?' asks the reporter, 'does a big brother scowl hide behind the carefully groomed image of the special agent, and how can the FBI fulfil its role in the changing society it swears to protect? Despite Effrem Zimbalist Jr the answers are as follows: Yes, Yes, dissolve itself.

FRIDAY: Three possibly good programmes on BBC-2. The Camera and the Song is ONE CHILD GONE TO THE NORTH which is about the West Indian community in Manchester, featuring music by West Indian singer/poet David Campbell.* Over in Huddersfield is CHILDREN OF THE WAY which is about how the younger members of immigrant families have adapted to life in England.* LESS TAXING FOR SOME is The Money Programme and is about how much tax is evaded each year. Less tax was recovered in 1972 than in 1950, another appropriate tribute to Tory rule. It would be safe to assume that the evaders were not old age pensioners, miners, etc.*

*Programme times not available at time of going to press.



almost impossible to see who is making the bids. I did become scared that coughing or scratching my nose would set me back £2000 but clearly I didn't look right for the part. I haven't got an expensive enough nose.

Most of the purchasers are immediately named by the auctioneer, in two hours only one person stands to make a bid—a mere £800. Everyone else winks, scratches, nods. A kind of manual work which gets through Elizabeth's yearly income at least once every minute.

The auctioneer is standing at a raised mahogany balcony. At a lower balustrade stand his three assistants. All wearing suits, waistcoats, moving to and fro in the crowd, handing out slips that mean money and of course 'art'.

The scene looks oddly familiar. Like a church, or a law court. Our rulers take the making of money seriously, everything has to look correct—so that the making of a fortune for doing nothing looks quite legitimate. Quite correct.

The paintings make their brief appearance on the auctioneer's easel. Paintings of a world where the sun shines, clouds, earth, castles, trees, fields, humble ploughmen, racehorses—endless racehorses standing with proud owners in paddocks, fields. Catherine Tudor Hart of Quebec, Canada has done well. Her painting of A Winter Landscape with Cottage by George Smith of Chichester fetches £400 while Extensive View of Windermere by Charlotte Naysmith goes for £2000.

Most of the people have programmes and are busily writing down the prices? Why? They haven't bought them so what do they need the prices for? Is it a peculiar kind of train-spotting?

Then the penny drops, they are studying form. Looking forward to their own big killing.

The paintings themselves seem almost a side issue. They guest briefly on the easel, disappear on to someone else's wall for a while, or in to a bank-vault, then will re-appear at Sothebys.

Being impartially clobbered

IN the second programme of a new BBC 1 series, Television and Society, Stuart Hall set out to reveal the hidden biases of television through a case study of BBC news and current affairs coverage of the passage of the Industrial Relations Act.

When the Tory government published its 'Consultative Document' on Industrial Relations in October 1970 it was 'natural' that Robert Carr, then Employment Secretary, should straightway appear on BBC TV news to present the government's interpretation of this news-worthy document's proposals.

Of course, representatives of the Confederation of British Industry and the TUC had automatic and immediate access to TV time, to put their 'views' about the document. Their presence made the news coverage *balanced*—from the view of those producing it.

Really it was unbalanced. Powerful groups our rulers want on the box—get on. It was two months from the date of publication of the 'Consultative Document' before any rank and file trade unionist was interviewed on BBC News,



and then only fleetingly. To achieve that minimal access it was necessary to take to the streets; to strike and demonstrate.

By the time of the 8 December strike, the topic and terms of debate had already been firmly set by the powerful representatives who had first say. Even the 'tough', 'probing' interviewer, quizzing a minister in a current affairs show, dare not go outside the terms of debate already set, for fear of showing 'bias'.

He concentrates, for example, on 'whether the act will work' rather than questions of principle—'Isn't this class legislation?'—Ever heard your favourite interviewer ask that?

Strikes and demonstrations are not allowed to change debate. Working class opposition to ruling class

legislation doesn't get a look in.

This doesn't necessarily mean men are consciously against workers, the system of access to the screen (which gives power to the powerful) coupled to the professional ethics of television workers—'balance', 'impartiality' rigs the game so that the results are inevitably anti working class.

At the end of his broadcast, Stuart Hall summed up in these terms: 'Access to the media has defined the topic. It's also set the stage. Government versus the Opposition, employers versus the unions, media professionals watching the balance and impartiality militants on the streets, silent majorities on the sidelines waiting for the gladiatorial combat'.

That Stuart Hall got access might seem to contradict his theory. But then remember he was screened three years after the event at 3pm (repeat at 11.30pm)—not immediately before the Nine o'clock News. The when of access is almost as important as the who?

John Pearce

In fact the time on the owner's wall is a short holiday for the 'works of art'. A chance to rest and recuperate before going on to make yet more money for their owners.

Then the big one appears. George Stubbs' painting of Phaeton Driving The Sun Chariot. Phaeton, for those who don't know the gentleman 'was the son of Helios, famous for his unlucky riding of the sun chariot.'

Well he may have been unlucky once, but he hits the jackpot this time. '£14,000—to the man in the centre.'



IS EVERYBODY GOING MAD? asks the Daily Mirror. Railwaymen are asking for more money, and so are miners, and pensioners, journalists, engineers and everybody else. Except our rulers. They don't need to. While 'crisis' grips the country, down at Sothebys the money pours in.

Art is about humanity, thinking, putting forward ideas, inspiring—and money? 'Money . . . confounds and exchanges everything, it is the universal confusion and transportation of all things, the inverted world, the confusion and transposition of all natural and human qualities.'

The words come from Karl Marx, if you want to prove it, look out of the window, or think about Elizabeth the old age pensioner, Phaeton and his unlucky chariot and the 'nice bit of furniture . . .'

Socialists in the class

EDUCATION AND SOCIETY, by Chanie Rosenberg, Rank and File (86 Mountgrove Road, London N5). 10p.

THIS pamphlet needs to be read by every trade unionist, especially those who have children going through the state education system. It is well written and easy to read, yet loses none of the depth of analysis essential to lay bare a corrupt system of education designed to suppress and stifle the vast potential of working class children.

The pamphlet shows clearly how the class structure of society depends on the reproduction of the correct proportion of the classes for its survival. The labour market is the greatest single influence on the educational system, which gears the expectations of all who experience it to their roles in the creation of profit.

It first deals with education and capitalism, discussing the aims of the education system and the ideas and forces for change, then gives the practical example of pupil self-activity witnessed in the French schools revolt of May/June 1968.

The teacher's role is correctly described as 'equivocal'. They are, however unwittingly the agents of the ruling classes in the transmission of their ideas, yet because more of them recognise this role and are fighting against it, they can be at the forefront of the change.

DAVID WHITELEY

THE UNIONS

A LOOK AT A LOVER OF THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT

Beware this 'responsible trade union'



£1000-a-week Lord Nelson (right), who helped UKAPE get set up. Both he and GEC boss Arnold Weinstock (left) are big noises in the Engineering Employers Federation

THE United Kingdom Association of Professional Engineers (UKAPE) has surfaced again 18 months after its attempt to get recognition at the C A Parsons engineering plant in Newcastle by loving up to the employers and by diligent use of the Industrial Relations Act.

At Brush Engineering, Loughborough, part of the Hawker Siddeley group, 240 members of TASS, the technical section of the Engineers, are locked out after they opposed UKAPE meetings on the premises.

In May UKAPE applied for recognition there. The company at first thought of using its services, but when it became clear that all the other unions would resist it and that TASS in particular would fight, recognition was refused. The TASS members are fighting to keep it that way.

UKAPE prides itself on being a responsible 'professional man's union'. It is registered under the Industrial Relations Act and is greatly in its favour. UKAPE would never entertain any involvement in 'politics' such as affiliation to the TUC or the Labour Party.

UKAPE's claims that it is 'non-political' and 'independent' are in stark contrast to the facts. It was set up with the assistance of such worthies as Lord Nelson, one of £1000-a-week directors of GEC.

Its first general secretary was Kenneth Peplow, who recently retired from the post in the wake of the destruction wrought on UKAPE by TASS members at C A Parsons.

