

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## Miners victory vital to stop total freeze

# NEW TORY PAY THREAT

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

**AFTER THE LOCKOUT** and election frauds, the Tories are now planning massive cutbacks in the living standards of working people.

Both Edward Heath and Chancellor Anthony Barber have given strong hints that they are thinking of introducing a total wage freeze. The Times newspaper has said that Heath plans to introduce Phase Four of his wages policy—including a freeze—on 1 March.

But prices are going to rise even faster in the next few months. Fuel and raw material prices for industry are rising at an annual rate of 54 per cent and 66 per cent each at present.

And these increases have still to work their way through to the shops. In a few months, prices are going to rise by at least half as fast again as the present rate.

Under such conditions the wage increases allowed by Phase Three mean a fall in the amount you can buy with your wage packet. A wage freeze means a massive fall. And this would not be a fall for a few months only. Sir Gordon Richardson, governor of the Bank of England, predicted last week 'some years of austerity, stretching perhaps to 1984, with little scope for improvements in personal standards of living.'

## ONE WAY

Every financial and economic expert is now predicting a recession later this year, with factory closures, 'rationalisations' and rising unemployment. The government's cuts in school and hospital building have ensured that unemployment will rise even more.

**In this situation there is only one way for working people to protect their interests. It is by resistance to every aspect of the Tories' plans—the kind of resistance which tens of thousands of miners are already putting up.**

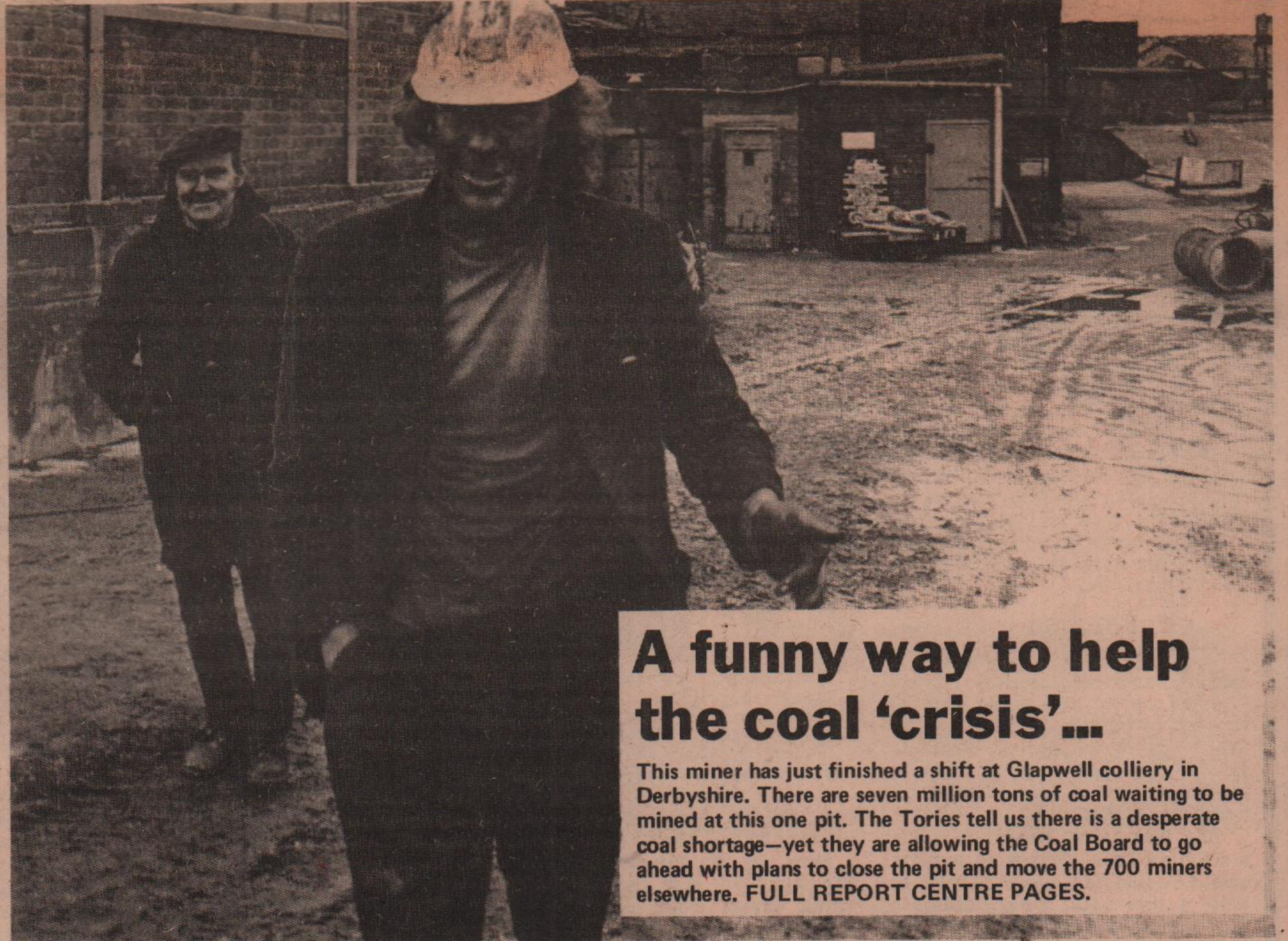
Yet the established leaders of the working-class movement, the general council of the TUC, have, to a man, run away from organising such resistance. The 'compromise' they offered Heath over the miners' claim amounted to this: to let Heath cut all their members' living standards with his Phase Three proposals, providing he gave the miners a little extra.

Instead of calling on other workers to back the miners by fighting Heath's wage cuts, they are offering them as sacrificial lambs on the Phase Three altar.

Instead of demanding that the miners' pay increase is paid out of the 25 per cent increase in company profits last year, the TUC leaders have suggested the money should come from their members' wages in order that profits can grow still higher.

Such treachery in the working-class movement has not just come from the right wing. The 'left-wing' leaders of the unions have been willing accomplices to it. Jack Jones has already instructed all his Transport Union officials to settle within Phase Three.

And Hugh Scanlon, after promising to make his engineering union settle on Heath's terms, has offered to try and arrange a



## A funny way to help the coal 'crisis'...

This miner has just finished a shift at Glapwell colliery in Derbyshire. There are seven million tons of coal waiting to be mined at this one pit. The Tories tell us there is a desperate coal shortage—yet they are allowing the Coal Board to go ahead with plans to close the pit and move the 700 miners elsewhere. FULL REPORT CENTRE PAGES.

sell-out of the miners' claim. He told the Weekend World television programme on Sunday that the TUC was prepared to try and arrange a deal between the miners and the government short of the miners' full demands.

**Neither the TUC leaders nor the Labour Party leaders are talking about real resistance to the Tories and a working-class solution to the crisis. They take it for granted that capitalist 'solutions' should be accepted. At best they are willing to haggle over the details—just how big a cut in real wages, just how many millions out of work.**

Yet such compromises are in no way weakening the determination of the Tories to continue their onslaught. Heath has contemptuously dismissed the TUC 'peace plan'. He is not frightened of an opponent who begs for mercy before the fight has really started.

What should be done? There is nothing inevitable about the

massive defeats the Tories are planning for the working class. They can be fought. The Tories can be beaten. The crisis is not something beyond our control, like the weather. The working-class movement has the power to impose its own solution. The first steps are obvious.

- Organise massive support for the miners, not as a 'special case' but as the spearhead of the working-class struggle against falling living standards.

- Press the NUM leadership to turn the overtime ban into a national strike. This is the only certain way to win.

- Refuse to accept lay-offs. Occupy the factories and workplaces when they are threatened.

- No support for Tory policies, no compromise with the Tories. Kick out the Tory government by a wave of working-class action.

The trade union leaders have proved incapable of fighting for the policies adopted at their own conference and at the TUC itself. They have abdicated their responsibilities.

**The growing rank and file movement must shoulder its responsibility to build, and to build rapidly, the fighting alternative leadership that can turn the tide.**

◀ **MINERS: STRIKE TO WIN: PAGE 16**



# Union leader blasts Tories

JOAN MAYNARD, an executive member of the Agricultural Workers' Union, launched a savage attack on the Tories in a speech in Bristol on Sunday.

British capitalism is in serious crisis and as always trying to unload that crisis on the backs of the workers. Most hard hit are the pensioners and the low paid, in other words the weakest, for that is the kind of society we live in, the weakest to the wall.

But organised workers are fighting back more strongly than ever. The miners are in the forefront of the battle, closely followed by the train drivers and ambulance man. Many other workers are lining up for the fight, the engineers and the teachers. One of the signs of the times is that white collar workers become more and more militant.

This government has shown up more clearly than any government since the war the clear class divisions in our society. From the word go it has sought confrontation with the workers. It has handed out enormous sums in tax relief to the rich whilst robbing working-class children of school milk.

Profits have never been so high, inflation is raging, whilst wages are either frozen, or restricted.

It is this government which has the cheek to call for unity in the national interest, what a con trick. If Heath and his gang are so keen on national unity, what is he doing about the land speculators and the property speculators. We know he is doing nothing, he is too busy knocking hell out of workers.

Nothing has gone up so much in price as land and this has absolutely nothing to do with pressure from wages. Agricultural land went up by 6 per cent between 1964-1971, in 1972 it doubled in price. The price of land for development like food prices has gone crashing through the ceiling. Here in North Yorkshire where I live a one-tenth of an acre was sold for £11,000.

## Exploitation

If you were rich enough to buy a house for £8,000, by the time you paid for it, it would have cost you £56,000. The difference between the £8,000 and the £56,000 is interest charges—how's that for exploitation.

Let Heath and the Tory government justify the racket they are supporting, let them justify the fact that the MPs who are going over to Europe on Common Market business are getting more in the tax free expenses each day than the miners, or farmworkers are getting for digging coal

or producing our essential food.

The miners are taking the full brunt of the attack of the capitalist system, we must support them to the hilt. If they go down, we all go down. The TUC should stop pussy-footing about and going to see Ted at No 10, he only wants them to get him out of the pit he has dug for himself. It's their job to mobilise the 10 million trade unionists in support of the miners to smash Phase Three and get back to free collective bargaining.

It's not who runs the country, it's in whose interest is the country going to be run? The land and property speculators and big business or in the interest of the majority of the people?

I do not accept the miners are a special case and that the rest of us should accept Phase Three. The trade union and labour movement is committed against a statutory incomes policy, we elect them to carry out our decisions, not to try to help the bosses' government out.

It is a rare pleasure to hear such tough, committed language from a union leader—especially one who sits on the Labour Party's executive. We hope she will campaign in the labour movement to turn her words into action—which will mean taking up the cudgels with her 'comrades' in the Labour leadership.



Prentice: attack on miners

## Prentice —Will TGWU act?

IT IS high time that the Labour Party and the Transport Workers Union took steps to rid themselves of a dangerous scab in their midst: The Rt Hon Reginald Ernest Prentice, PC, MP, JP.

In a speech at Brighton on Sunday, Prentice openly attacked leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers, who are currently banning overtime.

He singled out Michael McGahey, vice-president of the NUM and one of the few miners' executive members openly to argue for militant action. Prentice conceded reluctantly that he supported the miners' case, but said that he would have 'nothing to do' with men like McGahey.

'McGahey,' said Prentice, 'is as much my political enemy as is Edward Heath.'

Many might think that Prentice's scurrilous attack on a union leader in the middle of that union's industrial action showed a lack of trade union experience.

They would be wrong.

Mr. Prentice has been a trade union bureaucrat all his working life. He joined the staff of the Transport Workers Union after leaving the London School of Economics in 1950.

He was one of the hand-picked 'cold warriors'—open supporters of everything decided by the American government—who took up key positions in the trade union movement in the 1950s and 1960s.

## Havoc

When his union was in favour of unilateral nuclear disarmament, Prentice was against it.

'We were elected,' he said in 1960 while attacking the disarmers, 'to defend our country.' The Transport Union continued to pay Prentice—MP for East Ham North—£500 a year from members' subscriptions.

In 1962 he became Labour number two spokesman on industrial affairs and was the first to commend productivity deals, which wreaked so much havoc among his union's members under the Labour government, when Prentice was a minister.

Prentice started as a minister in the education department, and even promised to abolish the public schools. The promise lasted for six months, until he ditched it, along with all the other pledges he had made to the East London workers.

During his long stint as Labour spokesman on industrial affairs, Prentice has kept up a barrage of abuse against any trade unionist who stands up to the employers.

He attacked the five dockers who were sent to prison by the Industrial Relations Court in the summer of 1972. He consistently criticises the AUEW when it refuses to appear before the National Industrial Relations Court.

Prentice must go. Transport Workers Union branches throughout the country should pass resolutions, demanding an end to Prentice's affiliation and an immediate end to any payment to him from union funds.

# Pickets fight

by Judith Condon

ART CASTINGS in Nuneaton, where 83 Indian workers have been on strike against victimisation since 10 December, is an almost unbelievable sweatshop. The factory is made up of a series of dilapidated sheds with split and ragged corrugated iron roofs hanging over them.

Each bears a different name but they are all owned and controlled by A L Dunne Ltd.

For the last six weeks pickets have stood at the head of the public road which runs between two lines of these sheds. Further down the road behind the pickets police cars are parked.

And across the public road right next to the police cars the scabs pull hand carts loaded with metal. Every now and again an unlicensed fork lift truck carries hot metal from one side to the other.

When the driver reaches one of the open ended, lean-to sheds, since there are no gangways and no white lines, he has to hoist up the scoop full of molten metal and weave in and out of men and clutter. The danger is obvious: any workers in his way are liable to have hot metal poured on them.

## Patched

On Friday for example one newly recruited strike breaker had hot metal splashed on his eye while he was working in the die casting shop. He was taken to the nearest hospital. The metal was removed, his eye patched up and within a couple of hours was back at work.

But despite at least two such incidents a week, there is no surgery and no qualified nurse. There is only a box with some bandages, TCP and one pill for all seasons.

Pawittar Singh is one of the original group of union activists who were victimised before the strike. He has worked at Art Castings since 1963.

Two years ago he was working as a die caster when hot metal splashed in his face and left eye. It was two hours before manage-



The picket line at Art Castings: working conditions are unbelievable

ment got him to hospital. Pawittar lost the sight of his eye.

How did the company compensate him? In just the way you would expect from such sweatshops of labour.

Pawittar was demoted to the job of knocking out castings at a third less pay. Then just before the strike he was sacked for 'being too slow.'

But then Pawittar had had the check to be active in the union, fighting for better conditions.

So much criminal abuse of

workers' health—and yet the fat sharks of Dunn's have put up notices in the plant saying they will protect the scab workers. The employers want to be told every time the scabs are spoken to by pickets so they can inform the police.

One such report led to Teja Singh being charged with a breach of the peace—six days after the incident was supposed to have happened.

Meanwhile the list of charges on and injuries to the pickets mount

up: Gurmail Singh knocked over by the work's managers car and now facing a charge of assault and actual bodily harm; Satnam Gill threatened with arrest for obstruction after having his finger fractured when a picket-busting lorry driver shut it in his cab door; Andy Enever, TGWU member from Chrysler arrested for obstruction after the police questioned him on where he worked; Gerry Jones, who said he would follow Andy to the police station, charged with having bald tyres on his car.

# Strikes spearhead students' big grants battle

by Simon Turner

THE NATIONAL UNION of Students grants campaign has got off to a good start this term.

Rent strikes in 36 colleges are now in operation. The position needs to be consolidated. Rents strikes must be strengthened within a few weeks to avoid victimisations and to ensure

that those involved do not become isolated.

This means arguing for support from all students in the college and regularly discussing the rent strike at union meetings. It is also important to keep the local area of NUS informed of the rent strike and if possible involve colleges who do not have rent strikes of their own.

With the burst of publicity from the NUS executive, the work for the 8 February national strike and demonstration seem to be proceeding well. Despite the refusal of British Rail in several areas, notably Scotland to allow the chartering of special trains, most colleges are booking transport to bring large numbers to London.

Last week a number of colleges and IS societies supported the Shrewsbury Three demonstration. Some colleges, including the Enfield branch of Middlesex Polytechnic had a half-day strike so that the maximum numbers would attend the demonstration. All colleges should send donations to the Shrewsbury defendants.



## The rank and file conference

Last week a number of rank and file trade union papers announced a conference in Birmingham on 30 March to discuss and plan effective action to fight the growing Tory-employer offensive. The International Socialists will be giving full support to this important conference and as a contribution to the discussion on the need for a rank and file movement the IS Industrial Organiser is contributing three articles to Socialist Worker. The first deals with the Tory attack and the trade union response.

by Andreas Nagliati

THE LAST few years have been crucially important for the whole trade union movement. Increasing economic difficulties in Britain's position on the international markets have prompted the employers and government into correspondingly serious attacks.

They have reacted in what is the only logical response for them: They have attempted to get out of trouble by attacking the living standards and conditions of working people.

But Britain is not a country where this aim can be achieved with ease. Over the years, workers have built powerful trade unions for the defence and improvement of their wages and working conditions.

At national level almost 11 million workers belong to one trade union or other. At the local level, on the shop floor, shop stewards and stewards' committees have built themselves in most branches of industry, into powerful weapons for the defence of their members.

The wave of attacks has followed many different paths. Wage freezes have become the norm rather than the exception and they have, of course, become ever harsher in their application.

The attempt to decrease the power of shopfloor militants prompted Labour's attack on the trade unions, In Place of Strife.

The Industrial Relations Act is the Tory's stiffer and harsher follow-up.

### Attacks

In the last few weeks, the jailing of building workers' pickets at Shrewsbury and the government-imposed nationwide two-day lockout have been proof that the ruling class is aware that its own future is at stake.

The official trade union movement has responded to this new situation in a totally inadequate manner. Faced with vicious, well-planned, carefully thought out attacks they have done everything in their power to limit and contain the mass response which could have led to victory.

In 1971 the TUC and the official movement mobilised against the Industrial Relations Act. Massive demonstrations were called, lawyers consulted, pamphlets produced, rallies held. Three years later that Act is still on the statute book.

Yet the chances of removing it and smashing it have been many. In particular, in 1972 the struggle of the miners and their flying pickets—the mass picket at Sattley—and the struggle of most organised sections of workers to free the Pentonville dockers showed the way.

The official trade union response has been all along at best too little too late, and at worst a deliberate attempt to sabotage militant responses. Even today when almost all of their membership is locked out for two days a week, the union leaders have called for no national response and have continued to talk to the government as if nothing out of the ordinary was actually taking place.

Now the employers and the government realise full well that a strong trade union movement is incompatible with the measures which they feel they must introduce if Britain wishes to survive economically and profits continue to boom. The trade union leaders of the right and left continue to operate as if business was as usual. (Continued next week).

The conference will be held at Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham, Saturday 30 March, 11.30am. Full details from the conference organising committee secretary, Roger Cox, 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10.

## SOCIALIST WORKER

'WE, AS A NATION', says Ted Heath, have to do this, that, or the other. Harold Wilson has a different angle. It is Heath's 'divisive policies' which stop 'the nation' from getting on with the job.

What nation are they talking about? A Scottish or Welsh nationalist, not to speak of an Irish republican in the Six Counties, might well argue that Ted Heath and his friends do not belong to 'their nation'. But all of them take for granted that there is such a thing as a 'national interest'. Real socialists say this is rubbish.

Those who are drugged by television and the capitalist press will think that is absurd. Nationalist arguments and nationalist assumptions are our daily diet. But we say that the interests of working people everywhere are the same, and that the interests of our rulers are opposed to the interest of the workers in Britain and everywhere else.

James Connolly, international socialist and Irish nationalist, who was shot on the orders of the British government in 1916, put it in a nutshell: 'I regard the working people in every country as the repository of a definite stock of national culture. And I regard the ruling classes of each country as the enemies of that culture.'

National differences are a fact. Regional differences are a fact. But these differences have nothing to do with any supposed 'national

## 'National interest' is not ours

interest'. Nothing has done so much as capitalism to smother these differences and to reduce and impoverish the rich heritage of genuine national diversity.

When it suits them our rulers are 'internationalists'. Think about the Common Market. We 'went into Europe' according to the Tories. In fact this was never more than a political confidence trick. Their 'Europe' excluded not only the East Europeans but also the Swiss, the Austrians, the Swedes and the Norwegians and others, all of whom are every bit as much European as we are.

But do our rulers now talk about the 'European nation'? Not at all. It suits them, at the moment, to wave the Union Jack, the butcher's apron of British imperialism, to persuade us that we have to support them in order to maintain their profits against the

Germans, the French, the Italians, not to mention the 'lesser breeds'.

The truth is that in Britain as elsewhere there are two nations—the rich and the rest of us. An economist who set out to prove that 'there is no pot of gold waiting to be tapped' by workers, fed into his computer the available figures on what is produced and how it is distributed. The result? 'If everyone in Britain got an equal slice of the national cake it would put the average family man in the £4000 a year bracket.' This economist, Professor Pearce, admits to being a little surprised at the result.

The same sort of result would be obtained in Germany, Japan, the USA and all the rest of 'our competitors'. So what should we do? Try to undercut them by accepting 'restraint', incomes policy, and the various other devices to keep down wages?

It's a mug's game. The German, Japanese, US and the other capitalists are telling their workers the same phoney story. The only result of this kind of 'restraint' would be to make workers everywhere worse off. Meanwhile the multinational companies flourish.

When Karl Marx wrote 'Working people of all countries unite... You have a world to win', he was not arguing that there are no national differences. He was arguing that the interests of the workers' everywhere require a struggle, first of all against their own ruling classes. And he was right.

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# GRIM FACTS ON OLD PEOPLE

TO JUDGE by press and television, it is only when industrial action threatens power supplies that old people start suffering from the cold.

Certainly lack of heating is a major cause of illness and death among the elderly. But it happens every winter, not just when the millionaire press finds it convenient to blame trade unionists.

The medical experts say that hypothermia (freezing of cold) is the direct cause of 20,000 deaths a year. And a further 60,000-300 a day in the six winter months—die of diseases brought on by or aggravated by cold. Heart attacks, strokes, infections of the chest and bladder.

In calculating the old age pension, the Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS) allows only £1.60 a week for heating costs. Which would be enough to keep a two-bar electric fire going for about eight hours a day on average.

### AVERAGE

Pensioners need better home heating than the rest of us, not just because of the physical inefficiency of old age, but because millions of them lack the money to buy an adequate diet. Recent surveys sponsored by the Royal College of General Practitioners found that four out of five elderly people showed signs of vitamin B and C deficiencies.

Finally, the heat of adequate heating for the old would be way above the average because many pensioners live in the worst and least weatherproof kinds of houses.

Although millions are spent each year on social research, very little national information is available about a life or death matter like the housing conditions of the old. The official statistics are silent about how many pensioners live in houses that are damp, poorly insulated or in a bad state of repair. The limited information which is available is ominous.

The 1971 Census showed that out of eight million pensioners in Britain, about three million live in houses built before 1919. In many of these older houses, even the most elementary kind of modernisation has yet to be carried out. One in five of old age pensioners do not have an inside toilet, and one in six do not have a fixed bath in their houses.

Only 24 per cent of all pensioners



An old woman searching for food in a London market

live in houses with central heating, and in the case of the over eighties age group, only 18 per cent.