Peplow has returned to the fold from which he came—the Guest Keen and Nettlefolds Staff Association. GKN is one of the biggest single contributors to the funds of the Tory Party and its Economic League and British United Industrialists outposts.

Peplow's successor is a gentleman called John D Sampson. Sampson recently left the Cory Lighterage combine after 17 years of service in the lowly post of Chief Engineer.

Cory Lighterage is one of the firms where dockers have beaten UKAPE's beloved Industrial Relations Act, forcing management to discharge a worker after he did a James Goad and left the TGWU.

Even more interesting from the 'political' point of view is R L Clarke, UKAPE's president and former vice-president. He is the author of a pamphlet titled Responsible Trade Unionism—which was published by the extreme right-wing Tory group the Monday Club.

UKAPE's rules, structure and philosophy closely follow the preachings of Clarke and his Monday Club friends. Employers, company directors, the whole shooting match, are entitled and encouraged to join this responsible so-called trade union.

Such a well-known trade unionist as Robert Carr, architect of the Tories' Industrial Relations Act, is associated with the Engineers' Guild, with which UKAPE is combined.

'Menace'

The simple truth is that UKAPE has attractions for some employers as a way of isolating specific grades of salaried employees from the 'menace' of independent trades unionism. But thanks to the struggles of TASS members at C A Parsons, Rolls-Royce Coventry, and now Brush Instruments, Loughborough, the outfit has been kept at bay.

At the moment UKAPE claims 8000 members, though there is no reason to suppose this is accurate. In June 1971 it was publicly claiming 9000 members when its own internal documents were stating that membership was just under 4000. Such discrepancies are probably further examples of UKAPE's much-vaunted professional integrity.

What is certain is that only vigilance like that of the TASS members at Brush Instruments will keep real and pretended membership claims as low as possible. Only a real offensive against the hypocrisy of the so-called 'professional institutions' will finish them off.

TASS is already notching up successes among the structural engineering firms, such as Ove Arup, where the young engineers are sickened by lousy wages, working conditions, and the hypocrisy of the professional 'ethic'. Increasing organisation in this field will help cut the ground completely away from under the UK Apes.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

The International Socialists is a democratic organisation whose membership is open to all who accept its main principles and who are willing to pay contributions and to work in one of its organisations.

We believe in independent working-class action for the abolition of capitalism and its replacement by a classless society with production for use and not for profit.

We work in the mass organisations of the working class and are firmly committed to a policy of internationalism.

Capitalism is international. The giant firms have investments throughout the world and owe no allegiances except to themselves and the economic system they maintain.

In Europe, the Common Market has been formed for the sole purpose of increasing the trade and profits of these multi-national firms.

The international power of capitalism can only be overcome by international action by the working class.

A single socialist state cannot indefinitely survive unless workers of other countries actively come to its aid by extending the socialist revolution.

In addition to building a revolutionary socialist organisation in this country we also believe in the necessity of forming a world revolutionary socialist international independent of either Washington or Moscow. To this end we have close relationships with a number of other socialist organisations throughout the world.

We believe in the necessity to unite socialist theory with the day-to-day struggles of working people and therefore support all genuine demands that tend to improve the position and self-confidence of the working class.

We fight:

For rank and file control of the trade unions and the regular election of all full-time officials.

Against secret negotiations. We believe that all settlements should be agreed or rejected by mass meetings.

For 100 per cent trade unionism and the defence of shop stewards.

Against anti-trade union laws and any curbs on the right to strike, whether the strikes are 'official' or 'unofficial'.

For equal pay and a better deal for young workers.

Against productivity deals and job evaluation and for militant trade union unity and joint shop stewards committees both in the plant and on a combine basis.

For a minimum wage of at least £25 a week.

Against unemployment, redundancy and lay offs. We support the demand: Five days' work or five days' pay.

For all workers in struggle. We seek to build militant groups within industry.

Against racialism and police victimisation of black workers.

Against immigration restriction.

For the right of coloured people and all oppressed groups to organise in their own defence.

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

Against all nuclear weapons and military alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

Against secret diplomacy.

Against all forms of imperialism. We unconditionally give support to and solidarity with all genuine national liberation movements.

For the nationalisation of the land, banks and major industries without compensation and under workers' control.

We are opposed to all ruling class policies and organisations. We work to build a revolutionary workers' party in Britain and to this end support the unity of all revolutionary groups.

The struggle for socialism is the central struggle of our time. Workers' power and a world based on human solidarity, on the increasing of man's power over nature, with the abolition of the power of man over man, is certainly worth fighting for.

It is no use just talking about it. More than a century ago Karl Marx wrote: 'The philosophers have merely interpreted the world. The point is to change it.' If you want to help us change the world and build socialism, join us.

FOR THE ADDRESS OF YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS, WRITE TO THE NATIONAL SECRETARY, 8 COTTONS GARDENS, LONDON E2 8DN.

Next move to the engineers!

THE knights, barons and captains of industry who make up the Engineering Employers' Federation gave their reply to the 1973 engineering pay claim on Friday.

Never have they been in a better position to pay up and meet the unions' claim. Their profits are at record levels and they have lived on the fat of the land, particularly since they defeated the unions over the 1972 claim when the Manchester district was left to fight alone.

The employers' reply was entirely predictable—a pittance they say is justified by the Tory government's Phase Three.

They offered £2.50 on the skilled rate with just £2 for the so-called unskilled and a paltry £1.80 to adult women workers. There was no offer at all on the shorter working week. The one lure the offer contains is that the EEF 'might be in a position' to discuss equal pay and a threshold deal if, and only if, the package is speedily agreed.

The claim is vitally important. It affects the country's biggest single group of workers—2,700,000 are employed in engineering, and this excludes those in ship and vehicle building.

While not everyone would benefit to the full from the £10 a week increase claimed on the basic craftsmen's rates, the 35-hour working week without loss of pay would transform the working conditions of all workers.

And while many plants do not rely on basic wages overmuch, hundreds of thousands of other engineering workers toil for pitiful wages. A quarter of all engineering workers are women. Their average wage is still under £20 a week.

Nothing

They entirely depend on a victory for the full claim even to maintain their living standards.

The claim is naturally considerably higher than anything Phase Three will allow, which might explain the singular lack of enthusiasm the top union leaders have so far shown.

The AUEW engineering section, the main union concerned, has done little or nothing to arouse the members' enthusiasm. The union journal has once again given the claim no real publicity.

The other unions involved are a thousand times more reluctant than the AUEW. The leaders of the Transport Union, for example, have been stating privately that Phase Three is a 'concession' from the Tory government. The TGWU has actually



SCANLON: Failures

railroaded a pay settlement within Phase Three through the Hull docks, where the dockers were laying the ground for a serious fight.

Up and down the country important meetings have been held to discuss the claim. In Sheffield two weeks ago a meeting called for a national overtime ban from 1 January and factory gate meetings to publicise the claim. A miner addressed the meeting urging solidarity.

In Glasgow last Tuesday 500 stewards supported a policy of one-hour lightning strikes in support of the claim.

Solidarity

While it is a step forward that the claim is now getting more focus, it is important to be clear that some hard thinking is needed if it is to be won. Last year the Engineering Employers' war machine inflicted a serious defeat on the engineering union. So a realistic strategy is not only essential for beating the employers, but also for mobilising the members.

Overtime bans and lightning strikes simply do not fit a situation where there could be short-time working due to the energy crisis and where a miners' strike could be hitting home and needing solidarity. In truth an all-out national stoppage is necessary to win the claim. Socialist militants in the engineering industry have been raising the demand for co-ordinated action with the miners as the slogan which can capture the enthusiasm of engineering workers and lead the whole working class movement forward.

The convenors' meeting in Manchester this weekend will be a vital step forward if a serious and imaginative strategy is hammered out.

The International Socialists Industrial Pamphlet on the claim sets out to outline such a strategy. It is available from the IS Industrial Department, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2, price 3p plus 3p postage.