In recent surveys carried out by Task Force, one fifth of the pensioners interviewed said they had difficulty heating their house because of damp, and one half reported a heating problem because their rooms were draughty. Two thirds of the pensioners visited said that if they got a small increase in their pension they would spend the extra cash not on food but on heating.

When challenged on the question, the government replies that a special heating allowance can be paid to old age pensioners who get supplementary benefit. The amounts are tiny and the conditions for payment are stringent. 30p a week can be awarded for those who cannot move around easily or whose home is difficult to heat; 60p if both these factors apply, and there is a top rate of 90p a week for those who are permanently confined to bed

These allowances are only available to old people who get a means tested supplementary pension. Thus the poorest group in society are completely excluded—the million pensioners who have incomes below the poverty line, and who don't apply for a supplementary pension.

The Task Force survey quoted above found that only seven per cent of pensioners had even heard of the heating allowance.

Local authorities have legal powers to install heating appliances in the home of an elderly person, to provide electric blankets, and to carry out work to eliminate draughts, cut down damp and improve insulation. Supplementary benefit officers are able at their discretion to pay off fuel bills. These powers are very rarely used. The authorities involved are most anxious not to publicise even the existence of such statutory powers.

Instead, the DHSS has issued large

numbers of a leaflet called Keeping Warm in the Winter about better heating for the elderly.

The DHSS insists that, 'to keep old people warm in winter, the living room temperature should be about 70 degrees F when the temperature outside is 30 degrees F. Bathrooms and bedrooms should be kept at the same temperature if possible.'

The British Medical Journal, 27 January, 1972 reported on a national survey of old people's house temperatures. Three out of four had a living room temperature below 65 degrees F. Nearly two out of five were below 60.8 degrees F—the minimum legal temperature for offices, shops and railways. One in ten was below 53.5 degrees F.

Many old people in these conditions have dangerously low body temperatures. 10 per cent were only one degree above the hypothermic level.

So every week old people in their thousands die of cold. Hundreds of thousands live in damp unheated homes. It could be stopped—but not by this system.

Report by Jim Kincaid



# MILITARY JUNTA'S SUPPORT FADING

by a Chilean living in exile in England

**THE military junta in Chile is finding difficulty distracting people from the disastrous economic situation resulting from its policies, and from the bloody repression it can no longer hide by fantastic stories about 'Communist plots'.**

After four months in power, with complete control of the country, generous help from the United States and Britain, and the highest copper prices ever, the junta still cannot explain why they have increased wages by only half the rate of inflation.

Nor can they convince people any longer that all Chileans are tightening their belts, because the rich are making so much money from higher prices and profits that they cannot resist the temptation to spend lavishly on new cars, houses and summer trips to Europe.

The workers knew from the first what the coup was about. But the middle class, which supported the coup in the hope of ending the Popular Unity 'chaos', are now having their eyes opened. While big business rakes in the profits, the middle class are worse off than before, and without the freedom to demand changes any more.

This is a worrying new situation for the junta. It has lost the confidence of white-collar workers and small traders.

What can they do to regain support? The CIA and Brazil's military 'gorillas' have an answer, but this sort of cold-blooded repression is beginning to be too much for

public opinion in Chile.

The Chilean left, including the MIR (Left Revolutionary Movement), is wisely refusing for the moment to show its strength in direct confrontations with the army. The junta needs to find and eliminate its opponents now, while it still has some strength and before it is torn apart on economic issues. In desperation, it has maintained a continuous campaign of murder and torture against workers for the poorest parts of cities and against students.

So much so, that more and more Chileans who would prefer not to know are well aware of what is going on, and cannot dismiss it as 'Communist lies'.

Among left-wing opponents murdered by the junta have been relatives of middle-class, even rich and aristocratic families. Eleven engineers at the Chuquicamata copper mines were shot by the roadside near Calama. A former manager in Antofagasta was shot, and the son of a former president of the Interamerican Development Bank was tortured for three days before his relatives obtained his release. It is impossible to hide facts such as these.

The Chilean junta is already not so strong in 1974 as it was in 1973. Its leaders know that, and so does the left. Unity is as vital for them as it is for us. But they have the responsibility for all the injustice, unemployment, the hunger and the killing, for the prisoners on Dawson Island and in the stadiums. They are losing support, and that will divide them.

The left must fight, united against the common enemy, to expose its weakness.



A protest picket on the Chilean Embassy in London last week. PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report)

## Minority in power is sign of crisis

by E Koch

THE minority government formed by the Farmer Party in Denmark after last month's elections is a sign of the crisis there. The party is only the third largest in parliament, but all attempts to form a coalition government failed.

Yet certain basic policies were agreed by the major parties' negotiations after the election, and no one will rock the government's boat for some months.

Denmark's worst problem is seen as inflation. The blame for this was laid on the previous Social Democratic government for conning Denmark into the Common Market. But the main opposition parties at the time had supported entry, and had no real alternative to offer when the Social Democrats fell.

All the major parties—Social Democrats, Liberals, Conservatives and Farmers—lost heavily in the election. So did the Socialist People's Party, which had opposed the Common Market but had helped the Social Democrats to stay in office for some years.

### Enforced

Nor does the spectacularly successful Progress Party—newly formed, and now the second biggest in parliament—have an alternative to offer. It is anti-income tax, anti-bureaucracy and anti-militarist. It has proposed to deal with the army by substituting an automatic telephone saying: 'We surrender', and with bureaucracy by sacking nine out of ten civil servants. The Danish system of proportional representation has a tradition of throwing small parties to the fore, and the Progress Party represents real dissatisfaction with Danish society.

It is difficult to blame Denmark's inflation on greedy workers and strikers, for the system of two-year contracts negotiated by the union leaders is strictly enforced, and most strikes between contracts are over issues other than wages.

The government has announced, as the main features of its anti-inflation policy, a two-month price freeze and cuts in public spending.

But it is also trying to trick workers out of cost-of-living increases they are entitled to under sliding scale agreements, offering a fixed sum now, tax free, if workers forego further cost-of-living increases. At the expected rate of inflation workers on sliding scale agreements could get seven increases in 1974.

### Credibility

The Danish TUC leaders have rejected this deal, and told the government that if it wishes to give aid to the employers then that is its own business, but the workers' sliding scale must be left alone. If more attacks are made on the sliding scale, widespread industrial action is a real possibility.

The Communist Party, which has considerable influence in the unions, has increased its credibility by winning six seats in parliament. Since it had no MPs in the last parliament, it appears to be uncompromised, and it campaigned as the party with a workplace base, capable of defending workers' interests. There are hardly any left-wing groups outside the Communist Party with a base in the working class.

Industrial action would also have the support of the Socialist People's Party and the Left Socialist Party, which conducted a lively election campaign on housing and other working-class issues without winning any seats.

The Social Democrats, concerned with rebuilding their image in the hope of new elections soon, might even find themselves supporting militant working-class action to bring down the right-wing government.

## BRIEFING

THE tour of South East Asia by the Japanese Prime Minister, Tanaka, has met with violent demonstrations in Bangkok—where Thailand's new government, put into power by workers' and students' demonstrations only weeks ago, did not approve—and on a smaller scale in Malaysia.

But by far the most important, as well as the most bloody, demonstrations have been in Indonesia. All opposition to General Suharto's regime has been viciously repressed since the coup which brought it to power in 1965. Hundreds of thousands of Communist Party supporters were slaughtered, and there are still at least 50,000 political prisoners literally starving to death in jails and prison camps.

The anti-Tanaka riots in Jakarta, led by students, are the first serious outbreak of opposition to Suharto. Though the rioters' main actions were anti-Japanese, they also protested against rising prices and government corruption.

Troops shot eight demonstrators dead and occupied the university with bayonets drawn. There have been many arrests, and student-run radio stations have been closed down.

Tanaka's trip was aimed at getting agreements from South East Asian governments on the supply of raw materials to Japan. Malaysia and Indonesia are especially important as they produce oil.

The 'aid' given in return is in the form of Japanese loans and investment, which bring more profits to Japanese business and more exploitation to South East

Asian workers. The demonstrators in Jakarta and other places were protesting at their governments' complicity in this new wave of Japanese economic domination.

**FOREIGN 'guest workers' in West Germany are being hit hardest by the government's crisis measures. Of the 486,000 workers now unemployed, 50,000 are foreigners. A government delegation has recently visited Belgrade to discuss the consequences for Yugoslavia of so many migrant workers possibly returning home.**

Now the government is openly discussing a 'departure bonus', at £165-£200 a head. The Federal Labour Office predicts a fall in the number of foreign workers by 600,000 to two million in a few months. But there has also been an official warning 'against thinking in terms of the mass expulsion of foreign workers—just in case the racist implications of these proposals were not obvious enough already.'

IN PERU, General Velasco's military government has announced the nationalisation of the important Cerro de Pasco copper mines, controlled until now by a US company. No mention is made of compensation, but the company 'confidently expects' it will be paid.

Velasco's present policy of confrontation with the US includes a fishing dispute and denunciation of the Organisation

of American States. General Maldonado, who was sacked in 1970 as part of a deal with a big US copper firm, has been reinstated as Minister of Power and Development.

But the same military government launched a murderous attack on the miners at the Cerro de Pasco mines only two years ago, and has recently faced widespread opposition for its repressive actions against the teachers' union and large sections of the working class.

Just as the takeover of International Petroleum in 1968 gained popular support for the junta as soon as it came to power, Peru's rulers seem to hope that some fine anti-American gestures now will sugar the pill of repression.

**JOAQUIN MAURIN, general secretary of the POUM (Workers' Marxist Unity Party) at the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, died in New York last month.**

Maurin was one of the important group of militant trade union leaders who supported the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the Red International of Labour Unions founded in 1921. He became a leading member of the Spanish Communist Party, but broke with it in 1930, and defended Trotsky although Trotsky severely criticised his Workers' and Peasants' Bloc.

In 1935, with Andres Nin, Maurin founded the POUM. Its members played a central role in the seizure of local power by workers in many parts of Spain in the early weeks of the Civil War which began in July 1936. But in September 1936 the POUM entered the Popular Front republican government, which forced the workers to surrender their gains and ultimately murdered many revolutionaries, including Nin.

Maurin was arrested by Franco's forces in 1937 and spent the next 10 years in jail. He settled in the United States in 1947, and wrote several books on the Spanish Civil War and revolutionary politics.

Despite the POUM's wavering policies at a crucial stage for the chances of working-class revolution in Spain, Maurin must be honoured as one of the few genuine revolutionaries who survived the catastrophe.

## Strike bid to topple premier

ON THE West Indian island of Grenada the struggle to get rid of corrupt right-wing Premier Eric Gairy continues. A general strike of the island's workers, supported by all the trade unions, by shopkeepers, professional bodies and church organisations, has now lasted several weeks. Repeated demonstrations have attacked Gairy and his farcical 'independence' ceremonies due on 7 February.

Gairy's reaction has been to call for strike-breakers from other islands. He has had a £1000 penalty imposed on striking shopkeepers by the 15-member parliament, and has had the governor, Hilda Bynoe, dismissed because the strikes and demonstrations seemed to have made some impression on her.

But the workers of Grenada have received strong backing from other islands. Oil and dock workers in Trinidad and Barbados have blacked cargoes for Grenada, and oppose scabbing. Similar support has been promised by the trade unions in Venezuela, in case Gairy should turn there for help.

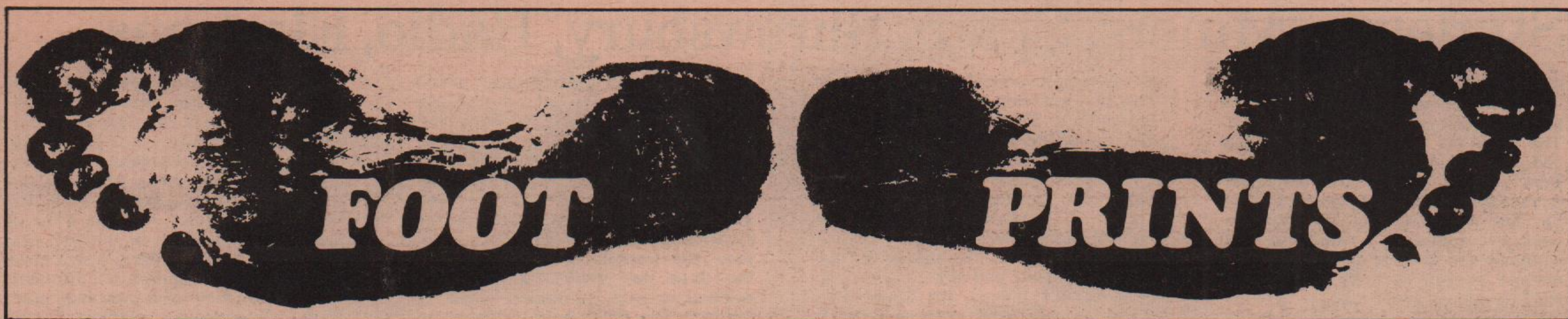
The crisis began in November with protests over police brutality against members of the radical New Jewel Movement. Strikers demanded the abolition of the secret police, and went on to fight to get rid of Gairy himself. Grenadian workers are determined that the 'independence' due next month shall not mean the handing over of full powers to a corrupt and brutal clique.

## A Revolutionary Socialist Manifesto

Written in a Polish prison

Written by Kuron & Modzelewski, two Polish marxists imprisoned for 'activities against the state', this book is a damning indictment of the 'Industrialised Czarism' of present day Poland. Available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, N4. Price 25p, 75 pages.





# Boardman of the boardroom

ONE of the fastest climbers up the government tree over the past two years has been Tom Boardman.

As Minister for Industry Boardman was put in charge of the oil crisis, and made such a mess of it that he has been transferred to the Treasury, where he is now Chief Secretary. He is not at all worried by the appointment, especially as the salary is exactly the same—£170 a week.

The pay, however, is chicken feed when compared with the enormous fortune Boardman piled up for himself as a solicitor in the East Midlands.

Among his many rich clients were the Phipps brothers, a gang of Northampton cobblers who inherited great riches from their father, C W Phipps, who died during the war. He divided his estate between his three sons and one daughter. It included 8000 shares in a textile business called Lester and Harris, with factories in Coventry, Nuneaton and Australia.

Tom Boardman was solicitor for the trustees of the estate, and teamed up with one of the brothers, Tom Phipps, in an attempt to raise the value of Lester and Harris shares.

## Studied

Using his position as solicitor for the estate, Boardman found out a lot of facts about Lester and Harris. He attended board meetings and studied documents about the company which he would never have been able to do if he hadn't been solicitor for the Phipps' family.

He and Tom Phipps then bought all the rest of the shares of Lester and Harris—about 21,000 of them, and Boardman became chairman of the company.

He then engaged in what has since become known as 'asset-stripping'. He sold the Australian factory for £88,000, and sold the factory at Coventry at an enormous profit.

Meanwhile, John Phipps, Tom's brother, was getting a little sick at watching them stuffing their pockets from shares which they had bought because of Boardman's position as solicitor for his family estate. So he sued Boardman for part of the profit on the shares.

The judge at the first court—Wilberforce—agreed that Boardman had got the money because of his position of trust as solicitor for the Phipps family, and ordered him to pay over part of the profits to the other brother. Boardman refused, and appealed to the Court of Appeal.

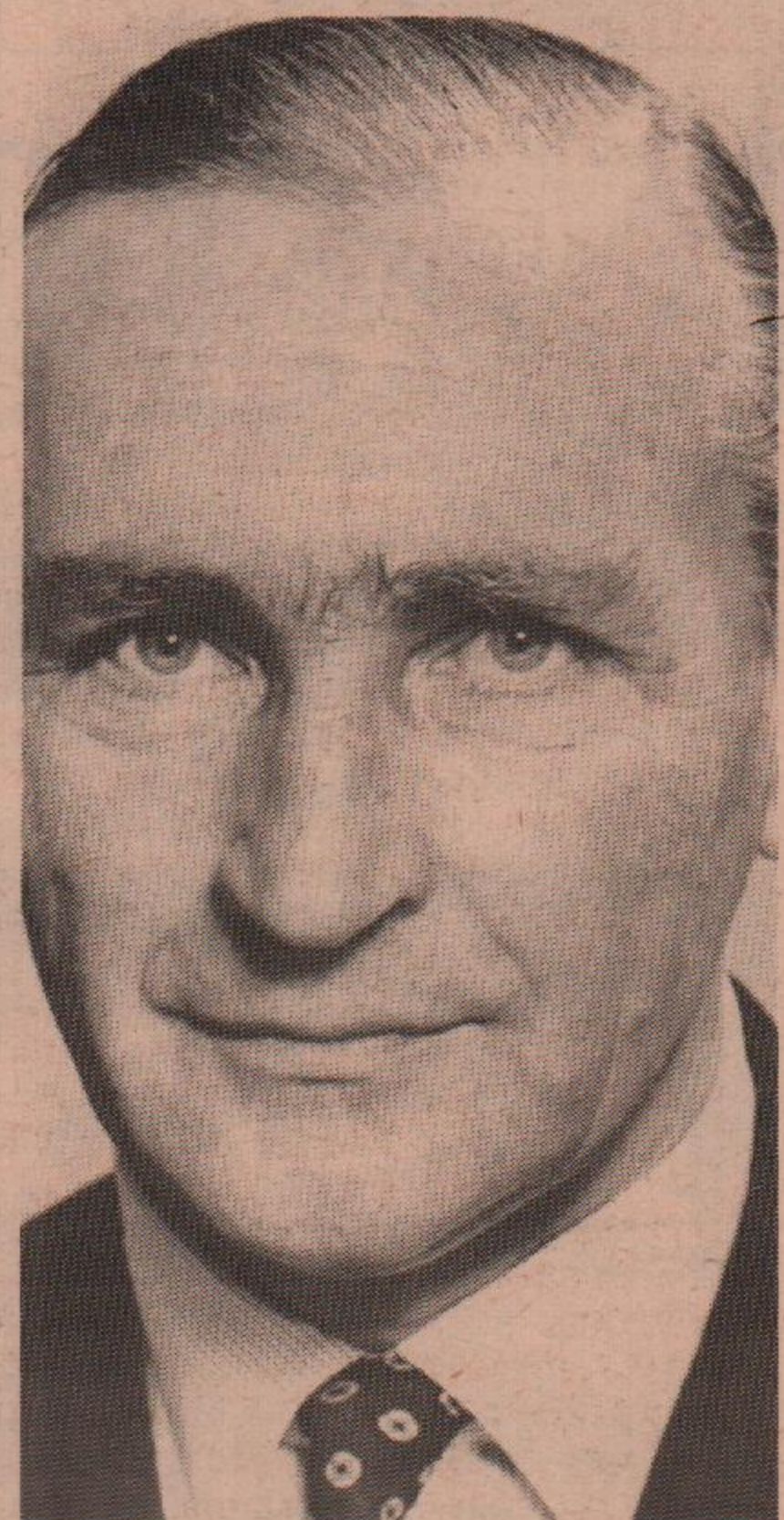
The Court of Appeal ordered him to hand over the money. Boardman refused, and appealed to the House of Lords.

Only when the House of Lords agreed with all the other judges, was Boardman forced to hand over a third of the profits.

His diligence in hanging on to cash,

even when he is not entitled to do so, commended Tom Boardman to his class. Soon after the Phipps episode was over, Boardman was elected for the Tories in a Leicester by-election, and soon after that became financial director of Allied Breweries. Once in parliament, he proved himself such a loyal defender of business interests that he became chairman of the parliamentary panel of the Institute of Directors.

It is impossible to find out whether he was better paid in that position than he is now, but, either way, I can report that Tom Boardman is extremely comfortable.



TOM BOARDMAN: Asset-stripper

## Messing about in yachts (at £5m)

DEEP in the gloom of the crisis, the Duke of Devonshire and his son the Marquess of Hartington are planning to build a 'pleasure port' on the Sussex coast near Eastbourne. It will cost £50 million—rather more than the government's offer for wage increases for 250,000 miners.

The Duke, a Tory Minister when his cousin, Harold Macmillan, was Prime Minister, has been scouting around the pleasure spots of the French Riviera for ideas for his new pleasuredome. Plans are based on the harbours at fun-loving Port Grimaud and St Tropez.

The 'marina' will cover 400 acres of coastline near Pevensey, and will include luxury hotels, luxury shops and luxury flats for yachtsmen from all over the world. Up to 200 rich men and women will be able to enjoy themselves there at any one time, and there are 400 berths for yachts.

The Duke of Devonshire owns half Derbyshire, a large portion of Yorkshire, most of County Limerick in Ireland, and 40,000 acres in Sussex adjoining his planned new marina. He also seems to own most of Eastbourne Borough Council which has conceded outline planning permission for the Duke's monstrosity almost before discussing it.

## Incensed

The Duke's family, the Cavendishes, are the richest and politically the most powerful in the British aristocracy. The first famous Cavendish became Chief Justice in 1366. When the peasants' insurrection broke out in 1381 he was dragged into the market place at Bury and his head was cut off.

Even Burke's Peerage admits grudgingly that 'the people were incensed in a more than ordinary degree against the Chief Justice Cavendish.'

Anyway, Sir John Cavendish, the Chief Justice's son, got his revenge by personally killing Wat Tyler, one of the rebel leaders.

For this noble deed he got £40 a year from the King, and the family have never looked back. They became the largest and most hated landowners in Britain, always keeping two or three sons or cousins in the House of Lords and the Tory Party.

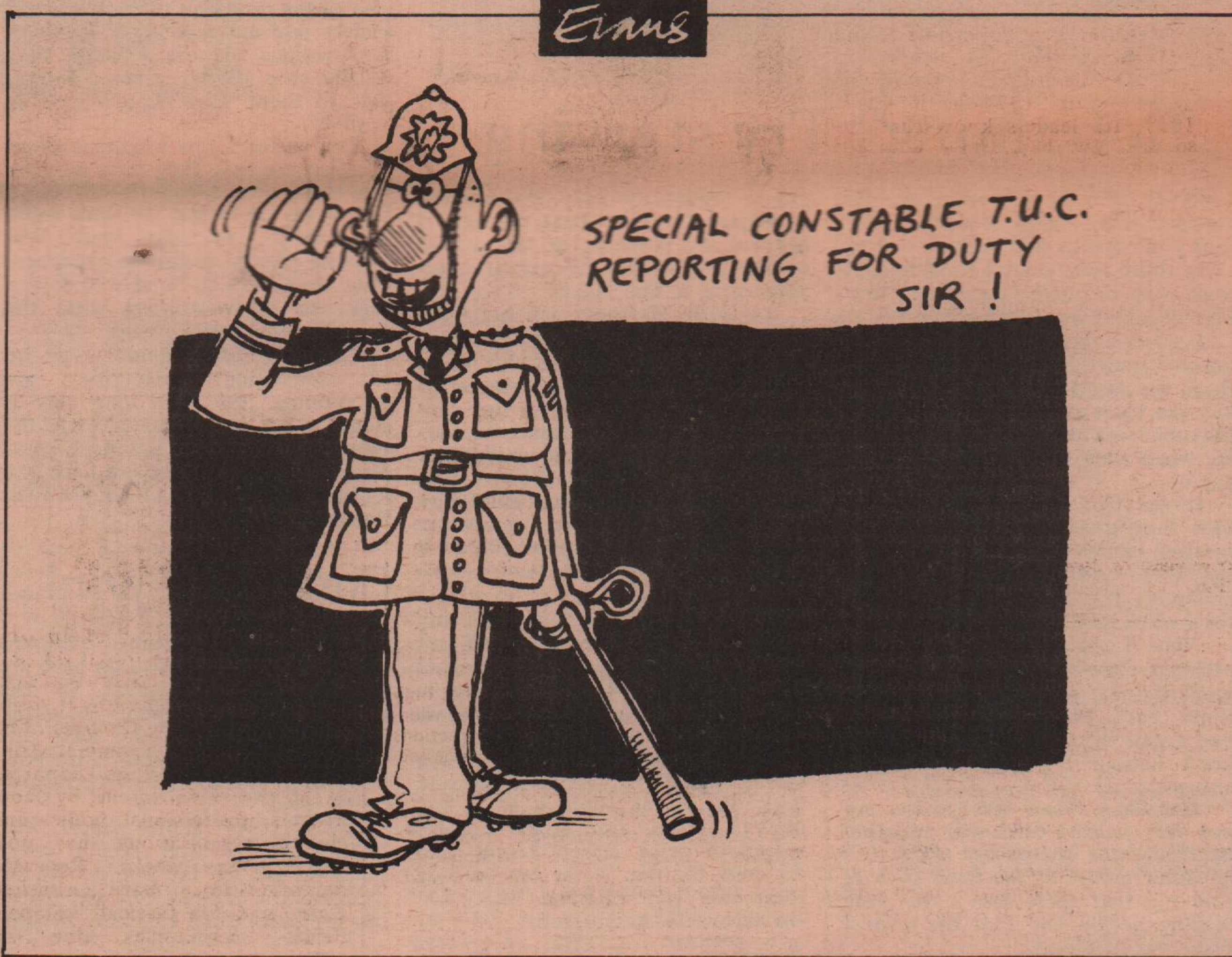
What more fitting exercise in the 1970s for the Duke and the Marquess than to plan, in Britain's hour of crisis, a £50 million pleasure nest for Tory yachtsmen?



I AM SORRY to hear of the resignation, due to ill health, of Councillor R K Jones from the chairmanship of Bootle Planning and Estates Committee and from the chairmanship of the Bootle Labour Party. Last month, when Councillor Jones could not attend a Labour Party meeting, the chairman of the council announced that Councillor Jones had been ill ever since he had read an article in the Socialist Worker.

I also hope that further distress to Mr Jones is not caused by the collapse of Bootle Council's ambitious scheme to pay Wimpeys and Unit Construction to build houses on council land. The contract—for 200 houses in East Sefton which would have cost the council £3 million, is rumoured to have floundered when councillors discovered that the rent of the new houses would average £17 a week.

I very much hope that the article has not been responsible for the further ill health which has caused Mr Jones to resign from all those positions, especially as the only point of substance in the article was that Mr Jones worked for Wimpeys.



## IS YOUR JOB KILLING YOU?

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Patrick Kinnersley

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'Gardening is Carrington's passion—landscape rather than weeding—and hostesses consider him and his wife, the daughter of an air pioneer, a catch. "They're such delightful, jolly people to have around," said one. "And another thing, they're marvellous with the servants."

Sunday Times Profile of Lord Carrington, Chairman of the Tory Party.

again," he said. "We're out of touch with people, and I've always believed that a good copper should get out and beat the folk in his area."

From the Daily Mirror, 10 January.





# Students, Miners, Spain, Shrewsbury, Radio, Elections...

**WE SHOULD BE SO LUCKY . . .** Anne Margerrison's letter on student grants is most misleading (12 January). The £485 we receive is means-tested and those of us who don't get it often have trouble getting the remainder from parents who can't or won't pay up. The National Union of Students campaign intends to eliminate this anomaly and also the situation where married women students take a huge cut in their grant . . . BRAIN WILLIAMS, St David's University College, Lampeter . . . I receive £54 from the local authority, plus an im-

posed parental contribution. The Social Security maintain that this covers 52 a year not 33 as maintained by the Department of Education and Science. After working for two years, so 'gaining the necessary experience outside education' talked about by Anne I started at 21 at college. The parental contribution now expected of my parents is a gross injustice. At 18 one is 'independent' and able to vote. The fight of the miners, the Shrewsbury Three etc are more pressing but our fight matters. To give the impression that our demands are selfish indul-

gences to the very people from whom we need support is unforgivable. We trust in your support, we hope you trust in ours.-PETER JACKSON, Furzedown College, London SW17 . . . Most parents aren't happy to have their children living at home for three months without paying. On top of the contribution to their children's grant they are now likely to be hit by the three day week and are in no position to have a penniless lodger . . . Students like OAPs have a right to an income on which they can reasonably live. They have a duty to oppose

governments whose policy is to ensure only an elite can attend colleges.-SIMON TURNER, International Socialist Student Organiser . . . If your daddy lives in the stockbrokers belt then you may be well off as a student, but many find themselves in a far less fortunate position . . . I can think of few low paid workers or students who find living on the poverty line a novel or challenging situation . . . Students often find they gain nothing, apart from 'experience', exploited by employers at cut rates . . . For married students with children even these enticing employment prospects are unobtainable.-HAZEL MANDRELL, Birmingham.

# Coal: alibi for the government

I'M AN ENGINEER working for GEC Turbine Generators, and I have found out that power stations using our machines aren't working at available capacity.

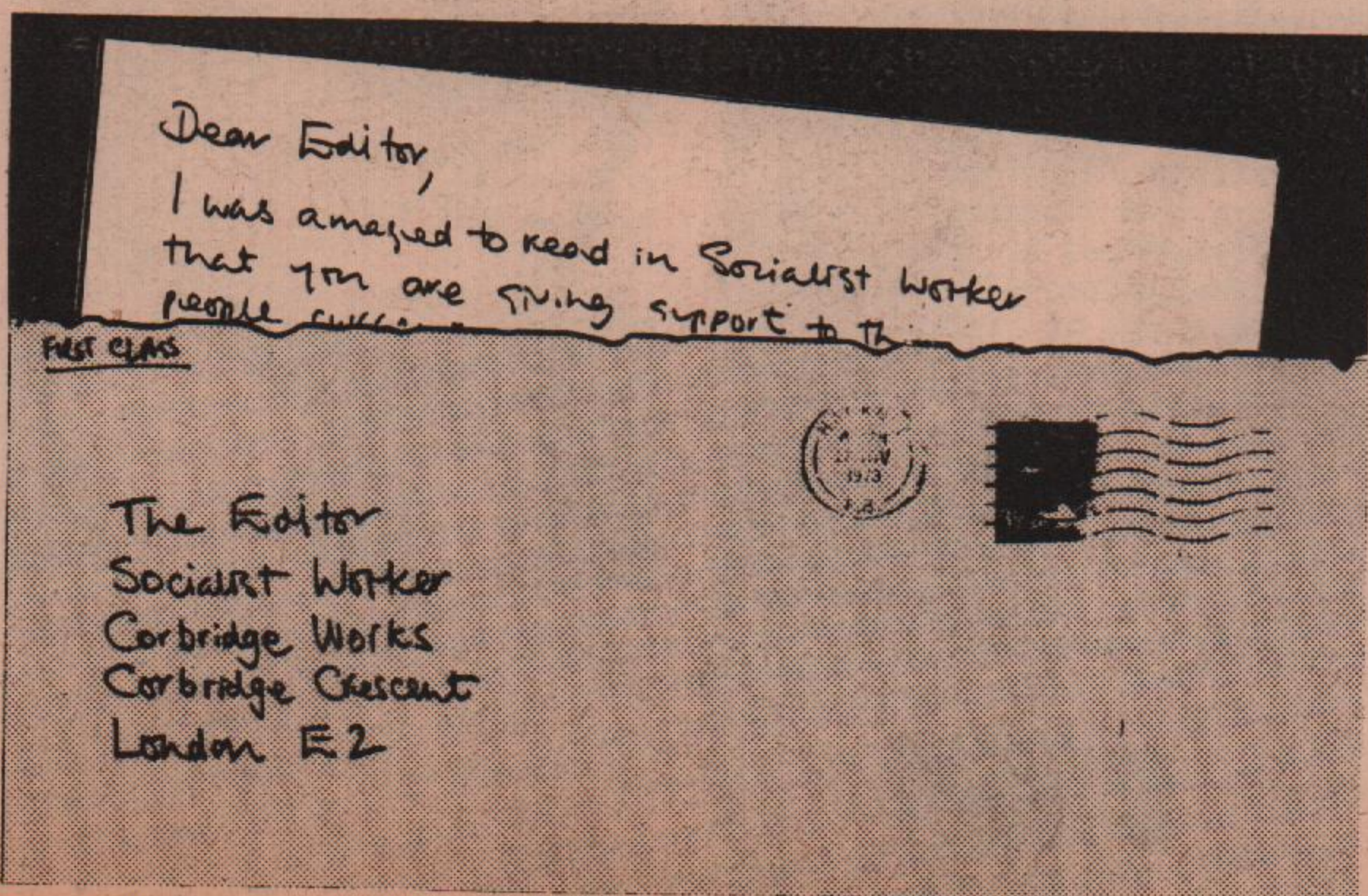
This information has come straight from the horse's mouth—from engineers who operate the stations for the electricity board.

These same men who have just won their pay claim in full, are being told to cut down the power loading on the turbines even though the coal stocks outside in the yards are much higher than a year ago.

These stations in the North Midlands are some of the largest electricity producers in the country (up to 2000 megawatts per station) and if they are operating below par it is odds on that it is national policy.

This action together with the clamp-down on industry shows the political manoeuvring the government is going through to put the blame on workers instead of themselves and their capitalist system. A system which is heading for a major economic crisis without the coal and oil problems.

We're going to go on getting this treatment until we get rid of this system.-D LEWIN, Rugby.



## Retraining? Try starving

I HAVE NOW been working for 12 months, after being off work for four years due to coal dust.

In those four years I tried to find some way to qualify for some other kind of job—I was a boilerman.

I tried a correspondence course on electronics but on the allowance from the Social Security I couldn't buy the tools and the equipment. All the time I was having trouble with the SS when they couldn't or wouldn't pay up.

It was like 1001 Nights the reasons they gave. Most of the time I received about £13 to keep myself, the wife, and four and then five children. The money rose to £18 for a while then back to £13.

While I was watching TV in the evenings I saw the adverts for government training schemes, two or three times each evening. I decided to pay a visit to my friendly neighbourhood Labour Exchange (a rose by any other name?).

The chap I saw was young and not very helpful (and will probably never suffer a hernia) but along with an older model of the same type he told me that there was a two year waiting period and that the nearest place was Liverpool.

'Anyway you'd have to learn to drive' he said. Thus brushing me out of the running.

As there was a two year period to wait, it seems a shocking waste of

public money to have the scheme advertised on TV. There are only a handful of schemes in the whole country. It's like the corner shop advertising in The Times.

As with all these schemes, the dole, sick pay, supplementary benefits etc they are still only token efforts, done on a shoe string after 20 years of existence.

The clothing allowance is Victorian. I was paid £8 to cover four years, for six people. When I was asked how they arrived at the figure the man said, 'We have a good idea of what things cost.' I wondered if he'd come on a horse or a sedan chair!

At no time was I told of my rights and these people could see we were at the limit. Our clothes were worn out, the carpet was in holes and the settee was propped up on two bricks!

Once I had to walk from Osbaldtwistle to Accrington and back in carpet slippers as I had neither money nor shoes. I don't smoke or drink either. People who do must be even worse off on long term sick pay:-FRANK BEAVAN, Osbaldtwistle, Accrington.

## Socialism, what does it mean?

THE article by Chris Harman A Way Out of the Mess (12 January) began to touch on the most exciting part of our politics and arguably the most important. What do we expect socialist society to be like? Basically, what Harman says is—here is a problem and here are a couple of ways to change it.

Many socialists have a very clear idea of the problems that exist in our society and are capable of analysing the various factors. Where they usually stop short is when a worker says to them 'How would you run it, then?'

Except for a few bromides about workers' control, they have no clear view about how it would be different. Yet, if we are to put the skids under this system, we must show how socialist society would be organised, what we expect to be able to do and begin to show workers what the word *freedom* really means.

Thousands of workers, in a period of increasing insecurity, are questioning just how long this is going to go on. Please give us the arguments to show in practical everyday terms what we expect from the socialist revolution.—ALAN WATTS, Harringey.

## Come and join!

WE DON'T have enough militants and not all the ones we do have are good enough politically. So the message is, if we want socialism, and it could be in the next few years, we have to create more militants and educate ourselves in how to get them.

We sell over 30,000 papers, why haven't we got over 30,000 members? So get up and join us! We are a democratic organisation, and that is our strength:-MIKE PEARCE, Bristol.

# Tanks for the memory...

THE RECENT EXERCISE at Heathrow Airport featuring the Army, is sinister, and wasn't quickly planned yesterday.

Cast your minds back to 1971 and the activities of a certain Major-General Kitson in Ulster. At that time he made a semi-public statement saying that the Army and other forces would be ready to take on the workers in this country within two years. Well the time is just about up.

We have a situation where we have large-scale co-operation between the police and military intelligence. Selected police officers go through counter-insurgency and 'agent-provocateur' training.

Police forces have received supplies of CS gas and rubber bullets. They have orders with GKN-Sankey for special armoured cars equipped to deal with street rioting. Somebody should tell the workers at GKN that they aren't for use in Northern Ireland.

One sinister aspect of the Heathrow operation was the questioning of trade union activists at the airport and the fact that Kitson put forward a plan to extend the exercise to cover the docks, railways and mines.

This plan was turned down by the government. Why? Could it be the prospect of a general election in February and the fact that troops in the streets are not the greatest of vote catchers? If the Tories do win the general election you can be sure that Kitson will get the go-ahead.

And you don't just have to worry about the Tories. The Labour Party is quite capable of doing their bit . . . -SEAN HALPENNY, Ipswich.

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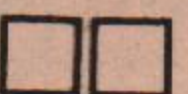
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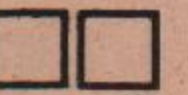


THANKS . . . Congratulations on your front page article Socialist Worker 19 January which has just dropped through the letter box. It is straight to the point with no half measures, well done, I agreed with every word.-JIM TANNER, Honorary Secretary, Wycombe Trades Union Council.

BAD DAY AT THE TV STUDIO? . . . How many of the wives of TV pundits and members of the government who attack the miners pace the floor when their husbands are half an hour late from work? Two hours and a set of fingernails later my husband comes in after doing a bit of overtime to stretch the family budget. This torment is the lot of the miner's wife. And for what? A few extra bob on Friday! Cough up and put the miners' wives out of their misery. JILL HALL, Mansfield, Notts.



HELLO? WHAT? SPEAK UP! . . . A new platform is open to us, particularly in the London area the local radio phone in shows. I urge all readers to listen to the shows (in London BBC Radio London, Capital Radio and London Broadcasting) when not taken up with more important tasks and to phone in.-K J NICHERSTON, London N7.



KEEP AWAY FROM THE REIGN IN SPAIN . . . After the savage jail sentences meted out to 10 Spanish trade unionists can I urge fellow readers to cancel any holiday they might have booked in Franco's Friendly Fun Palace? . . .

The Spanish Ten naturally leads me on to the Shrewsbury Three. You have properly supported them and called for industrial action to show solidarity with them, but I saw no mention in Socialist Worker 5 January's issue of solidarity marches being organised. It's virtually the only way that I can make a personal contribution, as there's no chance of my being able to do much on the industrial front. Surely marches through all our big cities would get the cause considerable publicity? I'm thinking more of local radio, TV and paper coverage than national coverage. But if it's the latter we want couldn't we organise something on a grand scale in London soon (and it would have to be pretty soon while the Three are still in the public eye with their appeals for bail)?-STEWART PERKINS, Salop.

There have been marches, see the paper for 12, 19 January . . .

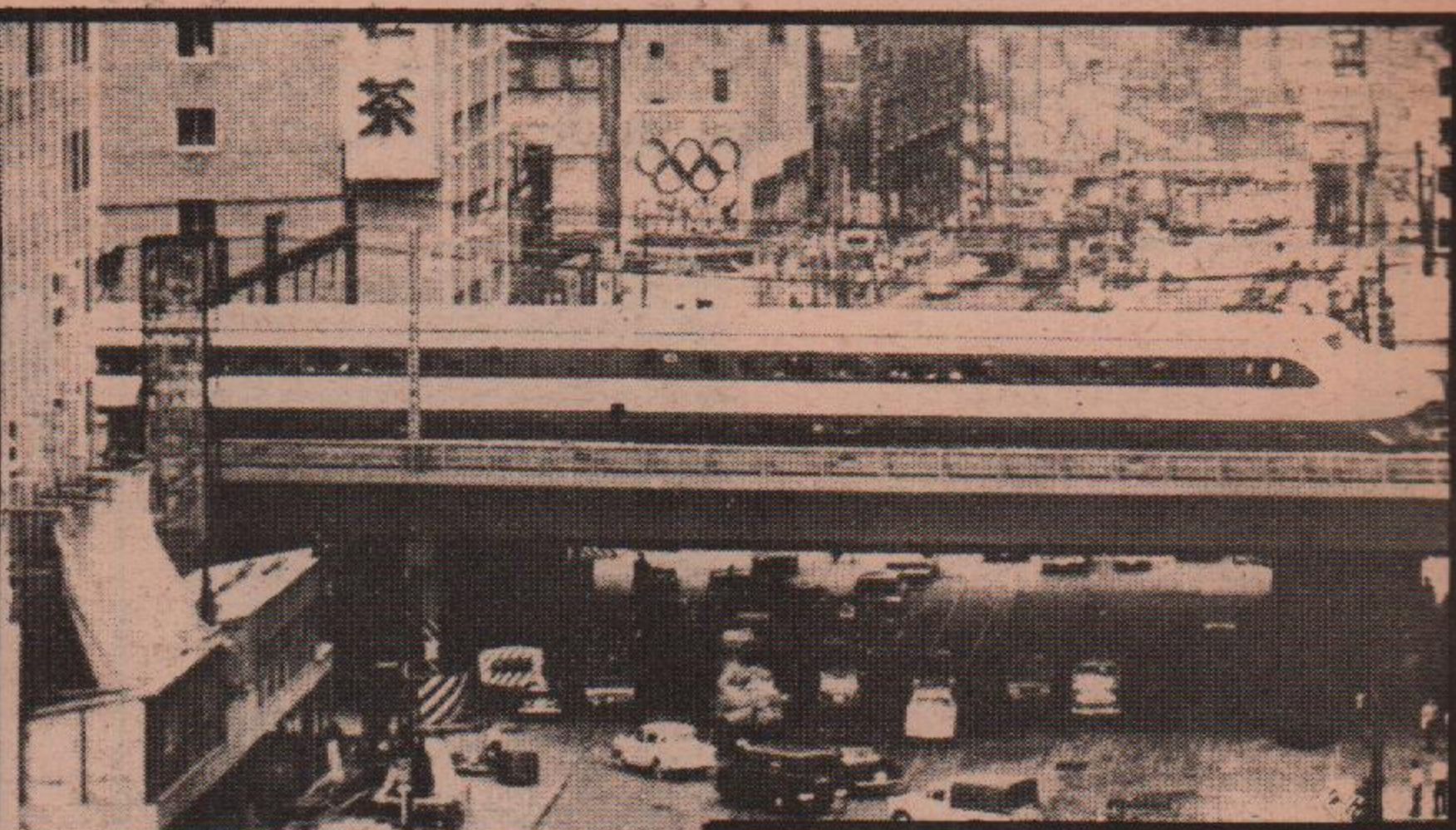
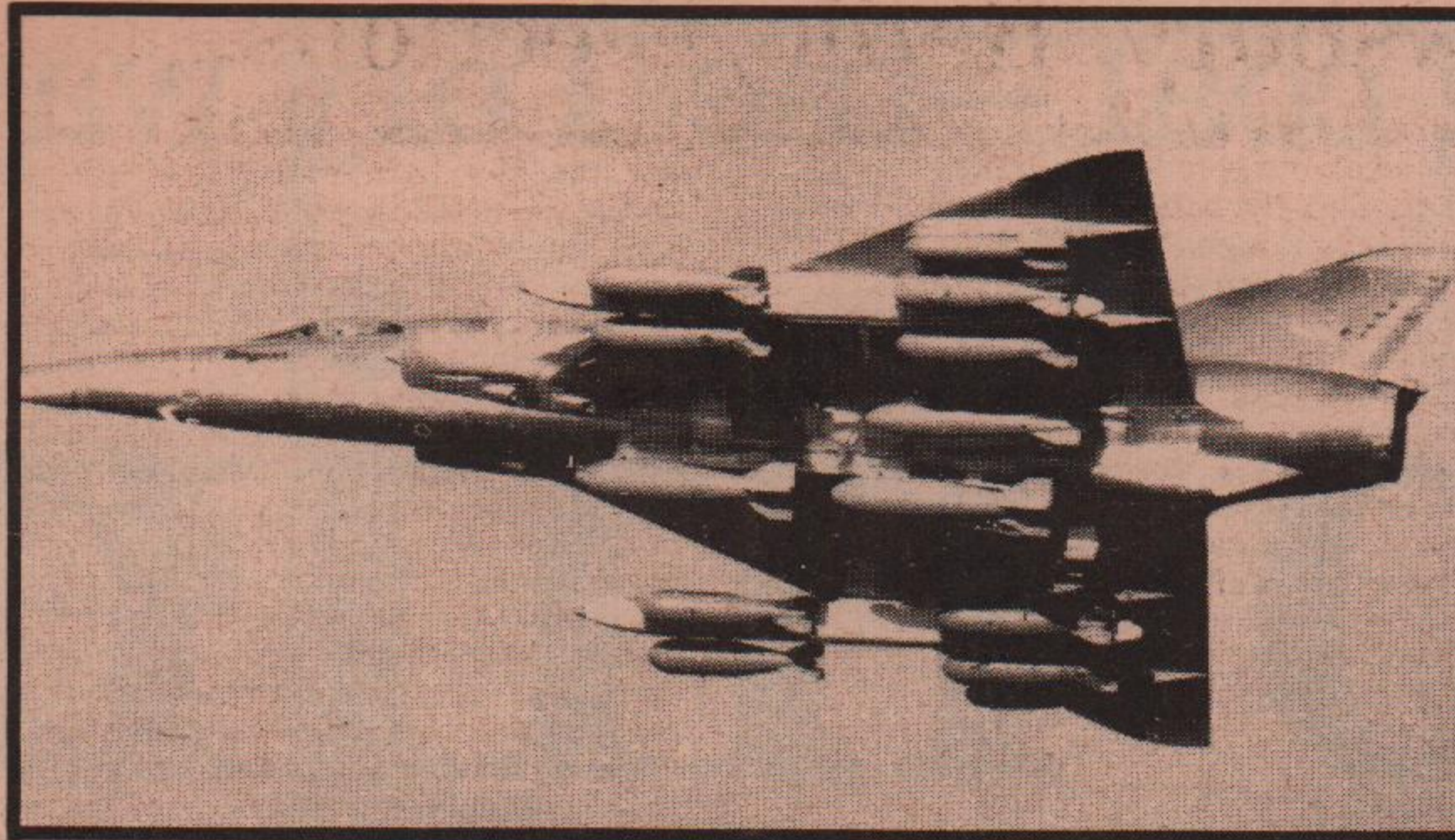


COSTLY LESSONS . . . Lord Carrington, Chairman of the Tory Party says the miners' pay claim would result in them being 'swept away in a flood of inflationary wage claims' ending hysterically by saying that to give way 'would increase militancy and abuse of power, we have to prove once and for all that extremism doesn't pay' . . . If the Tories call extremism a man's right to work and eat then they will make us all extremists. The abuse of power is a sad and costly experience we've got from Lord Carrington and his Tory teachers.-THOMAS H MORRIS, Sunderland.