International Socialists Industrial Pamphlet 5p

Defend the North Wales 24
PICKETS ON TRIAL



5p a copy plus 3p postage (12 copies or more post free) from Industrial Pamphlets, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS



INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST NEWS

WHAT'S ON

THE TORIES' CRISIS —OUR CHANCE

THE MAJOR CRISIS facing British capitalism was the key item on the agenda of the IS National Committee last weekend.

Chris Harman, presenting the political report for the executive committee, said the government's Phase Three now belonged to an outdated era. The policy had assumed that the economy would grow at 3 per cent a year, sufficient to allow employers to pay increases large enough to keep the unions happy.

But now after the massive growth rates of early this year every capitalist country is talking about 'nil growth' and deflation. The main reason for this he said, is that the 'cushion' of arms spending, the major stabilising factor since the war, has been cut away. Increased competition between countries has forced them to spend less on arms.

Ailing British capitalism had even missed out on the boom earlier in the year. The resurgence of investment in the late summer had come too late. Inflation would continue to increase.

The precarious state of the economy meant that the Tories could not smash the workers' movement. Phase Three is being questioned by the government itself and the idea of a total wage freeze is being floated by such influential journals of ruling-class opinion as the Financial Times and The Economist.

The firemen had broken through government

policy, said Harman. So had the Durham ambulancemen. Small strikes were mushrooming as many workers learnt the lessons of the firemen's dispute.

The press tells the government to 'stand firm' against the miners but doesn't tell it how. The ruling class is afraid of taking on the miners. It prefers to sit it out and make marginal concessions.

POLICE SQUADS

The ruling class still wants to work through the trade union bureaucracy. Last week's meeting of the National Economic Development Council had employers, government and TUC agreeing on the need to work together 'in the national interest'.

But that was only one Tory face. The other was a growing harshness towards working-class militants as seen in the Shrewsbury trial and the creation of special anti-picketing police squads. Such was the extent of the crisis that the Tories were being pushed towards a confrontation as they were

trying to get away from one.

The Tories were deliberately creating panic talk of massive unemployment in an attempt to frighten the union leaders into some kind of deal.

The situation was radicalising a growing number of workers, Harman added. This was important for IS. The Labour Party was more and more irrelevant to workers coming into struggle. It tried to adopt a 'left' face but had no credibility because of its role in managing capitalism.

Established political loyalties were in a state of flux. Talk of a snap election was not taken seriously because the Tories are not certain they can win. Crackpot parties such as the Scottish Nationalists and the Liberals could make important inroads.

Harman said that altogether the situation offered great opportunities for IS. But we had to be ready for sudden changes and upheavals. Our members have been accustomed to steady growth. Now we had to step up the emphasis on politics and solidarity between workers engaged in action against the Tories and the employers.

Countrywide campaign called for—no paper solutions

IN THE discussion that followed Chris Harman's report, John Palmer said he accepted its analysis but felt it underplayed the gravity of the situation. The major economies were turning down and this was compounded by the energy crisis.

There wasn't just a scare about unemployment—it was a real threat. Substantial lay-offs could lead to one or two million unemployed. There is a strong possibility of a savagely deflationary budget to take away any concessions granted to miners and other workers.

He said the effects of Phase Three had forced some unions to stumble towards unity. IS had to demand that the NUM united its claim with the AUEW.

Palmer stressed the need for a political programme as IS's answer to the crisis. We

should demand sweeping nationalisation under workers' control as the key solution.

Duncan Hallas said this was the most serious crisis since the war. Workers no longer expected governments to change the situation. It was essential we attacked the government's proposals seriously—for example, if there is an oil crisis, why doesn't the government take over the oil stocks and allocate supplies to industry to stop lay-offs.

We need a policy to fight in the unions with. This means a change of emphasis on the Labour left. We had to put great pressure on them, but smashing Phase Three was of prime importance.

Tony Cliff said it was important to put forward immediate demands of relevance to workers facing lay-offs, such

as 'work or full pay' and 'five days' pay for four days' work'. Generalising the struggle meant uniting miners with the engineers. Our demands had to be narrow and practical. We should press for miners to visit engineering factories and stewards' meetings.

The real problem, he said, was not the lack of an IS programme but the low level of consciousness of workers. The class is uneven and so is IS. We needed an initiative for a country-wide campaign. Paper solutions and grandiose programmes were too facile.

Andreas Nagliati said the situation was not the Armageddon that John Palmer suggested. The ruling classes would retreat from a major recession. IS's problem is connecting with workers. In a situation of

rising unemployment, our militants could all too easily be flushed out of their jobs. Working-class consciousness was lagging behind the crisis.

He said it was wrong to demand the expulsion of Labour's right wing because this would foster illusions in the left MPs. But we should press through the unions for the expulsion of the Prentice group because it is the unions that finance the party.

Jim Higgins said the next three months were vital. What should IS do to maximise the system's difficulties? Cliff's slogans were too defensive. The key was to fight for merging the union claims. Building the rank and file movement was paramount. IS should put its resources into preparing for the rank and file conference now.

Jimmy McCallum said engineering workers in Scotland were very militant. A meeting of 500 Engineering Confederation stewards in Glasgow had heard a miners' spokesman and accepted the need for a united campaign. But the stewards are also concerned about short-time working. We must give the answer: 40 hours pay.

He said there was no possibility of a 'triple alliance'. The AUEW was mainly concerned about its funds and doesn't want a fight.

Roger Protz said that IS had to beware of the trap of having 'delusions of grandeur'. We had to intervene where we could have maximum impact in the working class. Instead of pompous programmes for the crisis we had to stress the political necessity of smashing Phase Three.

That was the real test for IS. If the miners and other sections smashed the government's policy the political situation would be transformed.

The way forward for the ambulances and hospitals

THE national committee of the 100-strong IS Health Workers Fraction met on Saturday to discuss the ambulancemen's struggle and the hospital workers' £25 claim.

Although the ambulancemen have now forced official recognition of their national strike against Phase Three, many militants reported that the official 'work-to-rule' was damping the determination of many men faced with the prospect of a long and indecisive struggle, especially so close to Christmas.

Ambulancemen, traditionally isolated and inward-looking, were unaware of the massive support they could draw on as the firemen had. Little effort was being made to collect money for men in financial hardship. It is vital that wherever IS has influence in industry and the Health Service collections should be taken and motions of support passed, and taken to local ambulance stations with the promise of further support if needed.

The priority in the hospital workers' struggle for a £25 minimum is to fight for the rejection of the £2.16 offer at the weekend's NUPE delegate conference. Most workers are bitter after March's strike. IS members must point out that the isolation and disunity of March can be

overcome and the full claim won.

IS members must demand a national joint union branch delegate conference within 10 days of the Pay Board's 'Relativities' report to decide what national action to take. Selective strikes are out of the question after March's chaos, but non-co-operation and private patient boycotts would build up confidence and solidarity. The unions must be forced to start planning strike action at once.

All all-out fight in the New Year alongside stronger sections of workers offers a clear prospect of winning the £25 minimum. IS health workers will fight for this position.

60 hear miner

BRISTOL: 60 people attended a public meeting organised by Bristol IS to hear Adrian Scourfield, a South Wales miner and a member of IS, and Colwyn Williamson, editor of ASTMS Action, speak on the miners' dispute. Adrian Scourfield said the miners' struggle was crucial to the entire trade union movement, and urged all union branches and shop stewards' committees to popularise the miners' case. All-out strike action, he argued, was the only answer.

Pit militants meet

THE IS Miners Fraction met near Barnsley last Saturday and engineers joined the discussion on the connection between the miners and engineers claims.

Speakers pointed out the unevenness of the struggle in different parts of the country. '80 per cent of our pits are ready to strike,' said a Stirlingshire miner, but another miner said that many people in Derbyshire felt that the overtime ban will win the claim.

The NUM leadership was stressing that the overtime ban would win. Militants had to stress that it should be only the first step to a national strike.

'There's not a cat in hell's chance of getting a strike before Christmas,' a Nottinghamshire delegate pointed out. 'But it'll be quite different afterwards. We will get the women behind us then.'

The meeting agreed to produce a Collier leaflet on the struggle, stressing that while the overtime ban is imperative to run down stock, it could only be a prelude to a strike early in the New Year. The miners had to work with the engineers. The suggested 'overtime ban' for the engineering industry was a waste of time. The workers needed to strike together to win.