TIME TO RUN? . . . The time is ripe for workers to inflict crippling blows upon the degraded rulers of this nation. Your excellent paper now has a very wide circulation and I really think that if the International Socialists put up candidates for election it would be of immense propaganda value. The massive display of force around Heathrow Airport is merely the preliminary to more oppression of the workers, not against a few Arabs. The capitalists have at last a real fear of workers control.-F HACKETT, Hull.





# The big crack-up ahead

SOCIALIST WORKER said two weeks ago: 'The real economic crisis will hit us in the summer or the autumn.' What sort of crisis and why?

It will be a world-wide recession, with sharply rising unemployment, deeper than any recession for more than 30 years, certainly deeper than the 1970-71 recession which produced a million unemployed in Britain.

This has been clear for some time. Last June, long before the war in the Middle East and the oil price revolution, it was predicted in International Socialism journal:

'Whether in 1975, or earlier or later, a new and more severe recession is inevitable. The re-emergence of the international trade cycle as a major factor . . . is one of the most important changes in world capitalism since the permanent boom years of the 1950s and early 1960s.'

The effect of the cutback in oil production and the massive increases in oil prices will be to bring the recession earlier than would have happened otherwise.

## Massive

But the energy problem is not the cause of the recession. Its cause is the built-in instability of the capitalist system.

All right, but you haven't explained why the system is becoming suddenly unstable. After all, we have had many years of slump-free capitalism. Why should it change now?

Because what kept slumps away for so long was massive arms spending. Robert MacNamara, president of the World Bank, said in 1966 that the 'world war industry accounts for approximately a tenth of the output of the world's economy . . . The USA, as the world's richest nation, not only accounts for the largest share of this expense but also has devoted a higher proportion [of its output] to its military establishment than any other free nation.

'This was even before our increased expenditures in South East Asia,' he

## Your queries answered on the crisis

said.

This 'permanent arms economy' no longer has the same slump-killing effect it used to have. As well as being a major factor producing inflation, as I will explain in a moment, arms spending has not grown as fast as output. Its stabilising effect has shrunk.

**Well if that is the case the capitalist governments have an easy way out. All they have to do, on your argument, is increase arms spending and there will be no recession.**

They have no easy way out. To see why, we need to look more closely at the effects of arms spending.

In the words of a US government report: 'Heavy defence expenditure has provided additional protection against depressions, since this sector is not responsive to contraction in the private sector and provides a sort of buffer or fly-wheel in the economy.'

But this has to be paid for. Real resources, men and materials, go into arms production, but by and large the products are not sold. Arms spending has to be paid for by taxing the profitable sectors of the economy.

Armament production is both a buffer and a burden. This would not matter too much if the burden was equally shared by the various capitalist countries. It is not and never has been.

The USA, Britain and France, for example, have carried much more of the burden than West Germany or Japan. Result: the German and Japanese economies have grown much faster.

They had the benefits of the long boom, the absence of the usual boom-slump cycle, without having to pay the price. They got a bigger and bigger share of the world market at

the expense of the heavy arms spenders.

One striking fact will illustrate this. In 1940 Japanese steel production was only seven million tons a year. US steel production capacity was 60 million tons a year. British capacity was 18 million tons.

Now Japan is the world's third largest steel producer and is breathing down the necks of the leaders, the USA and the USSR. Britain has been left far behind.

The US share of world trade has gone down and down. To deal with this problem the rulers of the USA—and Britain and others—have cut back their arms spending relative to their total output. The spending is still massive but is proportionately less.

So the built-in stabiliser of arms spending has got much weaker.

America did something else too. It exported inflation by running, for many years, a huge deficit on its balance of payments. This was the underlying cause of the real 'take-off' of inflation in the early 1970s.

I can see that the Japanese and German capitalists benefitted by exploiting a world boom without having to tax themselves for big arms spending, but why should this lead to world-wide inflation? Nothing you have said so far really explains why inflation is now so rapid. And in any case why does massive inflation lead to a slump?

## Deficit

You and I cannot 'print our own money'. Governments can and do. Inside each capitalist country the government can make as much money as it wants, by printing and by other means such as bank credits. But internationally it can only get away with this as long as capitalists overseas will accept this paper at its face value.

For a long time big business outside the USA was willing to accept paper dollars in exchange for real goods. That is what the American payments deficit meant. Big business did so because, behind the paper, it saw the enormous capacity of US industry.

But increasing the supply of paper money and credit faster than the supply of goods must mean that the money buys less—prices rise.

Inflation spread through the whole



Weapons of war (top left)—no longer a key prop of modern capitalism despite enormous costs admitted by World Banker MacNamara. Japan (top right)—fast-growing economy without massive arms spending. Left: Vietnam: the ultimate obscenity of the arms glut.

forced into cuts in public spending, incomes policies, high interest rates and other anti-inflation measures that are ending the boom of 1972-3 and laying the basis for recession.

The recession is coming because, although each government wants to avoid it, it is taking steps that make it inevitable. As long as the boom lasts inflation accelerates. To check inflation the boom must be strangled. That is what is happening today.

Are you saying that we are going back to the 1930s, the years of massive, permanent unemployment? In any case what is the solution?

## Action

The recession of 1974 will not be as severe as the slump of 1929-34. At that time total output fell drastically—in the USA by one third. The level of state spending is still too high, even after cuts, to allow this in 1974-75. The 'permanent arms economy' is still with us, even though it is much less effective than it used to be.

But the effect will be savage enough. Working people face a serious cut in living standards. Unemployment will reach post-war record figures.

There is no long-term solution under capitalism. Government, whether Tory or Labour, will act to defend profits at the expense of wages.

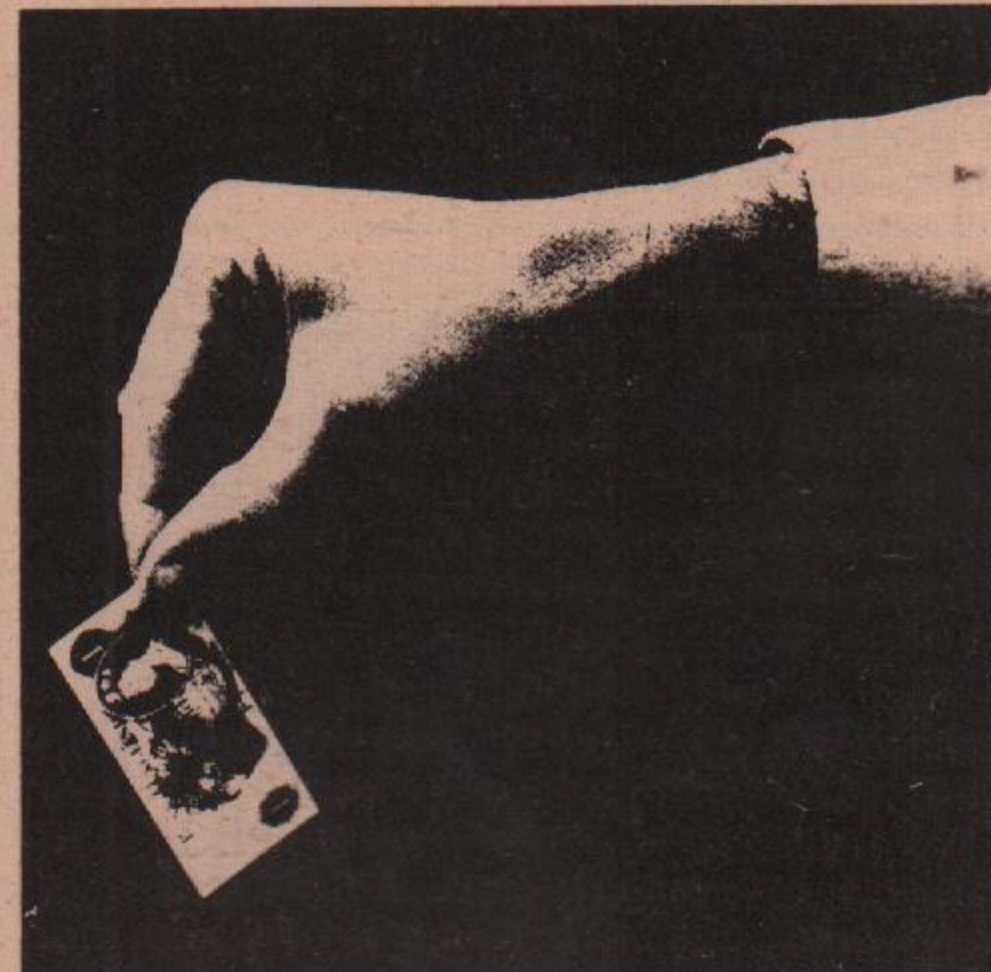
In the short run the defence of living standards by militant trade union action can cushion the effects of the recession. In the long run only the socialist reconstruction of society can do away with inflation and unemployment.

The two things go hand in hand. To create the basis for a mass socialist movement we must be in the forefront of the immediate struggles to defend pay and conditions.

To succeed in these struggles we must lead the movement beyond them, to the overthrow of the capitalist system.

## What's happening to your wages?

A Socialist Worker pamphlet 3p



Here's a vital pamphlet for ALL readers of Socialist Worker—a pamphlet to read, re-read and keep handy every time there is a new 'money crisis'. It is required reading for every worker and housewife who wonders why their money is being eaten away.

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by DUNCAN HALLAS



# Pamphlets from

Saving coal —the Tory way.

# Top min

# faces axe

On-the-spot report by Jim Higgins

A DERBYSHIRE MINE is threatened with closure—at a time when the Tories tell us there is a dangerous shortage of coal.

Yet at the threatened Glapwell Colliery there are seven million tons of coal ready to be mined. 700 men work at the pit—and many of them came to Glapwell after four and five earlier transfers due to the Coal Board's shortsighted closures policy.

In the past Glapwell has been a very profitable pit. When Dick Brunt, Glapwell NUM Lodge secretary, first went to the pit in 1947 there were 2000 miners working there. At no time, including the present, have they had any difficulty selling their coal. Dick says: 'We have always sold our coal. We never had any stocks at the pithead.'

It is the NUM's mining engineer who estimates there are seven million tons of coal in the ground at Glapwell. The figure is not contested by the NCB.

Why then does the Coal Board want to close the pit? Its answers are many and complicated but two main themes come out clearly:

Glapwell, it says, is uneconomic as a unit, its coal of poor quality. Secondly the Derbyshire coalfield is 700 men short overall, a shortage that could almost be eliminated if the Glapwell miners were dispersed to undermanned pits.

I put these questions to Peter Heathfield, general secretary of the Derbyshire NUM and a member of the union's national executive. He said: 'I am not interested in the economics of one pit. The black shale seam at Glapwell will produce good coal, particularly if it is "sweetened" with other coals.'

He went on: 'The overall loss for Derbyshire is in excess of £6 million according to the NCB. That does not mean that they can close down the whole coalfield. Glapwell is one pit and its costs have to be seen in relation to coal production as a whole and the need for all the fuel we can get.'

## Strike

I asked Peter Heathfield if he thought that action to defend Glapwell might not hasten its closure. His reply shows the new spirit that miners have gained since the successful strike in 1972: 'They shut the pits if we keep quiet and work regularly. It is about time that we fought back.'

The Derbyshire union executive has discussed Glapwell on five separate occasions and has decided that if the NCB closes the pit the entire area will strike.

Miners at Glapwell are particularly incensed at the tactics adopted by the NCB to force the closure by a process of wearing them down.

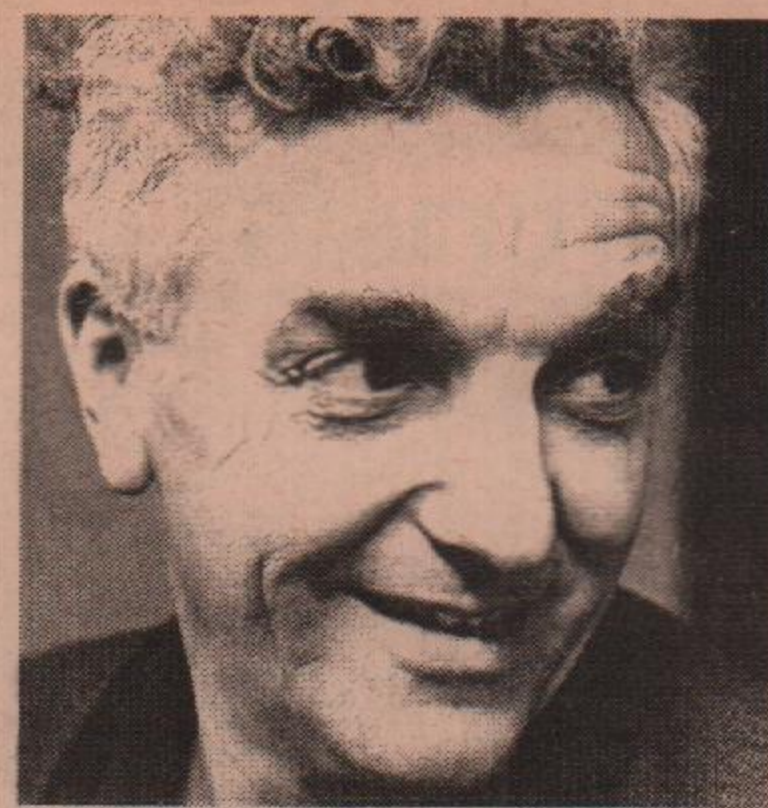
Bob Pond, Glapwell delegate to the area council, explained the technique. A black shale face had been fully developed with the necessary equipment—props, roof supports, signalling equipment—ready on the surface.

On the excuse that the equipment was urgently required elsewhere, the face has not been worked. The 79 men who should have worked this seam were downgraded, without consultation, and put on salvage work.

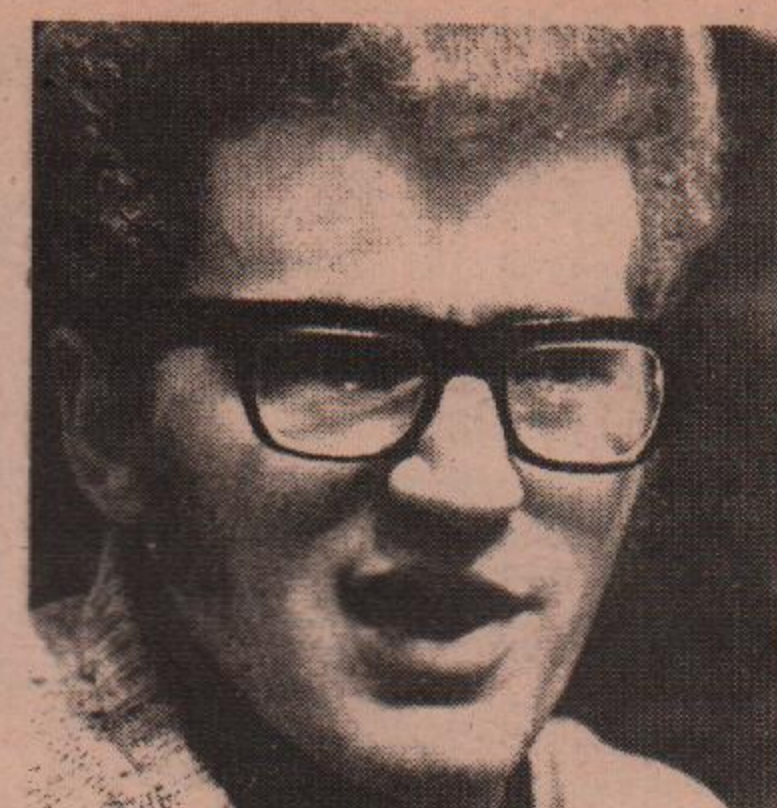
This reduced their pay by £5 to £6 a week. 39 surface men were declared redundant.

At Fifty Stall in another section of the pit, the Deep Hard, the teams met a 'displacement fault'. The NCB claimed it was four feet thick and not worth continuing with the face.

It proved to be only 17 inches thick and, when cleared, gave access to good workable coal. When a similar displacement fault was encountered elsewhere the NCB told the men to stop as they required the props and chocks for



Brunt: resentment



Pond: incensed



Carter: ...

other work.

In another part of the pit, the Low Main Fives, five days' work on an obstruction would have enabled them to get at good coal, but the work was stopped. The men were certain that they could get to workable coal and the management's decision further convinced them that the NCB was trying to kill the pit.

Glapwell is being starved of parts for machinery, of pit props and roof supports and other vital

items that make it possible to mine coal.

As a result of this underhanded strategy, the management has reduced the workforce by 270 men since May 1973. Those who are left are determined not to fall in with the NCB's plans.

Bob Pond says: 'The majority of men are adamant that if the attitude of the management does not change towards the men, if Glapwell closes then we will get the hell out of it—even if that

means joining the losing redundancy

One of the pits most short of men where many Glapwell men work is Markham colliery.

In July 14 men in the terrible pit a direct result of 214 Markham industry altogether A £7 million

# Legacy of n

—closure  
and  
declining  
wages

THE IMMEDIATE FUEL PROBLEM in Britain spotlights the thoughtlessness of the NCB's so-called 'planners'. The only fuel Britain has in full supply is coal—the country literally stands on a raft of fuel.

But 20 years of rationalisation, pit closure and redundancy have given management a death wish.

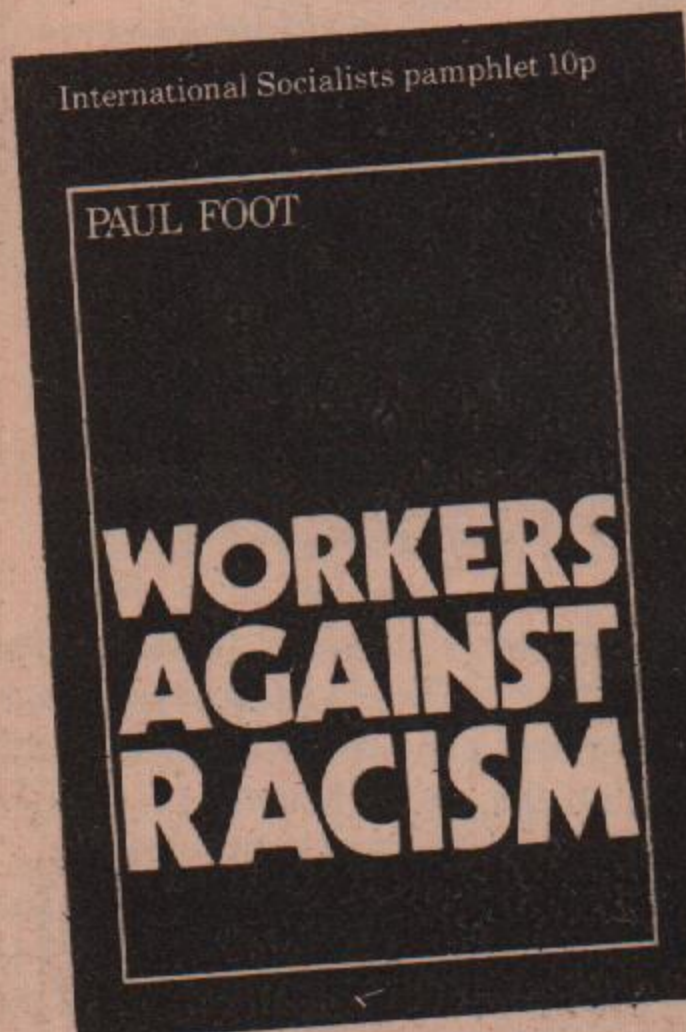
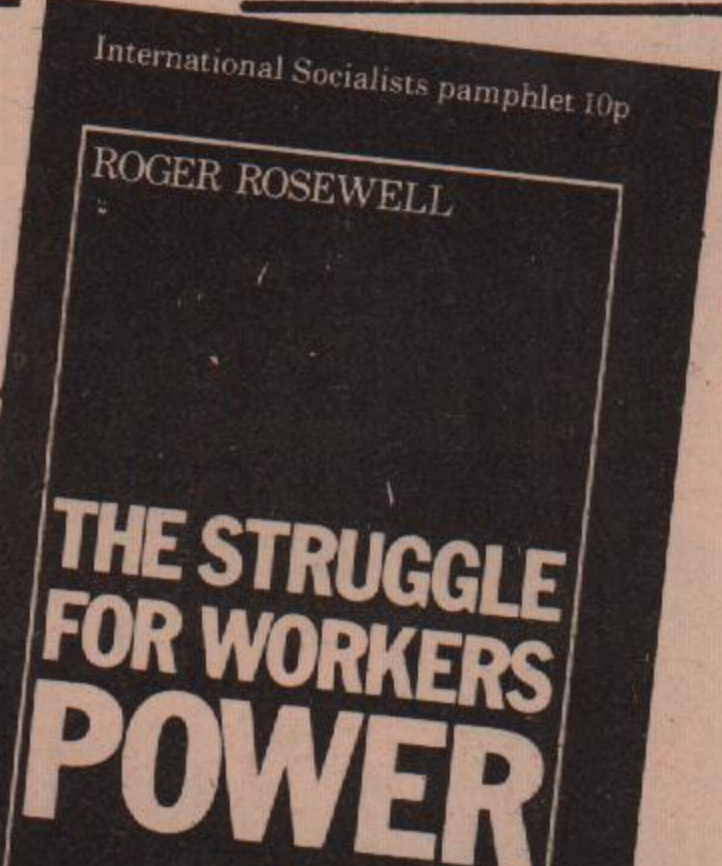
For the rank and file miners, loyalty to nationalisation and the Labour government that put through the 1947 legislation meant that the bargaining advantages they had in post-war Britain were lost. Cheap oil, in apparently limitless and unending quantity, was to replace coal.

For 15 years the miners were left to regret their

moderation as wages slipped earnings table.

Closure for separate economic compared to fight back went of the NUM is

Will Payne Communist, jobs, earning moderation were less im The Com



Roger Rosewell's THE STRUGGLE FOR WORKERS' POWER is an outline of the policies of the International Socialists, the development and nature of modern capitalism—and the urgent need for a workers' party to overthrow it.

Paul Foot's WORKERS AGAINST RACISM examines and demolishes all the racists' arguments. Today, when socialists need to be ever more prepared to combat the increasing racism that is riding on the Tories' tide of laws against immigrants, it is essential reading for every socialist militant.

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.