'I AM YOUR GOD, YOU BASTARD'

'YOU bloody swines, coming to this country, and then you bastards don't know how to speak to us. I am your God, you bastard . . . Take your rice and curry back to India.'

This is the real voice of Ealing police, quoted in the third issue of Chingari, IS's paper for Punjabi workers. The record of police treatment of blacks is scandalous, but it is half the story. The other two stories on page one of the paper show a little of the fight back: Pakistani women militants led out the men of a castings factory in Slough, and by successful picketing won their claim. Black parents in Leeds carried out a long struggle against racism in a local school—and won.

The issue also carries 17 news reports from the anti-racist struggle, on police raids on Asians in London, and on the victorious struggle of Turkish restaurant workers to unionise and control conditions.

H A Pasha writes an important article on the way forward for Pakistani workers. Harbans Singh of Wolverhampton writes about discrimination in jobs. Chrysler militant John Worth talks about racism among the Coventry car workers, and how to fight it. The famous Punjabi poet Niranjan Singh Noor is now the cultural editor of Chingari, and has contributed a poem for this issue.

Finally, the editorial discusses the central significance of the Socialist Worker Industrial Conference in Manchester and the Brighton IS school for the development of a real fight back on racism.

Chingari can play a vital role in building the confidence of Asian workers to fight, in breaking down that sense of isolation and powerlessness which is the source of fear.

Chingari is available from 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. Price 2p per copy, 12 copies or more post free.

Black members must lead IS against racism

IN AN extensive report on the work of IS to combat racism, Nigel Harris told the national committee that all efforts in this field depended on the building of a strong black leadership. We needed more black members, not to achieve a better colour at our conference, but to lead and educate IS on racism in Britain and imperialism in India, Africa and the West Indies.

Since the impressive mobilisation around the House of Lords decision on illegal immigrants last summer, some of the activity has fallen away. One in London had IS recruited large numbers of black workers. Black membership in London had risen from 100 to 150 over the last few months, largely because some effort had been made to bring the black members together to discuss their common problems.

The organisers should concentrate on building groups of black workers which meet regularly to discuss racism in Britain and imperialism in the former British colonies. He argued for more coverage of events in India, Africa and

MERSEYSIDE DISTRICT IS Social: Friday 14 December, 8pm-1am, British Rail Social Club, Ullet Road (near Dingle). Dancing, chicken buffet, bar extension to 12.30am. Tickets 75p from IS members or phone 051-427 1599.

WIGAN IS public meeting: How free is the 'free' press. Speaker Colin Crane (chairman Wigan IS). Tuesday 18 December, 8pm, The Running Horses, Aspull All welcome.

LEEDS DISTRICT IS Socialist Worker Bazaar: Saturday 15 December, 11am-4pm, Corn Exchange, Leeds. All welcome.

ISLINGTON IS public meeting (and Xmas party): Declare war on the winklers. Speaker Margaret Ryan. Saturday 15 December, 7.30pm, City University, St John Street, London EC1. Followed by 7.30pm, free wine and food, admission 25p.

WAKEFIELD IS public meeting: Support the miners. Speakers: Jim Deakin (NUM, Dodworth), Colin Moore (AUEW convener, Woodheads) and a local power worker. Sunday 16 December, 8pm, Grey Horse Hotel, Kirkgate. All welcome.

WATNEY MANN IS meeting: Whose crisis? The Fight against the Tories and their system. Speaker Paul Foot (Socialist Worker reporter). Tuesday 18 December, 8.30-9.45pm, Whitechapel Mission, 212 Whitechapel Road, London E2 (next to post office) All Watney Mann workers welcome.

FAKENHAM IS public meeting: Support the Shrewsbury 24. Wednesday 19 December, 8pm, Rampant Horse Inn (opposite post office).

PARTINGTON IS public meeting: The Tories' crisis. Speaker Colin Barker (member of IS national committee). Friday 14 December, 8pm, The Community Centre, Central Road, Partington. All welcome.

SOUTH EAST LONDON DISTRICT IS aggregate meeting: Saturday 15 December, 2.30pm-6pm. Speakers: John Palmer on the current economic and political situation, Alan Watts on IS strategy in industry and the unions. Contact branch secretaries for further details. Social afterwards with CAST theatre group.

IS CIVIL SERVANTS: There will be a national fraction meeting in London on Saturday 5 January. More details later.

LONDON IS Irish Forum: The Assembly—can it work? Speaker Jimmy Grealy. Sunday 16 December, 8pm, Metropolitan pub, Farringdon Road, London EC1 (Farringdon tube).

NOTICES

HACKNEY IS Social: Friday 14 December 7.30pm-onwards, Ladbroke House, Highbury Grove, London N5. Licensed bar, buffet, disco. Admission 35p.

LATEST ISSUE of Building Worker, paper of IS building workers, now out. Articles on the North Wales 24, the blacklist, and reports from the sites. 3p plus 3p postage (12 or more copies post free) from Building Worker, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

POSTERS AVAILABLE for IS Troops Out meetings. £1.50 for 50 from Irish Sub-committee, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

POSTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHS of Lenin urgently needed for exhibition on his life and work. Anyone able to help please contact Eve Barker at 01-485 0476.

SW (LITHO) PRINTERS need studio assistants. Neat, clean working essential, and some experience of printing and/or graphics an advantage. Please apply in writing to Jim Nichol, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

SOCIALIST WORKER CIRCULATION IS branches that want to adjust their order or make special arrangements over the Xmas holiday please contact Socialist Worker circulation (01-739 2639) at once. The issue dated 22 December will appear as usual but there will be no paper the following week (Christmas week) and we return to normal in the New Year.

1974 membership registration All IS members should re-register their membership as of 1 January. Contact branch secretaries for details and 1974 membership cards.

the West Indies in Socialist Worker and International Socialism; and stressed that our white trade unionists will only start seriously to fight racism on the shop floor when our black members have grown strong enough to force it.

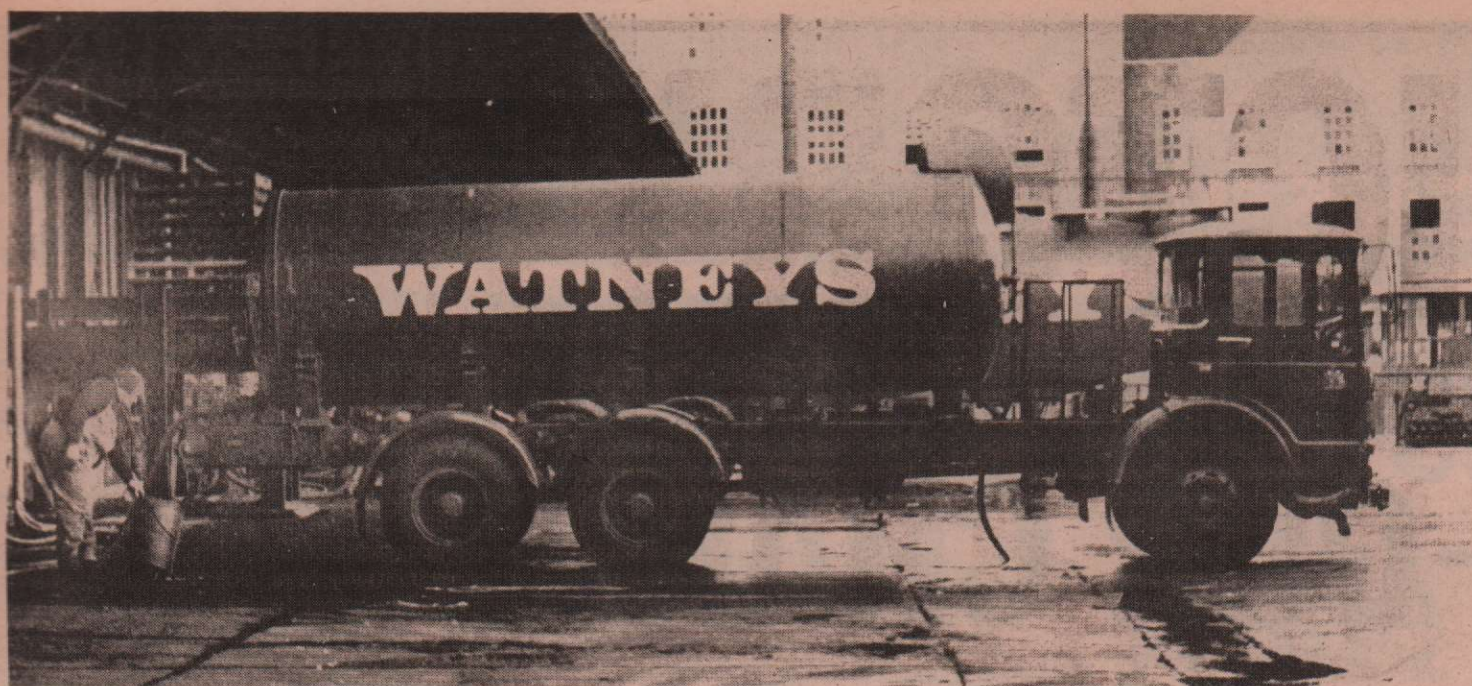
In the discussion, George Peake argued that the 'charisma of Black Power' has some influence in the black areas.

He said IS had to take this into account in its work among black people.

George Singh, from Boston IS branch, disagreed. He said that IS presence in South London was the main reason black workers fought against black power because it showed them that they were not alone.

Barbara Evans, from Camden, went further. She said that black workers, and that only after meeting with IS people, did the black workers understand they were about black people. 'The time has come for us to educate you and tell you who we are and where we've come from', she said.

The committee unanimously adopted Nigel Harris' report and agreed to step up anti-racist work in every level of the organisation.



A tanker loading up at Watneys' Whitechapel brewery

Beer workers ready to fight for their jobs

by a Watney Mann worker

EAST LONDON:—Since Maxwell Joseph's Grand Metropolitan Hotels took over brewers Watney Mann, Watney workers have learned how big companies hide behind the Tory laws.

Last summer, at the start of a four-week strike at the Watney Mann brewery in Whitechapel, the company said Phase One prevented it paying a £2.50 shift pay rise. There are ways of getting this rise now, but the management say any shift pay rise must be part of the 1974 wage agreement.

At the time of the strike most of us thought we could not fight the government. Now we see that we were fighting the government anyway, which had given management something to hide behind.

Management is also being cagey about redundancies they are planning. Several departments are to close and Watneys hope many people will be frightened into leaving before they get their marching orders, so saving the company a few thousand in redundancy money. They can then get the workforce made up with workers on two-year contracts, as is happening down the road at Charrington's brewery.

The Transport Workers Union doesn't seem bothered about this, and since union dues are paid by the 'check-off' system, there have been no branch meetings for years. This is a tremendous block on the unity of different departments.

Solidarity

There have been plans to close down Whitechapel for some time, but we have been taking it all too lightly. Everybody thinks it won't happen. It will—and it's getting nearer. The shop stewards committee has said it will not accept any enforced redundancies—which is a step in the right direction.

But the TGWU has dealt a blow to solidarity by apparently causing a split from the more militant craft unions.

In the canteen Grand Met is trying to get its own catering company, Batemans, in—to earn even more profits. This has already happened at Trumans' brewery, which is also part of Grand Met. Bateman's conditions of employment are, to say the least, archaic.

The women workers in the canteen are refusing to discuss the Batemans proposal. We must back them to the hilt. We all know how Maxwell Joseph treats his hotel workers—it must not be allowed there or in the canteen.

We must see that TGWU branch meetings are held regularly and frequently, organise now to fight the redundancies, support the canteen workers in their fight against Batemans.

There is a public meeting of the Watney Mann branch of the International Socialists on Tuesday at 8.30pm at the Whitechapel Mission, 212 Whitechapel Road, where Paul Foot will speak on *Whose Crisis? The fight against the Tories and their system. All Watney Mann workers welcome.*

'No offence' pickets guilty

OSSETT, Yorkshire:—Three workers from Woodheads Coil Springs appeared in court last week charged with behaviour likely to cause breach of the peace after they had gone into the factory during a recent strike to prevent what they thought was an attempt to lock them out.

They explained this to two foremen who agreed to remove the chains across the door. They then said that they would stay until the morning to see the chains were not replaced. Half an hour later police cars arrived, called by the management, and the three men were arrested on suspicion of burglary.

After a threat of strike action by the whole of the Woodheads combine the charges were reduced to behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace.

The police case against the three men was made to look ridiculous—but the three were found guilty and bound over to keep the peace for a year in the sum of £50 even though the magistrate himself said they hadn't broken the law.

Said Pete Shaw afterwards: 'It was a complete frame-up, simply an attempt to stifle militancy at our factory, the most militant in the district. The fact that we were known as IS members and the keenest pickets during last year's six-week occupation of the factory meant they were specially keen to have us convicted.'

BEANS MEANS VICTORY

TIPTON, Staffs:—The workers at Beans Industries returned to work victorious after a six-week strike. The strike, over low earnings in the Coseley plant following the suspension of piecework payment has ended with a return to a piecework system from 1 January.

The unity of the Coseley and Hurst Lane Plant, even though the Hurst Lane workers stood to gain little from the dispute, was an important reason for the victory. Also effective picketing of the

LEYLAND VICTIMISE MILITANT STEWARD



Jock Wight: 11 years a steward

OXFORD:—British Leyland has victimised a night-shift shop steward, forcing him on to day shift and the loss of his stewards' credentials.

Jock Wight had been night-shift steward in the press shop for 11 years, and had helped the shop become Leyland's best-paid section, earning £10-£15 above the day-shift rate.

A minor incident several weeks ago gave management the pretext to remove Jock Wight. After several

weeks' contrived shortage of pallets had reduced press shop earnings, 14 operators decided to work despite the alleged shortages, something they had done before, and continued production without supervisors for one and a half hours.

Jock Wight alone of the 14 was suspended, and management said reinstatement would be considered only on day shift—meaning Jock would lose his steward's credentials. Since Jock lives in Portsmouth, transfer to days would mean the loss of £12 to £15 in pay

Night and day shift press operators

came out on strike, but the senior steward did not follow this lead. Management then produced its account of the incident—and, when Jock produced a point-by-point reply, accused him of 'gross misconduct'.

Jock agreed to surrender his steward's card to the TGWU branch, which would investigate the incident. The investigation of the branch working party, appointed by the branch officers, was something like a kangaroo court.

The investigation rejected the management's case but perversely said Jock was acting against branch policy and his credentials should be withdrawn for two years.

A shop stewards meeting, at which the night shift was under-represented and Jock had only a few hours to prepare his defence, approved the proposals but a fuller discussion at the branch reversed this by 99 votes to 19.

DISGUST

When Jock reported for work the following Monday the company suspended him for a week. All night shift press operators suspended themselves for the week in sympathy.

At the factory mass meeting night shift convenor, Charlie Sirrett, made great play of the investigating committee's findings but minimised the branch's contrary decision. The vote went overwhelmingly against Jock. The night shift on its own could not win, and last Monday Jock clocked in on the day shift.

Press shop workers have expressed disgust at the events. One said: 'He was guilty of being a good steward.' Another said: 'There will be no buy out of piecework in the press shop now. Without Jock they will get it for a packet of polo mints.'

This victimisation comes at a critical time. Not only have piecework negotiations reached a critical stage but the oil crisis brings the spectre of short time

Management will clearly be on the offensive against shop-floor organisation and Jock Wight's case has certainly weakened the shop-floor's fight. But bitterness at this injustice should not be directed at the union as a whole but at management's allies within it.

Mullards 2000 fight the axe

MITCHAM, Surrey:—Workers at Mullards, owned by the Dutch Philips company, have had enough. In ten years the factory workforce has dropped by 3000.

The 2000 left are fighting back. 'We are fed up with being sacked and taken on again to suit production runs, with building up our union organisation and rates of pay from scratch only to see the work go off to another Philips' factory,' pointed out a worker.