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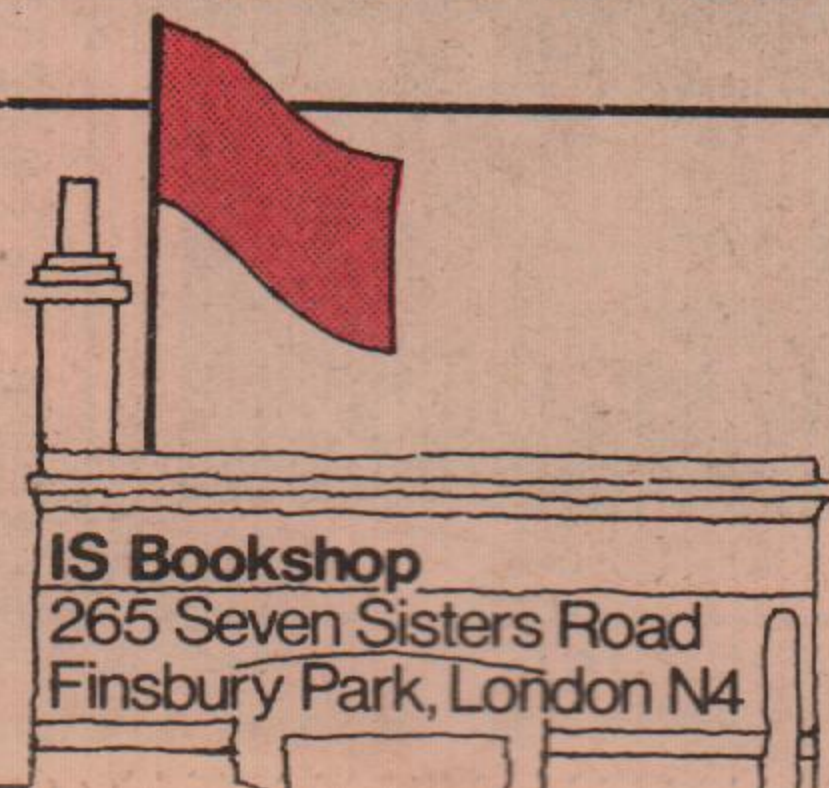


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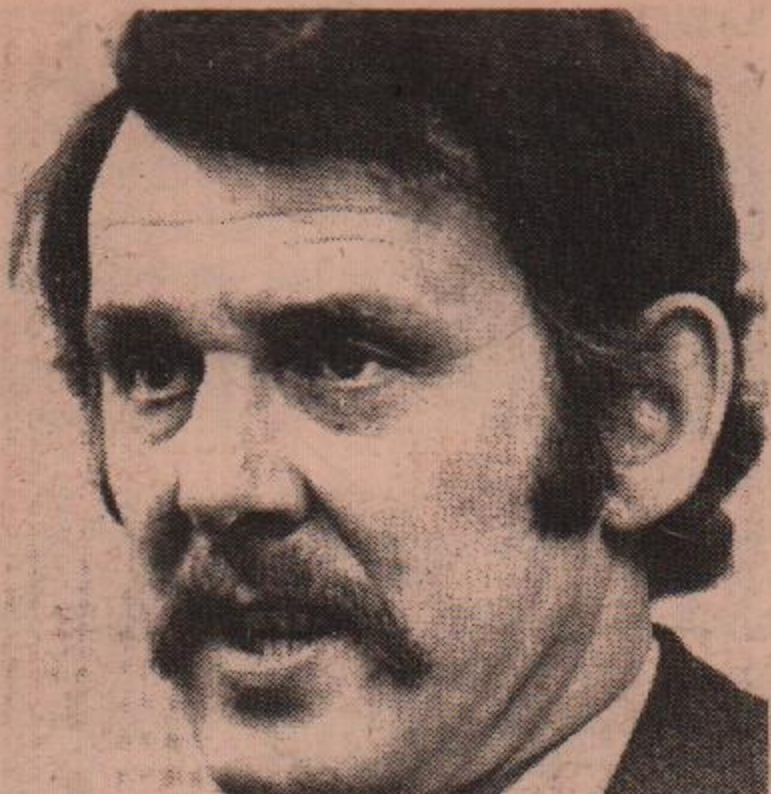
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Scrap-iron litters the surface at Glapwell, a pit deliberately run down by the Coal Board. Inset: death's head symbol at Markham, the disaster pit where Glapwell miners will be transferred. Pictures: John Sturrock (Report)



ust fight



Heathfield: new spirit



Skinner: ordered off

'In the past our union leaders have been equally to blame. The 1972 strike has changed all that. Now it is the turn of the rank and file.'

Dick Brunt explained the bitter resentment of the men at the NCB's antics. Shifting from pit to pit is a major upheaval in a miner's life.

Mining more than most other jobs is a job that requires knowledge and trust of one's fellow workers: 'Men have settled in to jobs that suit them, that fit their special disabilities. They just don't want to start all over again.'

'Some of them have had this upheaval four or five times already. The mass downgradings here are unprecedented, our people are losing more than £1 a shift.'

### Threat

'There are 720 men on the books now. But 150 of those are pit top men. The 700 vacancies in Derbyshire are all for faceworkers, so there will be no jobs for these men.'

The NCB is very sensitive about its policy at Glapwell. Recently Dennis Skinner, MP for the area and an ex-Glapwell miner, was ordered off the colliery premises, presumably for fear he might discover something further to the NCB's discomfort. It was Skinner who raised the threat to Glapwell in the Commons last week.

Glapwell can be saved. Determined action and determined leadership can do the job.

The strength that won the biggest increase in the history of the industry in 1972 must also be utilised to halt the closures, to improve conditions and restore the industry.

It is rank and file pressure that has brought the miners this far. It will be rank and file pressure and organisation that will save Glapwell and every other pit in danger of closure.

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being held up through shortage of manpower. Low wages, danger, dirt and discomfort allied to NCB non-recruitment policy has driven the local management to resort to the planned assassination of Glapwell.

Miners once again are expected to pay the price of management's failures of planning and imagination.

This time it seems they are in for a shock. Easy acceptance of closure is a thing of the past.

Miners today know that they have tremendous power. They proved in 1972 that they were in the forefront of trade union struggle. They know that any faltering now can lose all the gains of the recent past and present struggle.

Ike Carter, secretary of Markham Lodge, commenting on support for Glapwell says: 'An appeal for support for Glapwell will be forthcoming. It is about time that we really fought closures.'

## moderation

their jobs disappeared and their further and further down the

owed closure, each pit taken as a mic entity and its cash performance oil and found wanting. Attempts to smothered in the despairing policies nder ship.

r, NUM general secretary and a esided over the loss of half a million plause from Lord Robens for his d statesmanship. The rank and file pressed but were unorganised nist Party members, who were

well placed to develop rank and file action, were obsessed with the party's policy of winning office as an end in itself. Paynter and other stars could be paraded to show their influence and impress the Labour Party with their moderation.

High office without roots in the rank and file movement and a programme to check on progress, made possession of a party card no more meaningful than a ticket for the pictures.

But now moderation and 'responsibility' to a hard-faced and ruthless management are giving way to a new grassroots spirit of militancy and determination. Linked to a clear-cut strategy, that determination could open up a new era for miners.

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# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

## Social Security for Strikers



a Socialist Worker pamphlet 2p



# That famous Pentonville victory points the way for Shrewsbury campaign

THERE CAN be few things closer to the heart of every militant trade unionist and socialist than to get the three imprisoned building workers John McKinsie Jones, Ricky Tomlinson and Des Warren out of jail.

At the heart of the Tory offensive against the working class is the attempt to intimidate workers from taking effective action. The Tories tried to do this job with the Industrial Relations Act and failed.

And now they have turned to the 1875 Conspiracy Act, this time with much weaker trade unionists as the selected victims.

Concern and feelings of solidarity are vital in the battle to free the three. But they are not enough to release the three from prison. For that a massive campaign needs to be mounted, and strategy and tactics hammered out.

It is a sad thing to report that a lot of the thinking which has gone into the campaign so far to 'Free the Three' is inadequate and misguided. And above all, it is thinking based on false premises.

Lew Lewis, one of the leading Communist Party militants in the London building industry, has summarised this position with complete forthrightness.

Twice in the last fortnight he has claimed that the TUC's threat of a general strike was the step that freed the five dockers from Pentonville for the 'crime' of picketing.

And both times he has made this statement, Lew Lewis has drawn the conclusion that official support, the official initiative of the TUC, of UCATT and the TGWU, is the target that the campaign to Free the Three must aim for.

But the truth of the matter is that official initiatives did not free the five dockers. The official initiatives came only after the dockers had forced the pace, won huge sections of the movement for practical support to their cause and when the TUC saw a spontaneous general strike over which they had no control.

## Forward

It is true that the dockers had major advantages over the building industry in launching their campaign. The dockers are a compact, well-organised section of the working class and the imprisonment of the five came at the height of the struggle, not 18 months afterwards.

But the real lesson of the dockers' struggle does not lie in the advantages they had. It lies in the fact that there was a coherent group of shop stewards and militants who seized the nettle and drove the movement forward.

The dockers' stewards and other activists started out to develop the movement to free the five with immediate solidarity action from the major docks in the country. Their action was given massive publicity and the men were in the middle of a movement to defend their jobs.

As soon as the news came through to the London stewards that the five

would be jailed they resolved to go back to the dock and call the men out. When they got there, the men were already leaving.

About 300 dockers were outside Midland Cold Storage by 1pm, ready to stand guard over the men who were to be jailed. When the first two policemen came for the men, they were nearly lynched. The stewards calmed the men down and a few minutes later three of the five were arrested.

Immediately the dockers held a meeting in the car park of the nearby Hackney greyhound stadium and the key call went out: 'Picket the prison'.

The picket was established firmly by 6.30pm and the dockers had their 'nerve centre'.

As Bob Light, one of the many rank and file dockers intimately involved in the struggle, explains: 'Picketing Pentonville gave the whole thing a base, it was our unofficial mission control. From there we could send our pickets anywhere.' And that is how the stoppage was spread beyond the docks with pickets, with initiative, and with imagination.

'Our men went down Fleet Street on Friday night,' Bob says. 'We chose Fleet Street because that was the only industry we could stop over the

weekend. In the back of our minds was the immense psychological importance of the national papers. If we got them shut down then we would have the best press we'd ever had.'

On the Friday night the dockers' pickets were turned down by the printers. Then on Saturday night the electricians moved along with some NATSOPA chapels and all the Sunday papers were shut down with the exception of the Sunday Times.

But it was still touch and go. On Sunday there was a real likelihood the papers would re-appear. Then SOGAT, who organised the van drivers, moved and Fleet Street was sewn up.

The dockers moved out, sending stewards and pickets here, there and everywhere. Fleet Street had become the start of the snowball.

To claim that the TUC threat to call a general strike was the step that freed the five dockers is to rewrite history.

The TUC moved only because, as Jack Jones said at the General Council meeting, 'If we don't do something then the leadership will be in the hands of unofficial elements.'

## Tactics

The campaign to free the Shrewsbury Three and to defend the others who are now on trial faces greater obstacles than were in the way of the dockers. North Wales was selected for this new attack because it was an isolated area in an industry with a low level of organisation.

That puts even greater responsibilities on the defence committee in Liverpool and North Wales. In this situation clear thinking, imaginative tactics are more vital, not less.

Yet the truth is that the committees have not fully faced up to this. They went through the protracted trial without mounting an offensive campaign. Little was done to counter the lies of the press and explain the truth. Little was done to lay a real base for industrial action in key sections of the working class.

And throughout great stress has been placed on what the TUC, the official leadership of the Transport

Union and the Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians would do. The upshot has been nothing in the case of the TUC and UCATT while the TGWU called an official one-day strike and put out a tough statement denouncing the trials and sentences.

## All-out

The decision of the North Wales Defence Committee to oppose the three Shrewsbury defendants who received suspended sentences speaking on the sites and at factory gate meetings is counter productive. Who are better qualified to explain the truth than the three who have suffered at first hand?

The truth of the matter is that if the three are to be freed then a campaign of all-out strike action must be got off the ground by the rank and file. That is what the 2 February recall conference of the Liverpool Trades Council can and must do.

But building workers do not have the same close-knit base as dockers. And the Shrewsbury pickets were surrounded first with a web of press silence, then with a tissue of lies.

A massive propaganda campaign explaining the truth of Shrewsbury and the immense threat the prosecution's success poses to the whole working-class movement is therefore absolutely vital.

And a general call for action is meaningless unless there is a campaign and unless that campaign has a real base to work from. The struggle must therefore be founded on a definite number of building sites which are prepared to take unlimited strike action.

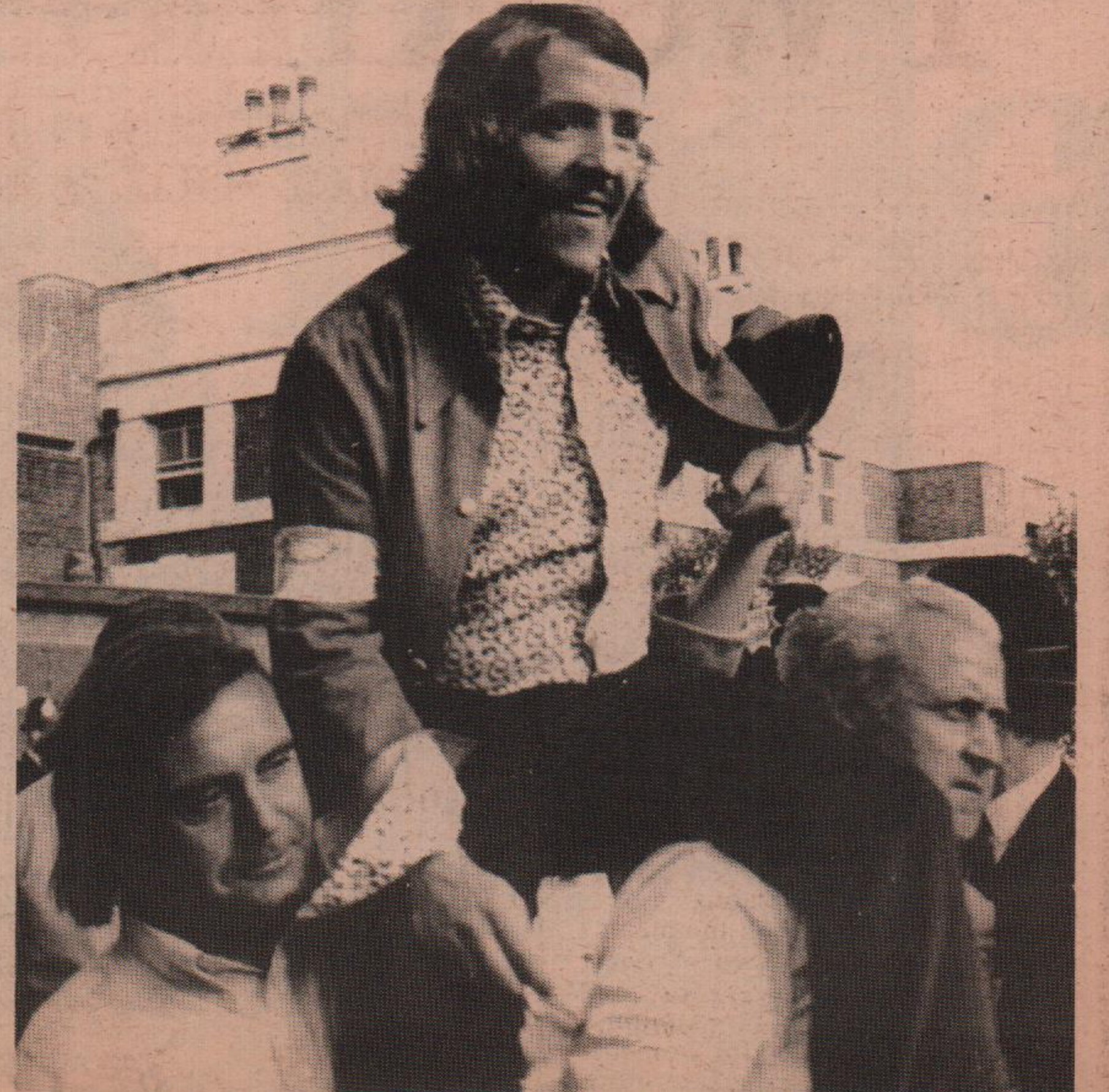
This will give the building workers the moral authority not only to ask others to do the same, but to demand they do the same.

Were such a campaign got off the ground the three could be freed. Their release would be a gigantic setback for the Tory government on all fronts, because, in the final analysis, their whole strategy rests on the ability to impose still more repressive measures on the working-class movement.

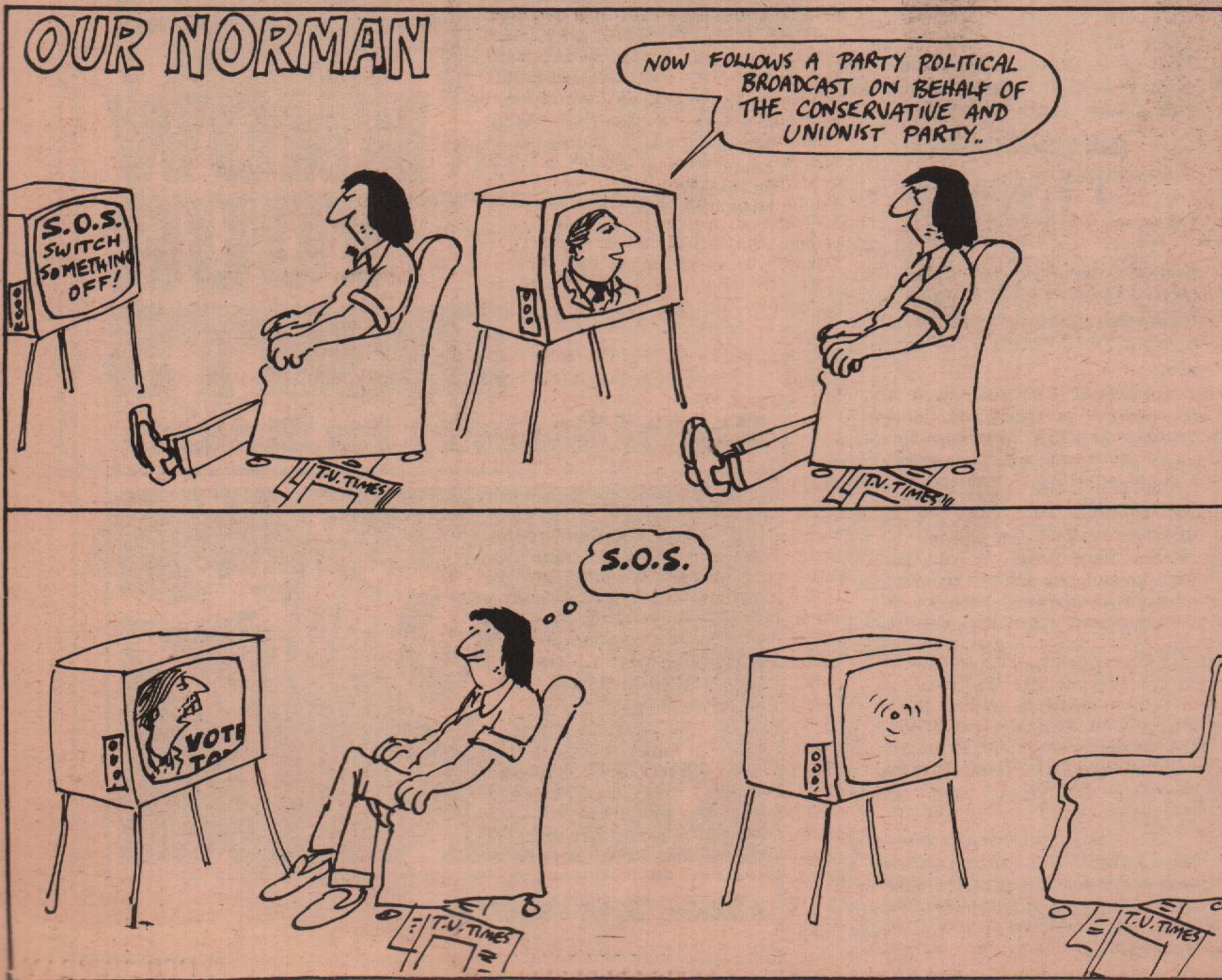


# One way to free the 3...

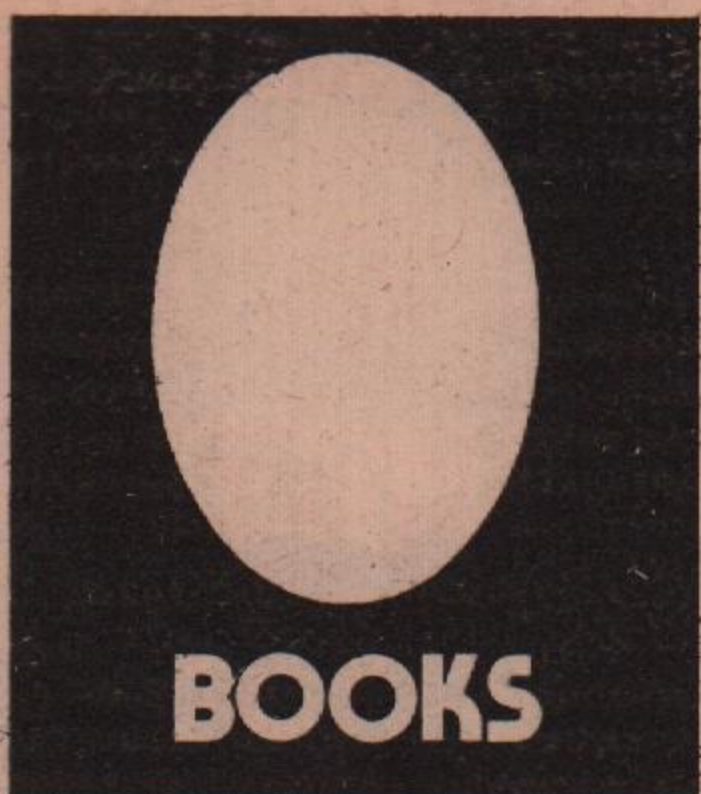
Analysis by Laurie Flynn



The build-up: Bernie Steers speaks to a dockers' meeting on the inland cold stores issue. The arrests: Vic Turner is led away. The victory: Conny Clancy is carried shoulder-high from Pentonville







# Bert and Phase Three—a crying shame

**PHASE THREE, the Tory Fraud Exposed, by Bert Ramelson, Communist Party, 12p.**

BERT RAMELSON, the Communist Party's industrial organiser, has produced a pamphlet on Phase Three and the crisis. Presumably this represents Communist Party Policy. The pamphlet is long on criticism and grievously short on proposals for

action. The critique of Phase Three, its inflexibility, its weighting in favour of employers and gross inequality for workers is adequately set out.

There are, unfortunately two serious errors. No more than passing criticism, and that of the mildest kind, is made of the TUC leadership. Even worse there is not even the barest bones of a coherent strategy to beat Phase Three.

We are told that TUC participation in the talks with CBI and government is 'a tragedy'. Again, that it is a 'crying shame' that the TUC has done nothing to help the workers struggling for wage increases. Finally, we are informed that the 'crying need' is for an emergency conference of the TUC to 'adopt a strategy for action'.

Does the pamphlet offer the TUC any guidance on such a strategy? To

be fair, it does say: 'Every trade union organisation, shop stewards' committee and so on, should express their solidarity now with the miners, train drivers and all others in the battle.'

This is all Bert Ramelson has to offer. For the rest, the TUC will do the job: 'The TUC is the only body capable of organising this,' he says.