'Many of us feel bitter that there was no union leadership against past redundancies, there's a real fight now. Nobody can afford to be thrown out of a job and take a big wage cut with today's cost of living—and that includes the women supposedly working for pin money.'

Two weeks ago senior stewards were told of plans to 'rationalise' Philips TV tube production across Europe. Nearly half the tube types produced at Mitcham are to go—with a doubtful future for the rest.

Afterwards a shop-stewards' meeting set up a joint Engineering and Electricians Union's works committee to lead the fight

The committee then made four proposals to the tube division's 100 workers—no new labour to be taken on, no moving of machinery, an overtime ban and a two hour demonstration stoppage.

A leaflet was immediately prepared which pointed out the whole plant was threatened and called for support for the stoppage.

This met with 100 per cent support and an overtime ban has spread throughout most of the plant. The works committee are now waiting for a meeting with Philips representatives from Holland before considering future action. Proposals will be put to a mass meeting of the entire plant.

The next step must be the fight for an agreement on security of jobs and earnings. The workers can defeat Philips' plans to run down the plant—but through shop-floor unity across Britain and Europe.

A strong combine committee could fight the moving of work. It could also lead united wage claim battles against Philips pay plan 'productivity' deals, the plant by plant bargaining urged by AUEW and EPTU leaders and Phase Three.

TASS dispute official

LOUGHBOROUGH:—The lock-out of members of the technicians section (TASS) of the Engineers Union, at Brush Electrical Machines, part of Hawker Siddeley, is in its third week.

The dispute is now official. Pickets have successfully turned back many lorries driven by Transport Union drivers.

The majority of the 240 TASS members are solidly behind the strike which is over the recognition by the management of the blackleg United Kingdom Association of Professional Engineers. Sadly the two other staff unions, APEX and ASTMS, have not followed TASS in their support for official TUC policy against UKAPE which is registered under the Industrial Relations Act. Advice from the AUEW con-

venor has led to shop stewards on the floor ignoring the dispute.

Management stand to make several gains from TASS's isolation. They can try introducing Measured Day Work, strongly resisted by TASS, which would save around £8000 a week in wage bills with no loss of production.

Most important, the dispute, doubtless closely watched by other managements, may provide a model for a repeat performance on the shop-floor—and for the general use of 'staff associations' for the smashing of union organisation.

TASS mustn't remain isolated. Messages of support to M McLoughlin, c/o the Charnwood Public House, The Rushes, Loughborough.

Classified

Copy for the Classified section must arrive by first post Monday morning. Adverts will not be accepted over the phone. Charges are 5p per line, semi-display 10p per line. CASH WITH COPY. No insertions without payment. Invoices cannot be sent.

DEMONSTRATION in solidarity with Irish political prisoners: Sunday 16 December, 2.30pm, Hyde Park Corner, for march to Irish Embassy. Organised by the Prisoners Aid Committee, 318 Lillie Road, Fulham, London SW6.

HOSPITAL WORKER Conference: Saturday 12 January, 2.30pm, in London (place to be arranged). Sessions on Lessons of the past year and Building the Hospital Worker. Hospital workers should write for details to Conference, 8 Beverstone Road, London SW2. Nursery and overnight accommodation laid on. Mammmoth social in the evening. All welcome!

SOCIALIST GAY GROUP has speakers throughout the country on the gay question and sexism. Inquiries from IS branches especially welcomed. Details from 18 Dickenson Road, London N8.

HOSPITAL WORKER No 6 now out. Double issue at only 5p. Up-to-the-minute articles on ambulance men, agencies, bonus schemes, the gay claims. Orders (with money) please to 8 Beverstone Road, London SW2.

WEST-CHOLEN ...

TENANT AND RATEPAYER papers: I have 12,000 Dudley Tenant and Ratepayer papers more than we need in Dudley. They are a boon to people fighting the rents, and I will sell them at £15 per 1000 for resale at £30 per 1000. Contact Beatrice Jones (chairman, Dudley Tenants and Ratepayers Association), 24 The Quadrant, Sedgeley, Dudley.

XMAS SPECIAL SALE: Unique gifts to friends (or just you?): Chinese pure silk-woven portraits of Marx, Engels, Lenin, etc. Sizes: 28 in x 19 1/2 in—£1.10; 16 in x 10 in—75p; 7 in x 4 in—25p. LP gramophone record of Chinese choir and orchestra singing the Internationale—39p. At once delivery—D Volpe, 16 Belmont Court, Holmleigh Road, London N16 5QD.

WORKERS' FIGHT public meeting: Greece—what has happened and why? Andrew Hornung (editorial board, Workers' Fight) and a Greek militant active in the solidarity movement in this country, will lead off the discussion. Sunday 16 December, 8pm, The Golden Lion, Kings Cross Road, London N1.

POWER TO THE SISTERS AND THEREFORE TO THE CLASS Selma Jones contributes a powerful argument on sex, race and working-class power in the January issue of RACE TODAY. Available from a few bookshops or send 15p to 184 Kings Cross Road, London WC1.

SHARPEA TRADES COUNCIL De- ...

'Go home' ruling starts ambulance walk-out

YORKSHIRE:-Ambulancemen throughout the county walked out this week after some of their members were sent home for following the strike committee ruling and work to rule, answering emergencies only.

The dispute also spilled over into Lancashire, where 90 per cent of ambulance stations were expected to be on total strike by the weekend. The Transport Union North Lancashire convenor said: 'There will be a total withdrawal of labour until these men are reinstated. We cannot condone victimisation.'

The ambulancemen are solidly behind the national work to rule and emergencies only service. A strike committee has been formed to link up the three NUPE branches that cover more than 20 stations. Said a shop steward at the Bradford depot: 'We've had the odd local dispute in the past but this is the first time we've ever had 100 per cent organisation across the region.'

Doctors have been abusing the ambulancemen's attempts to provide for emergency cases, so one of the committee's first tasks last Wednesday was to define what procedures were permissible. 'Floaters', men standing by on spare shift, were excluded and double manning was insisted on as normal procedure.

Takeover

In an obviously co-ordinated attempt to break the dispute, management took up both these issues on Monday. Meetings had been held last Thursday and Friday nights between management and ambulance officers so on Monday officers were ready to takeover within 15 minutes.

Men were sent home from South Kirby, Castleford, Shipley and Gilderson—and in all more than 500 men then walked out.

At Castleford the men were told that only one ambulanceman would be allowed to man an ambulance to take three patients for radiotherapy in Leeds. When the man refused he was suspended and the rest of the depot walked out. At another depot the men were told they must do 'floating' shifts and when they refused were suspended. All the men walked out.

Like the firemen before them, the ambulancemen have shown themselves ready and willing to take on Phase Three. It is true they are a weak section of the working class. As a Wakefield ambulanceman said: 'The firemen protect property—we only protect lives'. They need the support of other workers. They have earned it by their spirited fight for a living wage.

'No deal'—and 800 walk out

MANCHESTER:-CPC Trafford Park, known locally as Brown and Poulson's, came to a standstill last week as 800 process workers staged a 48-hour token strike in protest over management handling of pay negotiations. The men rejected an offer of £50-a week for the top grade men, which involved a productivity deal to come into effect in September 1974.

The union branch secretary read out a letter from the managing director more or less saying that if the offer was not accepted he would cut overtime and flood the factory with men. The men decided to work a 40-hour week Monday to Friday. As the factory is continuous process this would cripple the factory. Management then threatened a lockout.

The branch meeting decided to reject the offer out of hand until more money was made available.

NO £75,000 NIRC FINE FOR CON-MECH BOSS

THE blatant pro-employer nature of the National Industrial Relations Court was exposed once again this week.

On Monday the matter of Con-Mech Engineers, Reading, was again before the court. But this time the NIRC and its Tory president Sir John Donaldson were not dealing with a union unwilling to call off its strike for union recognition. It was faced with the defiance of Con-Mech boss Robert Dillely.

Needless to say he didn't get fined £75,000. Indeed he isn't to be fined a penny.

Donaldson advised Dillely that he should engage in reasonable negotiations with the Engineers Union over recognition at the strike-bound factory. Dillely said No. So Sir John has given him a week to change

VICTORY!

for the Birmingham Five



The Birmingham Five: from left, Fred Ainslie, Phil Beyer, Gerry Kelly, Graham Stevenson and Peter Davidson. PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report)

THE five Birmingham building workers and the three men ATV camera crew were cleared last week of all charges of conspiracy and unlawful assembly.

The jury was unanimous in returning a verdict of not guilty on the charge of unlawful assembly last Wednesday. The previous day the judge had instructed them to find the eight not guilty of the conspiracy charge and the ATV crew not guilty of unlawful assembly.

The brief court case revealed that the charges against the men were based on flimsy evidence, and the main motive for the prosecution was to intimidate and frighten building workers from their campaign against the lump. The prosecution was completely unable to prove that the men had done anything criminal by occupying the offices of the SOS Bureau. Its case was in shreds by the end of the trial.

The verdict was greeted enthusiastically by building

workers and the five men want now to give strong support to the case of the Shrewsbury 24. The day after they were found not guilty they travelled to Shrewsbury and saw the building workers who are on trial there, giving them a message of support from Birmingham building workers. The defence committee for the Birmingham Five is also to consider giving the remaining money in its fund to the Shrewsbury defence.

One lesson that has to be hammered home is that while the attempt to scare trade unionists in Birmingham had failed, the lump continues, and so does the Shrewsbury 24 trial.

The turn-out of building workers outside the court in Birmingham to support the five as they went in must have been heartening—if the men at Shrewsbury are found guilty, fined or jailed, there has to be the same response from building workers for them too. Support from other sections of trade unionists is also vital, so that there will be a mass movement for strike action if any of the 24 are jailed.

MINERS LOCKED OUT FOR TWO DAYS

BETTESHANGER, Kent:-Coal miners were locked out for two days without pay last week. The men had refused to breach their overtime ban by substituting for a man absent on another shift.

The National Coal Board used clerical workers currently involved in action over their own claim to implement the lock-out. The NCB is using every opportunity to split the work-force.

Meanwhile at Kent University in Canterbury 220 students gave a minute-long ovation and pledged active support to the miners after Jack Collins of the Kent Area NUM highlighted the uselessness of the Tories' offer to the miners and stressed the miners' willingness to lead the fight against Phase Three.

100 locked out after boss tries con-trick

WEST LONDON:-A confidence trick by management has forced a lock-out of more than 100 Asian workers at Perivale Gutterman, which manufactures thread.

The workers, who earn £18 a week basic, can only improve their earnings through a highly complicated bonus scheme. This brings a living wage only if they are prepared to work a seven-day week on three shifts. For months the workers have suspected that the bonus has been fiddled to cut costs.

In August management proposed a new bonus scheme and making Saturday working an ordinary day—so cutting overtime. The shop stewards were prepared to accept this provided management would simplify the bonus scheme to prevent further fiddles.

This was refused and three weeks ago the new bonus scheme imposed without consultation, breaking written agreements. A one-day token stoppage was called. The next day four militants were suspended. All the workers downed tools and were all suspended.

Aslam Khan, chief Transport and General Workers Union shop steward, described the payment system as more like a bingo game than a wages contract: 'We could never understand how they calculated our wages,' he told Socialist Worker. 'But there is no doubt about the fiddling. One week 43,000 spools of thread could produce a bonus of 43p a thousand, and another week 53,000 spools produced only 29p. The harder we worked the less money we received.'

Management contempt for these workers knows no bounds. Every week each worker has contributed 3p to a social and distress fund run by the

company. Last Friday, during the lock-out, the company held a dance party financed from this fund. Conditions inside the factory are dreadful. There is one half-hour break per eight-hour shift. There is no canteen.

But the workers are on the offensive. The pickets are well attended and blackleg labour cannot get through. The TGWU has given official backing.

Donations and messages of support to Aslam Khan, c/o TGWU, 219 The Broadway, Southall, Middlesex.

Scanlon retreat boosts the right

JIM CONWAY, general secretary of the Engineering Union, has added his voice to the Reg Prentice wing of the Labour Party and its campaign against militants.

Writing in the December issue of the AUEW Journal, Conway says: 'The activities of the so-called progressive militants should be fought and exposed.' Comparing the left to Nazis, he went on: 'I have no more liking for the would-be Fuhrers than I had for the last lot . . . we must challenge the arrogance and hysteria of this minority.'

Conway reserves his praise for Reg Prentice, whom he commends for 'great courage'. Presumably this refers to Prentice's support for the jailing of the five dockers in July 1972.

Conway feels confident to make attacks of this sort because the official left, led by Hugh Scanlon, are retreating from fighting for the AUEW pay claim (see page 12).

Scanlon and other left AUEW leaders have been travelling the districts spreading gloom at the prospects for the claim and stressing that the union's financial plight makes a real fight impossible.

Scanlon's tactics of militant words followed by faint hearted and ineffective action has certainly given the right wing the opportunity for a counter stroke.

The engineering employers are aware of the weakness of the AUEW leadership. They know that Scanlon is shying away from a national strike.

Their response to the claim is an insult. The £2.50 on the basic offer (less for semi-skilled and even less for women) with the exclusion of local deals means that virtually nobody will benefit. The AUEW response to this provocation has been strangely muted.

The AUEW leadership claim to be short of money. But so is the miners' union. A concerted strike by both unions would represent an unbeatable combination.

Such a joint victory would do more than win their claims. It would open the way for every other section pressing for more money. Heath and his government could not stand such a defeat and continue in office. The whole face of British politics would be changed.

These are the stakes that Prentice and Conway are fighting against. It is a tragedy that the Scanlon wing refuses to recognise the opportunities.

Militants in the union should call for: ● A recall of the AUEW national committee to press for a national strike in union with the miners.

● District committees to organise NOW for action to prosecute the claim

A national conference of engineering and shipbuilding convenors and shop stewards meets at Manchester Belle Vue on Friday (14 December) at 11.30 to discuss the claim. International Socialist members present will argue for the above policy.

500 steelmen strike

WEDNESBURY:-500 men are on strike at Patent Shaft Steelworks. This followed an attempt by management to blackmail members of the Transport Union to rejoin their old union BISAFTA. Management's use of scabs brought out Engineering union members. Pickets got the support of contract lorry drivers, who refused to cross the picket lines—and are now threatened with the sack.

The 500 are standing firm.



I would like to join the International Socialists

Name _____

Address _____

Trade Union _____

Send to: IS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

Court victory for accused five

SEE PAGE FIFTEEN

PICKETS TRIAL: QC LASHES OUT

by Socialist Worker reporter

THE JURY in the Shrewsbury conspiracy trial will retire on Monday to decide their verdicts in this the most important trial of trade unionism for many years.

In the past week the defence lawyers have been making their closing speeches. They have been fighting speeches, fighting for the six defendants and fighting to preserve trade unionism from the menace of trumped-up charges of conspiracy, unlawful assembly and affray.

On Monday Ralph Turner Samuels, defending John Carpenter, invited the jury to consider the conspiracy charge as

'baseless', 'a fantasy of the prosecution's imagination'. Towards the end of last week's proceedings John Platts-Mills, defending Des Warren, attacked the whole way the charges were framed.

He turned to the conspiracy charge—'conspiracy to intimidate workers to abstain from their lawful occupation'—and attacked the notion that the men Des Warren is supposed to have intimidated were 'lawfully employed'. He stressed that many of them were on the lump.

Considering their conditions of employment, he pointed to some of the prosecution's photographs. 'Look at this scaffolding,' he told the jury. 'Not a single bracing, not a connection with the building

—no toe board, no guard rail. Look at this ladder. It's not lashed to the scaffold...

'These breaches of the regulations not only endanger the public but the lives and safety of the building workers. And another prosecution witness, a man working in a 7ft trench, said he had never heard of trenching to stop it falling in on him.

'So much for the lawful occupations of the men who my client is supposed to have intimidated.'