In the face of all the evidence the Communist Party, and their industrial organiser are unable to recognise the pathetic role of the TUC and its 'left' members. They fail to see what service Scanlon and Jones have paid Ted Heath over the past 18 months. One can only conclude that they need their eyes and heads tested.

The real 'crying need' is for a policy that relies on and builds the rank and file movement, not in the paralysing atmosphere of TUC headquarters. The real 'tragedy' is that the Communist Party, which could play a crucial role in building such a movement, is politically and organisationally incapable of acting as anything but publicists and apologists for the left trade union bureaucracy.

JIM HIGGINS

# Two kinds of prison

## Slaughter—but a kind of freedom

**WOMEN AT WORK: BBC-2, 7.05pm Wednesdays, repeated 3pm Mondays.**

**WOMEN WIELDING** hammers, spades, picks, lathes, driving buses, tractors, soldering, drilling, making aeroplanes, tanks, bombs. Women wearing protective goggles and headgear.

These scenes from the first of the new series Women at Work—'What did you do in the War, Mummy?'—gave me a visual shock. We have been so conditioned to think of such scenes as 'unfeminine'.

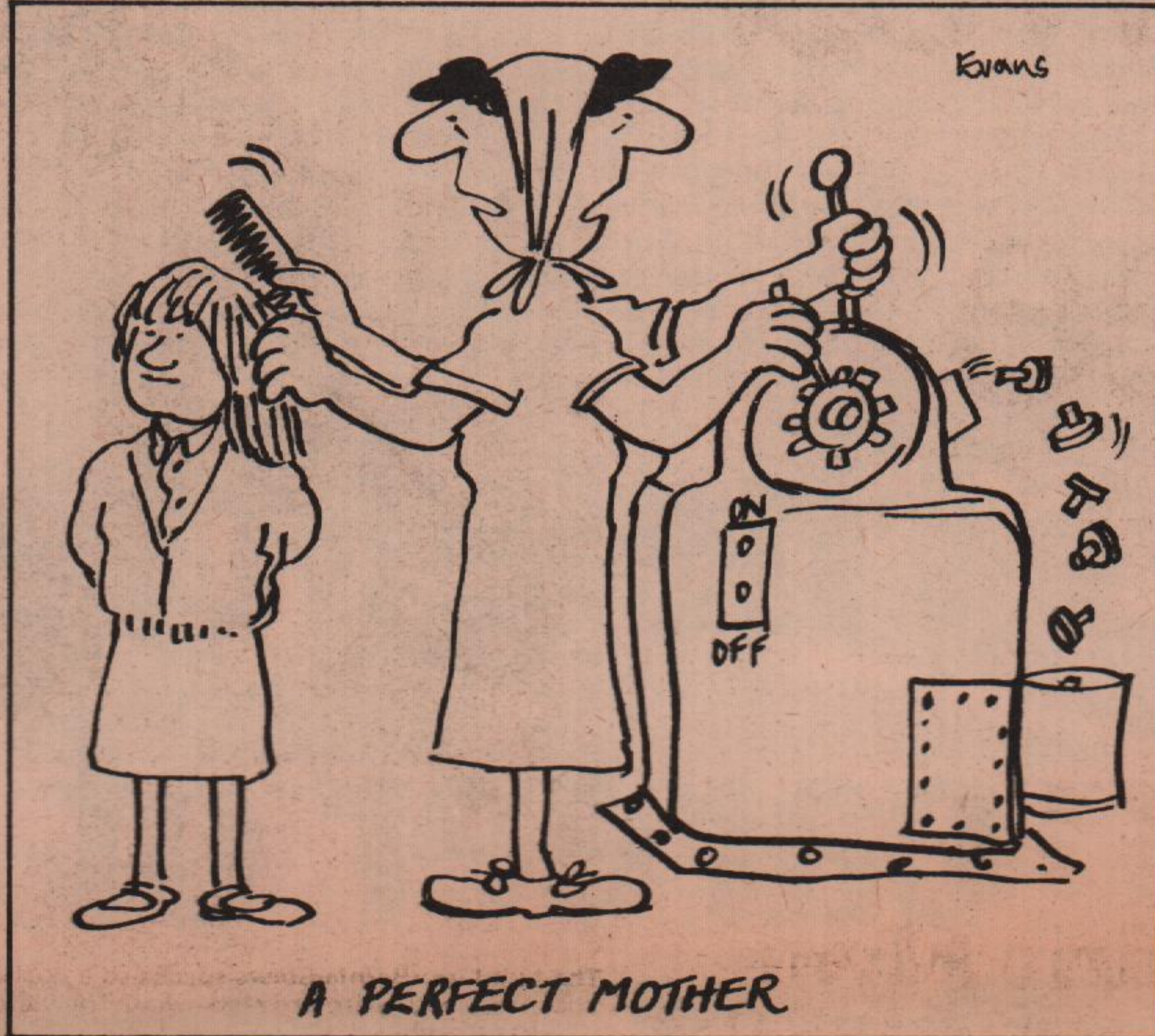
Also it gave the lie to people who claim that women are in low-paid jobs because they aren't strong enough, or intelligent enough.

The film was based on the memories of two women. Jessie Stevens started at the age of 16 by organising maids in Glasgow into a union—and she's been fighting for women's rights ever since. Ann Livermore is a BBC cleaning supervisor.

For both of them the war had changed their ideas. 'We didn't think about it at the time, but it was a kind of women's liberation.'

Women were encouraged to leave home to work for the war effort. 'Mrs Hare combines her mother's responsibilities with an important war job,' said a propaganda film of the time. 'She leaves her daughter in safe kind hands. She plays happily under experienced supervision.'

Peace brought the abrupt closure



of many of the nurseries. 'Irresponsible working mums' and 'deprived latchkey children' became the catchwords.

Women were being forced out of skilled employment to make way for the returning heroes...

Jessie and Ann described in the programme how women had fought against this after both wars. After

the First War many women refused degrading domestic jobs—preferring the dole queue. In a stronger position after the Second, many refused to give up quietly.

Little help came from the unions. Jessie recalled the bitter battles in the engineering industry, where women's rates were half those of men. When they agreed to fight for

equal pay it was on condition that women left the jobs after the war.

The Labour Party's slogan was 'No women in a job while any man is out of a job.' Instead of fighting the root causes of unemployment they attacked the women's right to work.

During the Second War the women's rate in engineering was £3 10s—the men's £4 more. The employers made every effort to undermine the men's rate—as they will go on doing as long as women are paid half a man's wage. But many women joined unions and took up the fight for equal pay—and kept on fighting in peacetime.

This had its effect on family life. 'Women didn't want to be dominated by money worries,' said Ann. 'They did not just take everything as it came, not just accept that they should go on having more and more children—women started demanding more contraception and to talk about having a bit more control over their lives.'

There was plenty of opposition, particularly from the ruling class, as Ann explained: 'Of course the last thing the government wanted was for us to start thinking, because if women started thinking there were have to be a revolution.'

She's right!

The films can be hired and fact sheets obtained from Women At Work, BBC Enterprises, Villiers House, Broadway, London W5 2PA.

CELIA DEACON

## Miners' play

**HOW THE MINERS ARE ROBBED, The Duke In The Dock, Startling Court Case, by John Wheatley. Reprints in Labour History, Pluto Press, 20p.**

THIS IS A short play, that takes only 15 minutes or so to read, into which Wheatley manages to pack in a lot of witty and sharp material.

Ray Challinor's introduction is a good commentary which uses the kind of working class language which hasn't been common to all the Reprints In Labour History series.

The play is built around the pits and is an indictment of the land and coal owners who have literally broken the back of 'Old Dick' who understands nothing of the way that he has been financially—and even worse psychologically exploited.

The play is of great interest to anyone in the mining industry but its message extends to any section of the working class. Which isn't surprising since Wheatley's background had been that of the poverty of Scotland and Ireland at the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth century.

The capitalists get it in the neck—humourously, and so does the clergy. Which is interesting, since Wheatley in his early years really wrestled to combine his Catholic faith with his socialist ideals.

Capitalism is ludicrous, and Wheatley proves it, the only thing wrong with the play is that it isn't long enough. Buy it and read it.

MICK OSBORNE

## TURN OF THE SCREWS

**WITHIN THESE WALLS: ITV, 9pm, Fridays.**

AS THE 'Law' intrudes more into the working class so more militants wind up in jail. It is a good time for television to show us what to expect inside.

Not only do we have the British bobby and 'how to run a police station,' courtesy of Dixon, Barlow, Z-Cars, and Softly Softly, but they are now joined by the life and times of Lady Bountiful Prison Governess, played by Googie Withers.

The fiction is based on Holloway Women's Prison. Anyone who has been into the real thing will know the ugliness of it. The cramped cells, rattling keys round the waists of hefty screws, slamming doors resounding through the hollow courts and the tramping of feet in the galleries around the centre of the prison.

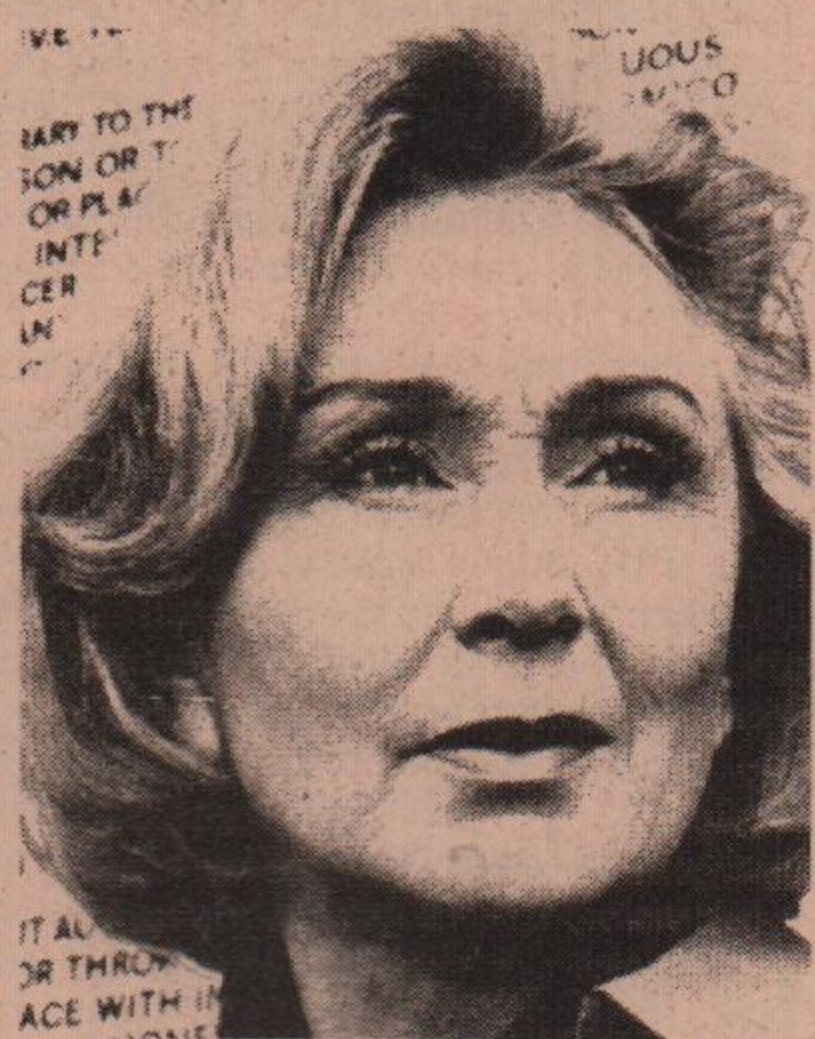
Little of the awfulness came over on the TV screen.

The first two episodes were on the problems of the 'good' governess versus the more conservative screws. The solution is seen as purely administrative.

There are goodie inmates—and baddies. A prisoner who's always talking—and bribing the weaker ones, a suicidal silent victim, harassed, not by the screws as is frequent in Holloway, but by a sister prisoner.

In the real world the press splits workers by emphasising divisions. The programme does the same, emphasising divisions among the prisoners—and covering up the deep reaction against the authorities.

There is nothing of the vicious-



Googie Withers-Lady Bountiful

ness of some screws, of punishment with no food for days in padded cells, of electric psychiatric treatment on any pretext, of wages of 30p a week. Instead we're given a view of a maternity wing which would put many in the outside world to shame. In reality practices in those places include forced miscarriages.

At home the governess meets resentment from her employer husband—her work takes up too much time. There is little difference between them as they chat about the day's work, brandy in hand. The running of a prison is as systematic 'as fitting two cogs together' one of them says.

Except for the people trapped in the cogs.

JENNY COLE



**SATURDAY/SUNDAY: RADIO-3** is having a German Weekend including such Third Programme classics as What is Geist? More importantly featured is the development of the German cinema and a discussion on the marxist Frankfurt School of philosophers.\* Part one of THE SUNDAY DEBATE on BBC-1\* is about trade unions with the man who sums up what happens to right-wing Labour leaders, Alf Robens and Jack Jones, the man who sums up what happens to left trade union bureaucrats. Three weeks later we will be told that unions are just about a good thing, provided they don't do anything... OPEN DOOR on BBC-2\* Sunday afternoon has the revolutionary film group, Liberation Films. At 9.10 on BBC-2 A DRINK OUT OF A BOTTLE is a play on the life of professional wrestlers.

**TUESDAY: BBC-1. SHALL WE HAVE A KING?\*** is a debate on the US presidency. The first part examines in dramatised form the debates surrounding the foundation of the republic, with golden oldies such as

Washington and Ben Franklin. The second part on what-the-hell-has-gone-wrong? features such examples of what's gone wrong as Senator Edmund Muskie, 'liberal', historian Arthur Schlesinger and 'opinion' pollster Louis Harris. Probably less political than the Ali-Frazier fight\* same channel. To complete an all-American night THE WORLD OF HUGH HEFFNER networked by Yorkshire TV at 9pm. 'I live surrounded by beautiful things, female and materialistic' says Heffner, founder of Playboy magazine. What is capitalism? a system where females are are things, and money is real. At 9.30 on Radio-3 a play by marxist David Mercer. On BBC-2 THE ROSES OF EYAM\* is a reconstruction of the effect of the plague on Eyam in Derbyshire in 1665.\*

**WEDNESDAY: BBC-2. WORK IS A FOUR LETTER WORD\*** is a rotten film starring David Warner taken from a good play, Henry Livings' 'Eh?'. Similar subject to Chaplin's Modern Times it deals with automation and the workers...

**THURSDAY: BBC-1. Trevor Griffiths** is a Marxist playwright who has written an excellent play on the Italian revolutionary Gramsci-Occupations and whose current play The Party is on at the National Theatre. ALL GOOD MEN\* is his first TV play, could be good, and is about an old Labour politician.

**FRIDAY: BBC-2. THE MONEY PROGRAMME\*** looks at a very well paid group of workers, the Pay Board. Same channel is PERILS OF PENDRAGON\* the Welsh comedy series, which is extremely funny. The new Mrs Isaacs takes an interest in the Longplant Hells Angels...

\*Times unknown at time of going to press.

NIGEL FOUNTAIN

## Glasgows' songs

**SONGS OF ALEX GLASGOW: MWM 1006, Stereo, record shops, or Mawson and Wareham Music Ltd, Heath House, 11 Blakett Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 1.**

SOME PEOPLE identify socialist songs with solemn boring dirges. Often they're right, but they'd be wrong about this LP. The songs are both amusing and angry, reflecting the absurdity and tragedy of a system that wastes so many lives.

If you haven't heard Alex Glasgow's songs from Alan Plater's mining play, Close The Coalhouse Door, then find out what you've missed. There's biting comment in the advice to the managers on how to get on with the 'men', in the Labour MP playing down his socialist past, in the bloody cost of coal.

Also on the LP is 'The Tyne slides by', a cycle of songs which follow a worker from cradle to grave. 'Paradise Flats' gets the mood by contrasting the inhabitants of Regency Mews and Co-op Terrace. The working man sees the things he has made stolen from him—and gets a kick in the teeth for his pains in 'Is it all just so much wages underneath the bridge?'

It's a well conceived, well performed record, and Alex's singing is accompanied by the William Southgate Quintet. You'll enjoy it.

NEIL MURRAY



# THE UNIONS

## Tory 'generosity' to miners would mean pay cut

**DAVE  
BEECHAM  
EXPOSES  
THE COAL  
BOARD'S  
PHONEY  
DEAL**

THE TORIES and their newspaper friends have been saying every day for the last two months that the pay offer to the miners is 'generous', that it 'would give the men 16½ per cent' and so on.

Predictably enough the real facts about this 'generous offer' have not been unfolded in the millionaire press. The truth is that at most 10,000 miners would benefit from the full increase in shift payments. A majority would be accepting a wage cut if they gave in to Tory 'generosity'.

The basic increase in pay at present on offer is 7 per cent, with about 4½ per cent on average for 'unsocial hours'. This is for those working on nights. What the press doesn't admit is that the night shift varies throughout the coalfields. Miners who clock on at midnight or 2pm will not get anything like what the government and Coal Board say.

Another 3½ per cent increase—making, you notice, 15 per cent and

not 16½—is supposed to come from a productivity deal. And this is where the generous offer is really shown up. The deal would give about £1.30 per week extra. But even to get this, miners will have to give at least an extra 7 per cent in productivity for a 3½ per cent rise, according to the Tory pay laws.

In addition the scheme would have to operate for three months before one penny went into the miners' pockets.

But the real scandal is what the scheme itself involves. The Coal Board, the Tories and even the Miners' Union executive have not been very forthcoming about it.

The scheme the Coal Board has in mind is simple. For the purpose of calculation the year would be divided into two six-month periods at April and October. Productivity in the six-month period—measured in the amount of coal produced on average every shift—would be compared to

the average produced over the same period for the previous five years. If the increase in productivity was equal to the previous increase then the 3½ per cent would be paid out to the men at Christmas and before the annual holiday.

### Average

It does not take a mathematical genius to work out what this means in real terms. You get your 3½ per cent, for 7 per cent more in the first year. But then what happens? The next year your productivity has to rise by even more—because the average for the previous five years has gone up. And you'll get less than half the money you've earned.

And the next year—if you can stand it that long—you get less for producing even more.

There's a Greek legend about a man moving a pile of stones: the pile got bigger every time he moved one.

Not even Classical scholarship is beyond Derek Ezra and Joe Gormley.

In fact—because of the miners' action—it doesn't look as though the Coal Board is going to be able to try its con-trick on the miners. It would be impossible to bring in this 'deal' alongside the pay increase on March 1, because of the Phase Three laws.

So what is being offered to the miners is an average 11-12 per cent.

But the really disturbing point for working miners' is how their union executive could even look at a productivity 'deal' of this type. It should be clear by now that the only way miners can win a living wage is by smashing Phase Three. This cannot be done by playing around with waiting time or with snap time or with phoney secret productivity deals.

Only a strike, and the solidarity and militancy of 1972, will give the miners victory.

## 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.

## The glittering career of Jack Peel, union man

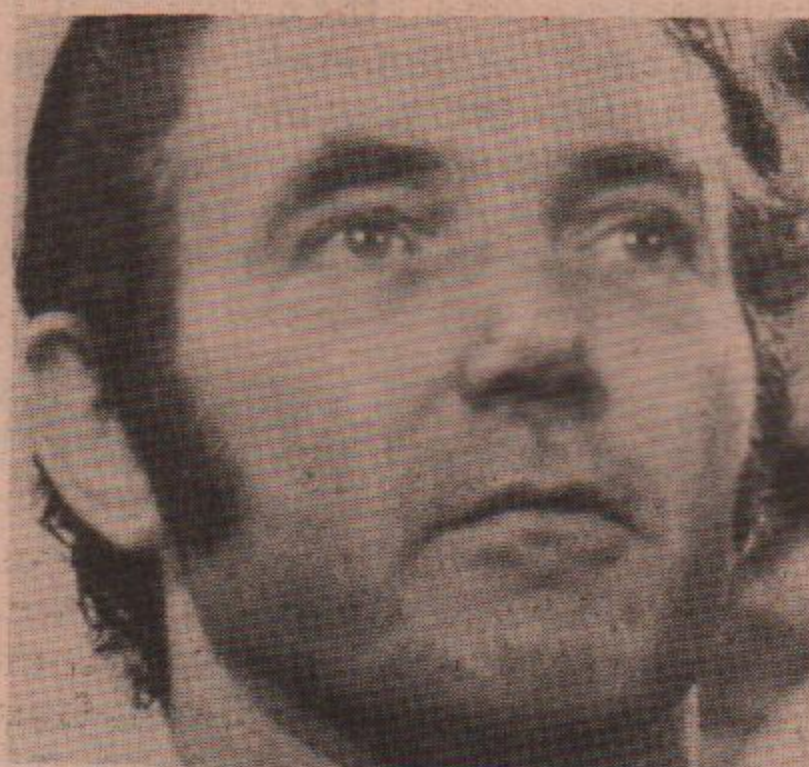
LITTLE did the delegates at the TUC Congress know what glittering career lay ahead for Jack Peel, general secretary of the National Union of Dyers, Bleachers and Textile Workers, when he addressed them at Blackpool in 1968.

'I hope to stand in this box and argue for many years and to serve the movement,' he said in support of his motion for acceptance of a voluntary Incomes Policy, 'the start of a new phase in our attempt to build a new wages structure which takes account of our own and the country's problems.'

Little did they know of the career ahead of Jack Peel, then on the TUC General Council, as a member of the National Coal Board and the British Wool Marketing Board.

Still less could they imagine how this humble Justice of the Peace would one day graduate to being Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Yorkshire, the Queen's Second-in-Command in that huge county.

But the real peak of his meteoric



'Union Jack' Peel. Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

rise was yet to come. It came, interestingly enough, under the Tory government. In the summer of 1972 our Jack set aside his own union's policy decisions against the Common Market, set aside those of the TUC and accepted an offer of the job of Director of Industrial Relations at the European Economic Commission in Brussels. He became one of the Common Market managers.

The salary was pretty good at £12,000 a year plus expenses. But Jack had a little problem. Since he

would be in Britain so seldom he could not continue in his Coal Board and Wool Marketing Board posts which brought him in another couple of thousand a year on top of the £3000-a-year pittance he received as Dyers and Bleachers general secretary.

Still, who knew what was yet in store? There would be presentations from the Wool Board, the Coal Board and doubtless a little something from the union itself.

Although Jack Peel had resigned as general secretary entirely to suit his own purposes, the union did make him an offer. The executive suggested that he accept a cheque for £100.

### Retired

But this was by no means adequate for that passionate advocate of Incomes Policy, a wage structure to take account of 'our own and the country's problems'. Jack refused the £100. He demanded that instead the union make him a present of the union car he had been using, value approximately £800.

The union executive, which obviously did not rate Jack's service as highly as he did, were also used to doing what they were told—even by a retired general secretary. They caved in and Jack was duly presented with the car.

Brother Peel's petulance, not to say insolence, not to say downright greediness—and the executive's indulgence of these qualities—has caused grave disquiet in the union. Unprecedented things are happening, such as questions to the executive. The affair may even be raised at the union's conference this year.

If so, delegates may care to bear another of Jack Peel's immortal statements in mind. 'My union feels that democracy involves duties as well as rights...'

They might also care to ask some other questions, such as: 'Has Mr Peel disposed of the car? If so, for how much? Or if he still has it, does he have another in Brussels and is it not rather underused?'