Platts-Mills then focussed on conspiracy. He stressed that for the charge to hold water there must have been an agreement. 'There is little or no evidence of that,' he said. There was a public meeting at Chester of the strike action committee and not one

shred of evidence suggested there was any sinister agreement.

He then attacked the attitude of the police and their assumptions that workers were like themselves—unable to do anything without a chain of command.

Then, with the judge becoming more and more exasperated to the extent that he took his wig off and threw it on his desk, Platts-Mills turned to the history of the charge and why workers had demonstrated outside the court.

They demonstrated, he said, because 'it was the instinctive attitude of men and women who for centuries suffered at the hands of the law in industrial disputes.' For 98 years, he said, no government had thought fit to bring a charge of this sort.

At this the judge went berserk. He insisted that Platts-Mills withdraw his remark because it was not proper to argue that the Tory government was behind the charges. Platts-Mills stood his ground until he was ordered to withdraw, which he did.

WEAPON

Then Platts-Mills talked of the long march of the working class against the attentions of the law. 'For 200 years we have had modern industry. And for 200 years we have had men having to withdraw their labour, the only weapon they have to protect their interests.

'In the wake of the French Revolution the Combination Acts were brought in. But still the trade unions had grown in spite of the law of conspiracy that was used against them,' he said. 'Botany Bay flourished. There was Tolpuddle. Every dispute potentially implied civil war with the sticks and stones of working people against the sabres of the troops.'

Since these days the unions had won some measure of freedom. But, Platts-Mills told the jury: 'You are being asked to take part in history. You are being asked to turn the clock back, to use conspiracy, the sharpest weapon the law has, in an industrial dispute.

'Conspiracy,' he repeated, 'is the ugliest and most hideous weapon in the hands of the courts. If someone has committed murder you charge him with murder. The only way you can avoid this turning back of the clock is to find my client Not Guilty.'

Steelmen face lay-off threats

THE British Steel Corporation is threatening its workers with massive lay-offs in the next three weeks, and the situation in the South Teesside works, indicates that these threats are mainly politically motivated.

There were no lay-offs in the 1972 miners' strike—and coal stocks in the main yards at Clays Lane are normal and as high as in January 1972. Coal is still being delivered regularly: last week deliveries increased from the normal 14,000 tons to 22,000.

Yet production has already been cut for three weeks at Cleveland and South Bank coke ovens and management called a meeting of South Teesside shop stewards last week to tell them that 'due to the miners' overtime ban' the shutdowns would start before Christmas in the iron-making department, and would continue through the steel-making and rolling mills during January.

Arthur Affleck, chairman of the joint shop stewards committee, Lackenby, described this as 'a blatantly political manoeuvre to turn steel-workers against miners'. Alan Armstrong, a National Union of Blastfurnacemen militant on Cleveland coke ovens, said: 'When the miners picketed the gates and explained their case in 1972 they received tremendous sympathy and support from the lads. The BSC is trying to turn feeling against the miners before the strike starts.'

Another management move has been to switch from blastfurnace gas—derived from coal—to oil firing in the Cleveland Mill furnaces, so oil deliveries to South Teesside have increased in the past week. BSC has admitted that it has 'no problem' in getting extra coal.



Journalists on the Evening Gazette, Middlesbrough, travelled overnight to London to lobby their union leaders when they arrived for talks with the Newspaper Society on Tuesday. The union has lodged a £15-a-week extra claim. The Gazette journalists—seen here with NUJ president John Bailey (second left)—have been locked out by management for a month.

PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report).

British Rail 'No' sparks train drivers' ban

ASLEF's 29,000 members imposed their ban on overtime, rest day and Sunday working on Wednesday this week after yet another point blank refusal to improve the pay restructuring package from British Rail.

For well over a year now 'meaningful negotiations' are supposed to have been taking place to re-organise pay systems and establish a higher basic wage throughout the railway industry.

But the unions have been treated to an epic of stalling by British Rail management. It is this which has led to mounting anger among the train drivers in particular.

The extended hours and increasing overtime that British Rail workers have to put in to get an approximation of a living wage have long been a bone of contention among railwaymen.

And now the ASLEF men feel that after all the promises from management they are being cheated. This really stingy offer would do little or nothing to improve their conditions and give all members a decent basic wage.

As Wilfred Langham, a driver on the Liverpool Street to Enfield Town line, put it: 'They're just mucking us around. This is what really gets on top of you. Basically what the men feel is that certain things have been promised and now British Rail is not coming across.'

'Anyhow this industry is run on our money and the men feel that they are

perfectly entitled to a good bit more of it.'

The other thing that is causing deep offence among the drivers is that British Rail is engaged in a blatant con trick.

Throughout the long negotiations on the restructuring package, British Rail has pledged that whatever new money is paid will not count against the annual wage review.

In fact British Rail is well aware that the Tories' incomes policy insists that only one increase per year can be paid and that the Pay Board most certainly will count one deal against the other.

The other key aspect of the situation is that drivers rightly fear that the Pay Board will be sticking its finger into the restructuring deal itself. So they are determined to fight now and win the improvements they have so long been promised.

The men have kept constant pressure on the executive. In some sections the feeling is so high that the men have been pushing for an all out strike.

As a result the executive has resisted the attentions of Harold Wilson, whose contribution to the struggle was to suggest that the union do nothing before Christmas.

After the ASLEF executive unanimously reaffirmed its industrial action decision on Tuesday, William Whitelaw, the new Tory labour boss, also tried his hand at the same game. But the men are determined to win and are unlikely to be affected by the usual bout of witchhunting unleashed by the millionaire press.

Miners: the need for a strike

THE MINERS can win. As the oil shortage bites, coal is regaining its place as Britain's most important fuel asset.

The 1972 miners' strike was the long overdue response to the NCB-government policy that was killing the industry and driving miners well down the wages league table.

The press and government campaign that preceded the 1972 strike attempted to show that oil had replaced coal. Power station stocks of coal were sufficient to ride out a strike that would financially wreck the union, it was claimed.

This propaganda campaign was proved ludicrously wrong. The flying picket, massive working-class sympathy, and, most spectacularly at Saltley, solidarity gave the miners a notable victory and breached government policy for millions of other workers to follow.

Today the government propaganda line is much more sophisticated. The story now is of national disaster looming on the horizon and the damage of the overtime ban.

The longer the miners' action is restricted to the banning of overtime, the more time the government has to cobble up a deal with the miners' leaders.

Effective

So long as coal is available even in reduced supplies, the government hopes to get through the worst of the winter before any strike action occurs. In the meantime the Electricity Generating Board is importing a million tons of American and Polish coal and if the situation worsens they will undoubtedly buy more from these sources.

An overtime ban cannot stop the import of coal. The miners should remember that it was Polish 'communist' coal that was effective in breaking the Spanish miners' strike of 1971.

The overtime ban can—and has proved that it can—wound the government. It cannot kill. The miners have given too much, suffered too much for the 'national interest' in the past to be fooled by the sob stories in the press.

The time to employ the maximum force is when your opponent is weakest. In current circumstances that means an all-out strike in January. It means developing the maximum solidarity with other workers, in particular the engineers and railwaymen.

The call now should be for a delegate conference to decide on strike action in the New Year and to forge an alliance with other workers in struggle.

An alliance of miners and engineers would be an unbeatable force.

FIGHTING FUND NEARLY HALFWAY

THE Fighting Fund postbag this week brought in £230.15, making a total of £426.40.

As we go to press the train drivers go to battle against the Tories. They deserve the active and organised support of all workers. So that they can win, all railway traffic, including copies of Socialist Worker, must be affected. Our losses we will happily sustain but we would be grateful for your support.

Money sent in by branches of the International Socialists this week includes: Coventry £27.30, Portsmouth £4, Salford £4, Harlow £19, Wrexham £1, Nottingham £27, Newcastle £6.25, North East Manchester £16.60, North Herts £1.50, Islington £15, Southampton £16, Lucas Birmingham £6.60, GKN Birmingham £6.60, York Buses £2, Cumbernauld £5, Rugby £8, Peterborough £19.40, and South Birmingham £15.

All donations to Jim Nichol, national treasurer, 8 Cottons Gdns, London E2.

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