## 'Stand still' offer in post

POST OFFICE workers are about to be balloted on whether to accept a new pay deal, backdated to 1 January. The offer would bring the basic rate for postmen up to £27.81, counter clerks up to £36.10 and the highest paid telephonists up to £26.38. Most workers will get £2.65 extra.

The Union of Post Office Workers executive wants its membership to accept, though even the Post Office admits workers are now worse off than in 1970. The pay offer, as UPW general secretary Tom Jackson admits, will leave post office workers as badly off as ever.

So why tell his members to accept? Because he's eagerly waiting for the Pay Board report on relativities which he claims will give another 14 per cent.

This is a blind for Jackson's bankrupt leadership. He's hoping the report will let him off the hook.

But remember what happened with the Pay Board's 'Anomalies Report'. The only

group mentioned was the civil servants. Remember too the power engineers: they were supposed to be an 'anomaly'. After waiting a year they took industrial action and only then was the government forced to give way.

Post Office workers must organise to reject the employers' offer. This will put them in a much stronger bargaining position. The UPW leadership is whistling in the wind, hoping the Tories will take pity on them—no way for workers to avoid a cut in their standard of living.

Jackson claims that accepting the offer does not mean accepting Phase Three—exactly his policy with the Industrial Relations Act. Post Office workers have now been saddled with a scab union, the Telecommunications Staff Association, because of Jackson's collaboration with the Tory court. They will be saddled with a further erosion of their wages if they accept Jackson's collaboration with Phase Three.





# INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST NEWS

# WHAT'S ON

## GET THEM OUT ON EVERY SITE!

A LARGE enthusiastic meeting at Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham, last Sunday gave ovations to John Llywarch and John Carpenter, two of the 'Shrewsbury Six' in the notorious pickets trial.

Both men spoke at the meeting of the trial, its political consequences and the need to organise to free the three in prison.

John Carpenter said that during the 1972 official building strike he had been a member of the building workers' action committee in North Wales. 'We found it difficult to pull out the unorganised workers, especially when, on more than one occasion, union district officers told the employers that it wasn't official!

'So we stole from the miners and developed the technique of the flying picket. We picketed eight sites in Shropshire, and we were escorted by 80 police, at least 10 of them high-ranking officers. No one was arrested or even cautioned, and after the pickets we all went home to North Wales.

'The building employers then drew up a dossier on the pickets. It cost them £14,000. On 14 February, we were arrested and charged on 233 counts. These were eventually whittled down to three.

'The first was affray. You don't have to fight to cause affray, you don't have to encourage fighting. All you have to do is to be there.

### PUNCH

'The second was unlawful assembly. To be guilty of unlawful assembly you have to be among five or more people when a breach of the peace *might* occur. If someone here throws a punch at the man next to him, then we're all guilty of unlawful assembly.

'Finally, there was conspiracy to intimidate. It turned out in court that we were guilty of conspiracy because we had said to one another: Let's go to Shrewsbury and picket.

'Now 300 people said that, but there were only six before the court. Those six happened to be members of the action committee.

'Now the question is: *why* did they go for us? They'd been beaten by the miners and the dockers, but they could take on the builders. We were weak, badly organised—and we came from North Wales.'

John Carpenter then told how, when gasworkers were jailed in 1872 after a conspiracy trial, massive protest in the working-class movement got the sentences shortened. 'We've got to do the same for the three who went to prison,' he said.

'We've got to go back to industry, go back to our schools and colleges and places of work and organise ourselves in action committees to "Free the Three".'

'We've got to talk about a National

### IN BRIEF

**WEST LONDON:** Ealing IS and the strike committee at the Perivale Gutermann factory held a social last Saturday to raise funds for the strike fund. 400 people came, and contributed just over £150.

**MERSEYSIDE:** More than 200 people attended the Merseyside IS Shrewsbury Rally addressed by John Llywarch and Roger Rosewell, Merseyside IS organiser. Ten workers—building workers, printworkers and car workers—joined IS at the meeting.

**BRADFORD:** At a meeting addressed by John Owen, a miner at Houghton Main Colliery and a member of IS, four people joined IS. The Bradford district now has more than 60 members.



John Carpenter speaking at the meeting. PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

Defence Committee' because this is happening all over. Asian pickets at Nuneaton are threatened with unlawful assembly charges. If we don't organise in the working-class movement, we'll be going back to the day when you couldn't get a job unless you signed a piece of paper saying you weren't a member of a trade union!

Hardly had applause for John Carpenter stopped, than the hall was in fits of laughter as John Llywarch described the trial.

'John McKinsie Jones was charged with calling a lumper "a walrus-faced bastard"'. The *only* evidence against him was given by a worker with a drooping moustache who said that when the pickets came, he took cover in a trench.

### SCARED

'When he thought they'd all gone he popped his head out and was seen by John McKinsie Jones. "What are you doing here, you walrus-faced bastard?" said John—and for that he's spending nine months in prison.

'The evidence of the police was the funniest of all. One sergeant swore on the oath that he'd never been so scared in 23 years service—while another complained that the pickets ignored him—didn't even look at him.

'All the police who gave evidence have since been promoted. We've devised a little poem for the police, which goes:

"A picket a day  
Brings promotion your way."  
As the audience laughed, John interrupted. 'Yes, we laughed all the way through the trial,' he said. 'We assumed that it would all be laughed out of court.'

'But now we have three trade unionists in prison and we have to

THE sharp rise in sales of Socialist Worker continues. Last week the print order was 37,600, compared with 23,900 in the same week last year—an increase of 57 per cent. What's more, a higher percentage of the papers printed are being sold. Said Margaret Renn, the circulation manager: 'Last week's papers sold out by Monday. It was impossible to find any spare papers—and they were in great demand.'

A typical example of the rise in sales comes from Edinburgh, where the branch increased its order last week from 600 to 1100 copies. By Friday night they needed another 200. More than 300 copies have been sold at pits and miners' clubs in the Lothians.

More IS news page 14

get them out.'

After appealing for a collection, John Llywarch told the entire audience to join the International Socialists.

'We've found that the IS have led all over the country in organising to free the three. They're a fantastic group—they need your help and you need them,' he said.

From the audience, Gerry Kelly, who was acquitted recently in another building workers' conspiracy trial, appealed to all stewards at the meeting to organise on their sites to send delegates to the Conference on the Shrewsbury trials called on Saturday 2 February by Merseyside Trades Council, and to argue there for all-out strike action to Free the Three.

The rally heard songs from the Grey Cock folk group, which were well received. Most popular was a song written by the Combine, whose chorus goes:

'So it's out you go, on the road  
Jack,  
Whether morning, noon or night.  
From Stoke to London, Wales to  
Brum,  
GET THEM OUT ON EVERY  
SITE.'

● At least six people joined IS after the meeting.

## Other IS meetings and notices

**TOTTENHAM AND WOOD GREEN IS public meeting:** Solidarity with the miners—and the three-day week. Speakers: Paul Holborow, Alan Watts and a miner. Thursday 24 January, 8pm, YWCA, 628 Tottenham High Road, London N17. All welcome.

**GRAND MANCHESTER IS District Social:** Saturday 26 January, Kings Arms, Bloom Street (off Chapel Street), Salford. Disco, songs, bar extension. 30p single, 50p double. All welcome.

**YORK District IS public meeting:** The 1926 General Strike—its lessons for the present crisis. Speaker Harry Wicks. Thursday 24 January, 8pm, De Gray Rooms, Exhibition Square.

**IS AUEW Fraction meeting:** Would IS members in the AUEW please note the change of date and place—now **SUNDAY 27 January, 12.30pm-4.30pm**, at the AUEW offices, The Crescent, Salford, Manchester. All districts to send delegates. For further details phone IS industrial department 01-739 6273.

**MANCHESTER District IS training committee:** Don't waste your time when you're locked out, come to marxist discussion meetings—every Tuesday at 12.15 pm in Ye Olde Nelson, Chapel Street, Salford.

**THE IS BUILDING WORKERS Fraction meeting,** due to be held in Manchester on Sunday 3 February, has been cancelled. Instead there will be a meeting for IS building workers who are delegates to the Liverpool Trades Council recall conference on the Shrewsbury jailings on Saturday 2 February. Details in this column next week.

**NATIONAL IS PRINTWORKERS meeting:** Sunday 27 January, 11am, at 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

## Free the Shrewsbury Three!

### SOCIALIST WORKER RALLIES

Speakers: John Carpenter, John Llywarch and Ken O'Shea, the three of the six building workers pickets accused at Shrewsbury who were not jailed

**SHEFFIELD: Monday 28 January, 8pm**

Speakers: John Carpenter, Tony Cliff, Wally Preston and a miner  
Chairman Greg Douglas (AUEW Construction Section)  
Songs by Alex Glasgow and other entertainment  
Tickets 50p from 98 Malton Street, Sheffield 4 (phone 381417)

**HULL: Tuesday 29 January, 8pm**

Speakers: John Carpenter and Dave Peers (IS national secretary)  
Stevadores and Dockers Club, Posterngate  
Meeting sponsored by TGWU 10/64 branch

**DARLINGTON: Wednesday 30 January, 7.30pm**

Speakers: John Llywarch and Rob Clay  
Public Lecture Room, Darlington Public Library

**TEESSIDE: Thursday 31 January, 8pm**

Speakers: John Llywarch and Tony Cliff  
James Finegan Hall, Eston

**TYNESIDE: Friday 1 February, 7.30pm**

Speakers: John Llywarch and Tony Cliff  
Nixon Hall, New YMCA, Ellison Place, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

## Their crisis—our answer

**BRISTOL IS public meeting:** Their crisis—our answer. Speakers include Dave Edwards (former member of Fine Tubes strike committee). Friday 25 January, 8pm, Crown and Dove, Bridgeway Street, All welcome.

**HOUNSLOW IS public meeting:** The Tory crisis and the socialist answer. Duncan Hallas and Elmo Eustace. Tue 29 January, 8pm, The Fox, Church St, Twickenham. PLEASE NOTE CHANGED DATE.

**PARTINGTON IS public meeting:** The socialist alternative to the Tories' crisis. Speaker Gerry Walsh (AUEW shop steward). Tuesday 29 January, 8pm, Partington Community Centre, Central Road, Partington.

**ACTON IS public meeting:** Their Crisis—our answer to the Tory con-trick. Speakers: Roger Cox (AUEW) and Duncan Hallas. Thursday 31 January, 8pm, Committee Room 1, Acton Town Hall.

**HILLINGDON IS public meeting:** The economic crisis and the workers. Speaker Dave Peers (IS national secretary) and local trade unionists. Thursday 13 January, Room 7, Communicare (off Belmont Road), Uxbridge.

**SOUTH WEST LONDON IS public meeting:** Their crisis—fight the Tories! Speaker Paul Foot. Tuesday 29 January, 8pm, Lambeth Town Hall (lower hall) (near Brixton tube). All welcome.

**PRESTON IS public meeting:** Tory Crisis—why should the workers pay? Speaker Glyn Carver (IS Manchester organiser). Thursday 24 January, 8pm, George Hotel, Church Street, Preston.

**NIGG BAY Socialist Worker public meeting:** Oil and capitalism's crisis—our answer. Speaker Steve Jefferys. Saturday 2 February, 2.30pm, The Averon Centre, AIness.

**BRENTWOOD IS public meeting:** The crisis. Speaker Laurie Flynn. Monday 28 January, 8pm, Castle public house, Ongar Road.

**BARNET IS public meeting:** The crisis and the socialist alternative. Thursday 31 January, 8pm, Bull and Butcher, Whetstone, London N20 (near Totteridge and Whetstone tube).

**CROYDON IS public meeting:** Their Crisis—why Tories are to blame. Speaker John Palmer. Thursday 24 January, 8pm, Bishop Andrewes Hall, Welbeck Road, St Helier.

**WALTHAM FOREST IS SOCIAL:** Sat 26 January, 7 to 11. Three Blackbirds Leyton High Road—between Leyton tube (central line) and Walthamstow Central (Victoria line). Disco, band, food plus drink. Have a good time for 50p. All proceeds to fighting fund.

**LONDON IS Irish Forum:** Can the Assembly work? Speaker Jimmy Greal. Friday 1 February, 8pm, The Metropolitan, 95 Farringdon Road, London EC1 (nearest tube Farringdon).

**IS ATTI fraction meeting:** Saturday 26 January, 10.30am-4.30pm, Lecture Hall, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham. Important discussion on political and trade union perspectives. All IS ATTI members must attend. For further details phone fraction convenor—Leeds (0532) 751120.

**LEAMINGTON (Ford and town) IS branches public meeting:** A Practical Attack on Racism. Speaker Nigel Harris. Saturday 26 January, 7pm, Stoneleigh Arms, Clemens Street.

**BOLTON IS holds regular meetings** in the Spinners Hall every Friday. If interested, why not come along, or write to Paul Kennedy, 70 Stewart Street, Bolton (phone 25226).

**WANTED for slide library** being set up by IS Training Committee to aid public speakers: photos concerning the struggles of miners, women, blacks, building workers, and on Northern Ireland. Please contact Dept P, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

**WANTED: someone with a knowledge of photography and spare time** to help in making slides for IS Training Committee for a few days. Please contact Dept Q, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

**LSE IS Society Disco:** Friday 25 January, 7.30pm-10.30pm, Concourse, St Clements Building, Houghton Street, London WC2. (Holborn or Temple tube). Admission 15p.

**GLASGOW IS Day School:** Saturday 26 January, 11am-4.30pm, The Programme of the International Socialists. For new IS members and those considering joining. At IS Books, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow C1.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION on Lenin and the Russian Revolution** available for IS meetings. For details contact Eve Barker at 01-485 0476.

**STUDENT GRANTS AND THE CRISIS—a new IS Students' pamphlet.** 5p each (£1 for 25 copies, cash with order) from IS Students, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

**WIGAN DISTRICT IS public meeting:** The Politics of Corruption. Speaker Paul Foot. Thursday 7 February, 8pm, The Market Hotel, Wigan. All socialists and trade unionists welcome.

**NORTHERN HOME COUNTIES Region IS aggregate meeting:** Sunday 10 February, 2pm, in Stevenage. All IS members in the region should attend. Further details next week.

**MIDDLETON IS public meeting:** Support the miners. Speakers: Mick Osborne (Maitby NUM) and Jim Singleton (deputy convenor, Standard Triumph). Thursday 31 January, 7.30pm, Moston Labour Club, Moston Lane East (opposite Gardeners Arms).

More IS meetings  
page 14



## IS news

## 150 attend debate with Labour

by Jim Higgins

DERBY:—Philip Whitehead, Labour MP for Derby North and Paul Foot of the International Socialists held a debate at the Trent Social Club last Thursday. The debate, which was described by Labour Councillor Mick Walker as 'the first time for years in Derby where we have really debated important issues', drew an audience of 150.

Paul Foot said that if there was a general election IS members would be voting and advising others to vote Labour. Nevertheless, for socialists, this was not enough. Four previous Labour governments had been consistent only in breaking election promises. From 1964 to 1970 'Wilson was snuffed out by the ruling class,' he said.

Labour was the only working-class alternative to the Tories, but IS was organising, not without success, to build the revolutionary party that would achieve workers' power.

Philip Whitehead, unusually for a Labour MP, had done his homework and read Socialist Worker before the debate. He congratulated IS on the quality of their paper, which he said was 'better than anything the Labour Party can produce'.

## False

His case in the debate rested on 'socialism by consent' against what he described as 'insurrectionary socialism'. He was not prepared to defend the 1964-1970 Wilson government. In 1964 power was won on a false prospectus. Labour had hoped to get socialism on the cheap. There was no abrasive legislation.

Next time people will get together and press for nationalisation and redistribution of wealth, he said.

He conceded that the current continuing crisis made revolutionary action a possibility. But he saw this as the opportunity for reaction and fascism to take over and smash the labour movement. IS and the Chilean MIR had, according to Whitehead, contributed to the downfall of Allende by criticising his dedication to parliamentary forms and demanding the arming of the Chilean workers.

Of even greater interest than the opening speeches was the debate from the floor. Mick Walker said: 'For years we have done nothing in the Labour Party about two vital problems: to educate the movement to discuss political issues and to control the movement properly from the grassroots.'

## Build

The chairman of the local council, Bill Pritchard, said: 'We suffer from complacency in Derby. The biggest thing that has happened here is Brian Clough's sacking. When Joan Lester, of Labour's national executive, came to Derby only 17 people came to the meeting. We need to build cells of the Labour movement in the factories.'

Mel Reade, an ASTMS delegate to the South East Derbyshire Labour Party, commenting on the lack of socialist credibility in Labour, said: 'In our area during the last election there was a saying "Vote Labour and Keep the Socialists out". I can just forgive and just explain 1964 to 1970. What I can't stand is the lack of socialist principles to start with.'

Other speakers were critical of Philip Whitehead's support for entry into the Common Market. Several IS members spoke in the debate. Mike Rooke, an IS member of UCATT, the building workers' union, spoke eloquently on the Shrewsbury 24 case.

The collection raised £22 which, after expenses are paid, will be sent to the Shrewsbury Defence Fund. Three people joined IS



Last week's protest outside Wormwood Scrubs prison. PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report)

## BRUTAL FORCE-FEEDING GOES ON

THE brutal treatment of four Irish political prisoners held in British prisons continues. Dolours and Marion Price, in the hospital wing of Brixton prison, Hugh Feeney in Gartree prison, Leicestershire, and Gerald Kelly in Wormwood Scrubs, are still on hunger strike and still being force-fed.

The hunger strike, to obtain transfer to a Northern Ireland prison, is now entering the eleventh week. Three weeks ago fears were expressed for the lives of the Price sisters, particularly Dolours. Hugh Feeney had already suffered what was described as a 'mild' heart attack. Today their situation is worse.

Claire Price, sister of the jailed

girls, has visited them in Brixton. She reports: 'Their faces have gone a waxy colour and they have sores around their mouths. They are both much thinner and they are complaining that they cannot sleep.'

Force-feeding is done every day at 10am and their throats are bruised from the insertion of the thick plastic tube. Both girls are almost always sick after feeding. No visitors can report on Hugh Feeney or Gerald Kelly as they are allowed none.

Since Lord Coalville, Minister at the Home Office, claimed that the four were not ill, the prisoners have refused medical examination, demanding independent medical attention.

STOP THIS  
CRUEL TORTURE  
OF  
FORCE FEEDING!

The vengeful spirit of the Home Office is matched by the courage of the four republicans. The present treatment, much longer continued, can at best permanently damage their health and might end in death.

Last weekend the Irish Political Hostages Committee and the Joint Action Committee held protests and demonstrations outside Brixton and Wormwood Scrubs prisons. Part of the protest was a staged demonstration of force-feeding.

The Home Office remains adamant that it will not return the hunger strikers to Northern Ireland. As with every other injustice in Britain today, only the maximum pressure and protest will make them change their mind.

## Whats on

**MAIDSTONE Socialist Worker public meeting:** Their crisis—our answer. Speakers: Roger Protz (editor, Socialist Worker) and a member of Kent NUM, Friday 1 February, 8pm, The Old Palace, Bishops Way, Maidstone. All welcome.

**BRADFORD IS public meeting:** Free the Shrewsbury Three—kick out the Tories. Speakers: John Carpenter (building worker convicted of picketing at Shrewsbury) and Wally Preston. Wednesday 30 January, 8pm, Talbot Hotel, Kirkgate.

**LOUGHBOROUGH IS public meeting:** Why the miners must win. Speakers: Tony Barrow (TGWU) and a Leicestershire miner. Tuesday 29 January, 7.45pm, The Charnwood pub, The Rushes.

**TAMWORTH Socialist Worker public meeting:** Fight the Tories. Speaker: Roger Kline. Wednesday 30 January, 8pm, The Globe Inn, Lower Gunyate, Tamworth.

**LEEDS IS Socialist Worker Rally:** Speakers: John Carpenter (building worker convicted of picketing at Shrewsbury) and John Palmer. Thursday 31 January, 8pm, The Guildford Hotel.

**CRAWLEY IS public meeting:** Whose crisis? Make the Tories pay. Speakers include Jim Higgins. Wednesday 30 January, 8pm, AEU Hall, Robinson Road, Crawley.

**DEAL IS public meeting:** Government versus the unions. Speakers include Paul Holborow and an NUM member from South Staffordshire. Sunday 27 January, 7.30pm, The Mill Inn, Mill Hill, Deal.

**LONDON BUILDING WORKERS fraction meeting:** Tuesday 29 January, 7.45pm, The General Picton, Wharfedale Road (near Kings Cross Station). All London IS building workers should make every effort to attend.

## Classified

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**ANGOLA: BIG BUSINESS VERSUS THE PEOPLE.** Public meeting, Monday 4 February (MPLA Day), 7.30pm, Unity House (NUR), Euston Road, London NW1. Speakers: Basil Davidson, Lionel Cliffe and others. Sponsored by Committee for Freedom in Mozambique, Angola and Guine. Info: 01-734 9541.

**COMRADE** requires room in North West/West London. Phone Kevin at 01-602 0851 (work).

**FEMALE COMRADE** wants own room in socialist flat, SW or SE London areas preferred. Phone Moira at 348 2888.

**IS WOMAN** moving to Leeds in need of room in friendly house as soon as possible. Please contact Burg Kinsey, 104 Rosary Road, Norwich, Norfolk.

**THIRD COMRADE** wanted to share comfortable house near Grays, Essex. Phone Purfleet 3038.

**SPECIAL SALE:** Chinese silk-woven portraits of Marx, Engels, Lenin, etc. Sizes: 28in x 19in—£1.10, 16in x 10in—75p, 7in x 4in—25p. Slightly rain-soiled. All at half the above prices. 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.

**TRADE UNIONISTS AGAINST PHASE 3 public meeting.** Speakers: Ernie Roberts and Paul Smith (industrial editor, Red Weekly). Friday 25 January, 7.30pm, at Cornet of Horses, Lavender Gardens, London SW11. Organised by Battersea Labour Party Young Socialists.

**PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS AND THE CRISIS:** Monday 28 January, 7.30pm, Small Hall, Conway Hall. Public meeting of the International Marxist Group.

**LIBERTARIAN STRUGGLE** readers' discussion meeting arranged by Organisation of Revolutionary Anarchists (North London): Thursday 31 January, 7.30pm, The General Picton, Caledonian Road, London N1. Libertarian Struggle is available from 68 Chingford Road, London E17, for 5p plus 3p postage.

**TEXTILE WORKER issue no 2 now out.** Four pages, only 2p. Rank and file paper for all workers in all textile, hosiery and allied trades. Send orders to TEXTILE WORKER, 83 Staveley Road, Keighley, Yorkshire. Phone Keighley 4738 or Hebden Bridge 3662.

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## SOCIAL IN AID OF THE FAMILIES OF THE SHREWSBURY DEFENDANTS

This Friday, 25 January, 7pm-midnight, Covent Garden Community Centre, London WC2.

**KICK OUT THE TORIES FREE THE THREE SUPPORT THE MINERS** Demonstration and rally organised by Left Unity Committee, Leeds District International Socialists and Leeds Communist Party, Assemble outside Leeds Town Hall, Saturday 26 January, 1.30pm.

**HARINGEY TRADES COUNCIL public meeting** SOLIDARITY WITH THE MINERS AND LOCUMEN. Speakers include Joe Burk (president, Kent area NUM), George Saville (executive member ASLEF) and a member of UCATT. Thursday 31 January, 7.45pm, Tottenham Trades Hall, Bruce Grove, London N17.

**THE SOCIALIST PARTY** aims at building a moneyless world community without frontiers based on common ownership—with production solely for use—not profit. It opposes all other political parties, all leadership, all racialism, all war. Write for specimen socialist literature to 'One World' (SW), The Socialist Party of Great Britain, 52 Clapham High Street, London SW4.

## Bosses war on union -50 sacked

BLACKBURN:—Management at the Robinson Engineering factory has declared all-out war on the newly-formed union organisation. Two weeks ago, as workers clocked off for the weekend, 50 of the 80 manual workers were given their cards. They were sacked without a word to union representatives and no reasons were given.

Robinsons has been organised over the past year largely thanks to the efforts of Joe Lavelle, now the AUEW convenor.

The Charlton brothers, who own the firm, have been spoiling for a fight and consider the present crisis a chance to rid themselves of Joe, the two stewards, Peter Lord and Bob Cooke, and the union as a whole.

The sacked workers immediately started picketing the gates and the remaining staff immediately came out in sympathy. The picketing is being kept up.

Management now claims the reason for the sackings was the steel shortage caused by the three-day week. Some indication of their real motives can be gleaned from the fact that 80 tons of steel were delivered the very afternoon of the sackings. Even before that 300 tons of steel were in store.

Conditions in the factory before the dispute were every bit as brutal as the management's behaviour over the sackings would suggest. Workers have to eat their food with spray paint everywhere. The 'canteen' is right next to the lavatory and the stink is appalling.

## Accused teachers win first round

LONDON:—The long-delayed hearing against the 'Wandsworth Three', the three teachers who refused to take part in a secret union trial, began at the National Union of Teachers head office last week.

The three—Eric Porter, Fred Scott and David Whiteley—are accused by the union executive of refusing to be bound to secrecy over proceedings against them for allegations arising from the NUT strike rally last February. They are also accused of 'conduct detrimental to the interests of the union'.

The three are leading members of the union's Wandsworth branch. Fred Scott has been nominated for the union's vice-presidency and David Whiteley as an executive member for London.

The three won two notable victories on the first day of the

## Airport workers fight Phase 3

ENGINEERING and maintenance workers at Britain's airports are still in the front line in the struggle to break Phase Three—despite efforts by Transport Union officials to stab them in the back.

Under cover of the fuel crisis, TGWU airport official John Cousins has spent the last two months whipping up fears of redundancies at the airports in an effort to gain acceptance of a Phase Three pay deal.

Then last week he packed a re-call meeting of TGWU stewards with clerical representatives and foreign airlines staff in an attempt to force an agreement. To the astonishment of shop stewards the chairman told the meeting that delegates from the British Airports Authority and Civil Air Transport would not be entitled to vote.

When Fred Thomas, TGWU convenor at BEA Heathrow and a known supporter of an all-out strike to break Phase Three, was about to speak he was told from the chair that the discussion was closed. Fred Thomas and 80 stewards had had enough—they walked out of the meeting.

## Sabotage

Discussion actually continued for 30 minutes more before the vote was taken. BOAC TGWU stewards abstained so underlining that Cousins had not got his way.

Militants also noted the about-turn of Ian Stuart, the Liberal Parliamentary candidate who sits on the airport liaison committee. Two weeks earlier he had attacked full-time officials for trying to sabotage the pay claim, but at the meeting he too was pushing for the Phase Three offer to be accepted.

It does not follow at all that the cutback in fuel to British Airways leads to redundancies. On the engineering base at Heathrow it actually means more work as there are more planes grounded which, by law, must be serviced every few days. In addition, militants suspect that corporation profits are being protected by cutting out half-empty planes, holding up passengers until the planes are full and then blaming the fuel crisis for the inconvenience.

In any event the airport claim of £10 across the board, a 35-hour week and improved shift premiums is now one of the most advanced outstanding claims in the country. Next Wednesday engineering and maintenance shop stewards from all the unions meet to discuss recommendations to the mass meeting on 5 February. The symbolic 24-hour stoppage being suggested by some leading airport officials will have to be countered by a call for an all-out strike.

hearing. Strong protest was made that the hearing had been called in schooltime, so endangering their jobs, and that the case had been discussed with their employers without the three teachers being asked. The next hearing is to be on a Saturday.

The disciplinary panel chairman, John Gray, executive member for Cheshire, at first barred the witnesses the three wished to call. He said they were 'irrelevant' as the events concerned had happened in a private session of the conduct committee.

But the three maintained they had a democratic right to establish that whatever actions they took were not 'detrimental to the interests of the union', and after long argument the chairman backed down. Witnesses are to be allowed, and the three are to be allowed to attend the whole hearing and cross-examine their accuser.



# AMBULANCEMEN: TORIES READY TO PUT THE BOOT IN

WITH the help of trade union officials and Labour councillors all over the country, millionaire Sir Keith Joseph Minister for Social Security, is winning his battle with the ambulance men.

After his victory over Scottish ambulance men last week, he plans to put the boot into ambulance men in England and Wales. Only a handful of ambulance men—mostly in Liverpool, Barrow, and the Isle of Wight—are still following the resolution of their delegates' conference three weeks ago to answer emergency calls only.

The call—the first ever for industrial action by ambulance men—was in support of a de-

mand for the substantial wage increase under a 'restructuring agreement' promised 18 months ago by the employers, but banned by Phase Three.

The rot set in on 13 January when the executive of the main ambulance men's union—the public employees' union NUPE—recommended a return to normal work.

Five days later NUPE's general secretary, Alan Fisher, endorsed the TUC's line that the miners are 'a special case', and that other low-paid workers such as ambulance men will just have to wait their turn in the queue.

Deserted by their union, and isolated from other sections of hospital workers, the ambulance men were left to the full force of

the employers' attack.

Last Monday Kent County Council warned its ambulance men that unless they called off their 'emergencies only' action they would be sacked. The men resumed normal working the following day.

## OVERTIME

The employers are celebrating their victory by drawing up productivity deals to get 'greater efficiency' out of the ambulance men. The deals will switch the shift rotas so that the highest-paid overtime periods are cut. Jock McKerlie, NUPE steward in the Bloomsbury ambulance depot, London, has

worked out the figures.

'I reckon the new deal will put £10.30 on the basic wage,' he told Socialist Worker. 'But the loss of overtime, especially after midnight, will cut most of our wages by more than £15 a week. Whoever thought up this idea must be mad.'

'It's not just the drop in money. We have to work after midnight on the late shift, and in some cases we're going to be working three weeks with only one day off.'

'And we don't even know that these proposals will be accepted by the Pay Board. The productivity deal at Durham after the men's strike last year was knocked back by the board for being too generous!'



CENTRE POINT, 202,000 square feet of concrete wasteland at the end of London's Oxford Street under occupation last weekend. It cost £5½ million 10 years ago, now property developer Harry Hyams has an empty building worth between £45 million and £65 million on his hands.

The 100 squatters were the first tenants, pointing out in a leaflet that

Centre Point has become 'a corrupt symbol of everything that is unequal in our corrupt society'. 'Stay in', chanted many of the 3000 demonstrators who came to offer support on Sunday afternoon. The role of the police as defenders of property, not people was underlined by their massive presence. There were 24 arrests.

Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

## NO TRICKS -WORKERS TELL BOSS

CORNWALL:—The best way to fight bosses' impudence over the three-day week was shown by women shop stewards at Rank Radio International factory, Camborne, which employs some 1200 workers, mostly women, more than half of them members of the Electricians Union.

Management decreed that the workers would work on New Year's Day, and would be laid off on the Thursday and Friday of that week because power was not available on these days. They then decreed that the Thursday would be a holiday instead of New Year's Day.

The workers had a guaranteed week arrangement which meant that they would have been paid for the Thursday anyway. In other words, the bosses had pinched their holiday.

The stewards also claimed that holiday premium payments—time and a third—had not been paid on New Year's Day.

### Guards

Senior steward Connie Tull wrote a tough message to management stating that the arrangements were 'totally unacceptable', and threatening a strike throughout the factory from Sunday 27 January unless premium payments were paid and another holiday granted.

Last Monday Jim Gamble, EEPTU official, came down from Newquay for talks and Barry Watson, Rank's personnel officer, told the stewards he wanted to 'discuss the matter' with Gamble on his own.

The stewards refused. Connie Tull told Socialist Worker: 'I went in and sat in Watson's office. He called in the security guards, but I sat tight. He then said that if I didn't clear out, he'd call the police. I said that I would go and ring up the newspapers if that happened. The police never arrived.'

The talks did take place, and have been adjourned.

Industrial relations at Ranks have not been improved by the news that Sir John Davis, its chairman, intends to celebrate last year's £68 million profit by sending a Valentine card to all the firm's women workers.

'I'm afraid you can't quote me on that,' said Connie Tull. Then, after reflection: 'Just call it sad.'

## Crisis challenge at Leyland plant

by SW reporter

OXFORD:—With most car plants on a three-day week, the motor bosses are desperate to screw the maximum production out of their workforce, while trying to cut back on the wage bill. Workers at the massive British Leyland complex in Cowley found their agreements and working practices under attack as soon as three-day working began.

On the first day Engineering and Transport Union members at the body plant voted to ban overtime if normal premium payments for overtime hours and Saturday working were not paid. The company conceded this but are taking the unions through procedure.

The TGWU also won back its interpretation of the body plant production workers' lay-off agreement that lay-off pay is paid by the shift and not on an hourly basis.

Across the road at the assembly plant there has been a big dispute about the 'retention' agreement for the plant's 3000 workers in back-up and maintenance services, who have an agreement which keeps them in work for four days after any shut down of production. As they are now locked out every week they claim the agreement should operate each week. The management claims it entitles them to only four days pay during the whole

period of the government lockout.

The workers started a sit-in on non-working days. Several hundred participated on both shifts. The management offered an improved version of the production workers' agreement. But this would not give the same type of protection.

A meeting of 2000 on Tuesday last week rejected these proposals, and supported a proposal from the floor that there be an overtime ban until their agreement is honoured. An overtime ban would cut the three-day week to two days, and reduce the hours allocated from 57 to 35 for the two shifts.

The management went quite hysterical, talked of the meeting reflecting only a minority and said the men were being used by political extremists. When this had no effect they said it was uneconomical to run the plant for two days and threatened to shut it down altogether.

But on the second day of the ban, another dispute interrupted their scheming. The transport section in the assembly plant walked out after management tried to get some workers to come in on a day which would break their 'One in—all in' policy.

The lesson is clear. Only strong, determined action on the shop floor can stop management from trying to break every agreement in the book and using the crisis to justify it.

## Saturday work ban in mills

NORTH EAST LANCASHIRE:—More than 3000 textile workers in mills around Burnley and Nelson are refusing to work on Saturdays because the employers are refusing to pay premium payments during the three-day week. All the mills in the area have been limited to power supplies on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The issue of premium payments was discussed on Monday at a conciliation panel chaired by Professor John Wood of Sheffield University. Professor Wood is known to militants in Lancashire for his chairmanship of the inquiry into the strike at Pilkingtons, St Helens, in 1970, which

ended with the best militants out of work.

At the panel the mill owners bitterly opposed payment of any premium for Saturday working. They played up the government's 'national emergency' arguments and pleaded for 'sacrifice in the nation's hour of need'. The union refused to agree, and Professor Wood has gone back to Sheffield to ponder his findings.

F G Hague, secretary of the Northern Counties Textile Trades Federation—which includes all the mill unions—told Socialist Worker: 'We have agreements for premium payments. They are very clear to us. We intend to get the payments.'

## Walk-out as convenor victimised

BEVERLEY, Yorkshire:—The sacking of the convenor of Armstrong Patents, Jean Jepson, after she refused to accept the three-day working week, led to a walk-out by 80 men and women from the workforce of 500 last week.

At a meeting last month Jean was given the unanimous backing of the workers but now the employers have used the 'crisis' and the three-day working week to split the unity and victimise militants.

At the car components firms York factory workers have been blackmailed with threats of redundancy into suspending the guaranteed 40-hour working week agreement. They are now working three 10-hour shifts for which they are paid for 32 hours, and receive two days dole money. In return management are getting almost normal production.

When Jean Jepson called in the Transport Union area officer, Les Uppfold, he was refused entry into the factory and had to call a mass meeting of his members outside the gates. Inside, personnel manager Clive Hillwood, broadcast over the factory loudspeaker system: 'There is a meeting outside the gates. Please be loyal to your firm and to your pockets. Disregard the union.'

Management have been trying to get rid of Jean for some time. Last year they offered her £5000 to leave the factory, and later offered her a supervisor's job plus a £500 bonus.

Before the three-day week the bosses were not strong enough to get rid of militants like Jean, but now, coupled with the new devastating anti-picketing laws, they are seizing their opportunity. Police have restricted the picket to six persons to make it as ineffective as possible.

Within 24 hours of Jean's dismissal, the Hull Port Shop Stewards Committee called on dockers to refuse to handle any Armstrong Patents products and any transport using the firm. The dockers are repaying a debt—Jean brought out Armstrongs in support of the Pentonville Five in 1972, the first Humberside factory to come out.

Other trade unionists should follow the example of the Hull dockers. Don't let Jean Jepson and those out on strike with her stand alone. Letters of support and donations should be sent to Jean Jepson, c/o, Bevin House, George Street, Hull, East Yorkshire.

## MILITANTS SACKED BY LUCAS

KEIGHLEY:—21 workers at the NSF factory were sacked on Friday. The company is the most profitable in the Lucas combine and the second most profitable in the whole electronics industry. It has taken advantage of the crisis to increase profits further by cutting the wage bill.

It is no coincidence that NSF workers are the lowest paid in the combine. Technical and supervisory members of the Engineering Union were on strike for 16 weeks last winter simply to get parity with the rest of Lucas.

Workers who played a leading part in that strike, including two members of the office committee, were among those sacked. So was the AUEW engineering section convenor and the supervisory branch shop steward.

The TASS members met on Monday and agreed unanimously to support the sacked workers. The meeting instructed them to turn up to work. The union, which is backing the dispute, is attempting to discuss the sackings at a combine level.



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# MINERS: STRIKE TO

# WIN!

## Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

IT IS NOW CLEAR that there is only one way for the miners to win their full claim—and that is all-out strike action as soon as possible.

The recall of the union executive on Thursday was at long last a response to the growing pressure from the rank and file for more positive action to defeat the government.

But if the executive decided to call for a ballot on strike action—and the result was not known as we went to press—it is vital that miners take action NOW and do not wait for a further month to elapse before the ballot result is known.

Coal stocks have withstood the overtime ban far more steadfastly than any of the NUM leaders calculated. Militants from the coalfields, in Yorkshire, South Wales and Scotland report that the early confidence in the effectiveness of the overtime ban is evaporating rapidly. The growing frustration is expressing itself in a series of small unpublicised disputes leading to 24 hour strikes.

A typical example occurred at Betteshanger colliery after the local newspaper carried a headline suggesting that Kent miners were not militant. The Betteshanger men proved the headline wrong by striking.

In dozens of pits, disputes about attempted shift changes have led to short strikes, including several in South Wales.

Over the last week, Scottish miners have started a series of pithead meetings to discuss how to step up the action.

## ACTION

Eric Clarke, a member of the union executive, addressed all three shifts at the Bilston Glen colliery in Midlothian, employing 2000 miners. A resolution calling for all-out strike action was carried with a substantial majority.

Kellingley lodge has sent a resolution to the North Yorkshire delegate panel calling for immediate escalation of the ban.

Ike Carter, branch secretary of the Markham colliery in Derbyshire, says: 'The overtime ban has gone as far as it can go. We need to escalate the action, with unscheduled strikes and, if necessary, all-out strike.'

'We are all determined to get the claim. So far as we are concerned, we will either be the best paid workers in the country or there will be no industry left. Unless, of course, we are sold out at the top.'

Ike Carter indicates a real fear many militants have that Joe Gormley will find some formula that will enable him to surrender.

The only safeguard, whatever the result of Thursday's meeting, is for militants to launch a campaign in all the coalfields for strike action now. If there is a decision for a ballot the

## Policy for victory

- Fight for strike action
- Local strike action in every area to step up pressure if there is a ballot
- Organise flying pickets to stop the movement of coal stocks.
- Demand that no more foreign coal be imported
- Demand that the NUR and ASLEF honour pledges not to move coal.

more militant areas should anticipate the result and come out NOW.

In 1970 unofficial flying pickets centred on the Doncaster panel brought out tens of thousands of miners. In 1972 success was made sure by the development of the flying pickets at the power stations and the solidarity of other workers.

Strike action in 1974 must be prepared with even greater care than in either 1970 or 1972. The time to make those preparations is NOW.

Local branches and pits should make contact with NUR and ASLEF branches to ensure that not a single piece of coal is moved.

It is not too late. The government, faced with a determined miners' strike is incredibly weak.

The miners can win. They must win. On their success depends the immediate future well-being of all workers.

## Where the coal is hidden

THE SUCCESS of the government's manoeuvres to upstage the miners' overtime ban is now clearer than ever.

Massive reserves of coal have been built up in Scotland by the three-day week policy. The Scottish regions of the power workers unions have compiled a report which shows that both the Longannet and Cockerzie power stations have full stocks, with Cockerzie only generating on three days a week.

## EVERY PENNY AIDS THE FIGHT

THE TORY GOVERNMENT and the employers are engaged in one of the most amazing propaganda campaigns against the unions, and the miners in particular, that we have ever seen.

Three-day working, television until 10.30, brushing our teeth in the dark—are all attempts to get us to blame the miners for our troubles. But, compared to the Tories, our resources are small. They have the national newspapers, national television and radio networks, we have Socialist Worker.

But the circulation of Socialist Worker is bigger now than it has ever been—but it has to be increased even more. To do that we also have to build our organisation. To do both, we need even bigger financial resources.

The special January £5000 Fighting Fund now stands at £3599.73, leaving us £1400 to raise by the end of the month. Every penny YOU can raise is important.

In the last two weeks anonymous donations have ranged from £1 to £100 from someone who signs himself 'an armchair socialist'.

IS branches donating money have included: Cardiff £25, C A Parsons £18.60, Kirkby £50, London Printworkers £12, Ealing £24, North Herts £55, Loughborough £5, Harlesden £5, Hull £21, Milton Keynes £2, Fakenham £10, Walthamstow £10, Barnet £45, Luton £7, Llanelli £7, North London £47.83, Guildford £7, Bristol £30, Colindale £109.24, Wood Green £10.75, Lucas, Birmingham £5.50, Bath £6, Maidstone £40, Merseyside £76. And many more that we don't have room to list.

Please rush donations and collections to Jim Nichol, National Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.



Five of the eight building workers now on trial at Shrewsbury. PICTURE: Phil McCowen

## Pickets trial on the road again

THE second stage of the government-ordered show trials of building worker's pickets at Shrewsbury Crown Court is now into its second week. Eight men are on trial: John Clee, John Davies, Derrick Hughes, Alfred James, Arthur Murray, William Pierce, Samuel Warburton and Thomas Williams.

Already this second trial has all the 'get them at any price' hallmarks of the first, which resulted in savage prison sentences for Des Warren, Ricky Tomlinson and John McKinsie Jones.

On Thursday last week one of the prosecution witnesses, Norman Cooper, admitted that the police officers had shown him his original statement, made 18 months ago, just before he went into the witness box.

This police practice of 'refreshing' prosecution witnesses' memories was a constant feature of the first trial. The law is supposed to frown upon any such goings-on and judges used to take strong action against them.

### Obliged

For example, in the trial of James Hanratty for murder in 1961, Judge Gorman obliged the top police officer in the case to lock himself in his hotel room until he was to give evidence after he had been seen communicating with a witness. But at Shrewsbury in these trials, the 'refresher' has become the norm.

This week the prosecution has been bringing evidence relating to all the sites in Shrewsbury picketed on 6 and 7 September 1972. This again is an indication of how determined the prosecution are to get convictions.

The men are on charges of affray and unlawful assembly relating to alleged incidents on McAlpine's Brookside contract in Telford New Town. But the prosecution is once again concentrating on throwing anything and everything at the men.

Terence Callaghan, site manager on the lump-riddled Mount contract, where prosecution witnesses all agree no violent incidents of any kind took place, gave evidence this week on how the men who picketed his site kept chanting 'Kill, Kill,

Kill'.

He has made this absurd statement before—during his evidence last October in the first Shrewsbury trial. Defence lawyers insisted then that the men were merely chanting one of the most popular slogans during the official strike, namely 'Kill, kill, kill the lump.' Defence lawyers had to insist on this once again this week.

The prosecution's determination to pin down the defendants was illustrated by the remarkable evidence last week of Wilmot Barry, a lump worker on the Mount contract.

Barry told the court that he identified two of the defendants, Arthur Murray and William Pierce from photographs shown him by the police. He particularly remembered Murray, he told the court, because he was well dressed.

Defence lawyers then asked Barry if he had made a statement to the police on the day of the picketing in Shrewsbury. Barry denied that he had made any statement. Then the defence lawyers produced a copy of a statement Barry made to the police on that very day he so adamantly denied making one.

In this statement Barry specifically stated he was unable to remember anything about Arthur Murray except that he had a North Wales accent. But now, giving evidence for the prosecution, he miraculously recalled Arthur Murray because he was so well dressed.

This new statement is word for word the same as that of another witness, Norman Cooper, who denied discussing evidence with Barry beforehand. But Cooper did admit that police had shown him a copy of his statement just before he went into the witness box.

## Boost for 'Free the Three'

THE CAMPAIGN to release the three building workers' pickets already jailed and against the trials themselves got a big boost in Manchester on Saturday when more than 100 trade union delegates attended a conference called by the Greater Manchester Co-ordinating Committee of Trade Unionists.

After a long and open discussion of the organising committee's draft declaration, the conference went on record for maximum support of next Sunday's Liverpool Trades Council Shrewsbury Conference. Delegates also insisted that industrial action was the way to free the three, that there should be no talks with the Tories while the three are in jail and that the Conspiracy Act must be removed

from the statute book.

In Southampton last Friday 300 trade unionists marched through the town in protest at the Shrewsbury jailings and the three-day week. The march was supported by many Construction Union branches, electricians from Vosper Thorneycroft, Davy Power Gas and Fawley and three branches of the International Socialists.

Journalists in the Teesside branch of the National Union of Journalists, who have just been locked in a vicious battle with their employer, the giant Thomson Organisation, have gone on record in protest at the sentences and the use of conspiracy charges.

At Clydach, one of the many tiny villages in the South Wales valleys, 24

people attended an IS-organised meeting on Shrewsbury. This, the biggest meeting in the village for many years, heard John Llywarch explain the truth about the trial. £28 was collected for the defence fund.

Liverpool Trades Council  
RECALL CONFERENCE ON THE  
SHREWSBURY TRIALS  
Saturday 2 February, 2pm, St George's  
Hall, Lime Street, Liverpool  
Delegates credentials 20p each from  
Simon Fraser, 33 Hatton Garden,  
Liverpool 3.  
Meeting for IS delegates: 11.30am,  
The Mitre Pub, Dale Street, next to  
entrance to Mersey tunnel.  
All IS delegates to attend.

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