

Socialist Worker

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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

No mandate for union bashing

HEATH

Inside: Labour's campaign
Powell's power bid
The Liberal revival

HAMMERED

A HAMMER BLOW has been struck at Heath and his Tory policies. By their votes in the General Election, millions of workers have denied Heath a mandate for another long session of red-baiting and union-bashing.

For the past three weeks the whole armoury of the British ruling class has been used to bully workers into returning another, stronger Tory government. Big businessmen have dug deep into their pockets to subsidise the slickest-ever Tory television campaign.

The press, aided by the public opinion polls, have sunk to new depths to insult the unions and to paint the most extremist government of modern times as 'liberal' and 'moderate'.

Yet the workers resisted. They voted against Heath's mandate. But in a confused way they showed a lack of confidence in any of the electoral alternatives.

Labour did not seem to offer any solutions to the economic crisis. Neither did the Liberals nor the Nationalists. So the anti-Tory vote was fragmented, leading to electoral deadlock.

One fact must be remembered above all others. The Tory government was forced to an election by the miners. By using their industrial strength the miners did more for themselves and their class in a few weeks than had been done in 36 years of patient arguing by union negotiators or by union-subsidised MPs in the House of Commons.

LESSON

The miners' case was broadcast to their fellow workers more dramatically than at any other time since the 1926 General Strike. When they struck in 1972, the miners got the biggest pay rise in their history.

When they struck again in 1974, their class supported them once again. A Tory government was forced to seek a 'new mandate'—and lost it.

The lesson is clear. The industrial strength of the workers is the source of their power. It would be tragic if

by
SW Political
Correspondent

that lesson was lost out of misplaced loyalty to Heath's successors in Whitehall.

Whatever government follows Heath, however different the faces and accents of the new ministers, the same barbarians will be manning the Stock Exchange.

The same speculators will be controlling international finance.

The same class warriors will be in charge of the great industrial corporations.

The same 2000 gentlemen will have their fingers on the buttons of real power, economic power, industrial power.

These gentlemen are not interested in the promises made by this or that party during an election campaign. They are interested in clinging to their wealth and property at the expense of the men and women who work at their command.

Exploitation will continue however many trade unionists are in the cabinet and whatever the pledges and intentions of Labour or Liberal Ministers.

'Incomes Policy' means the same whichever government introduces it. It means wage restraint, at a time when prices, by the very nature of the system cannot be restrained.

'Sacrifices' and 'the national interest' mean the same in the mouths



of Labour Ministers as of Tory Ministers. They mean 'sacrifice' for one class in the 'national interest' of another.

The militancy which has been building up in the past 3½ years in the British working class must not

be thrown away. The workers must not be made to pay for the bosses' crisis.

Relaxation of militancy means huge cuts in the standard of living of working class families and it postpones still further the day when

The miners forced Heath to call an election—and lose. Now they must step up the fight to win their full claim—and win a victory for all workers.

the workers, by use of their industrial strength, can put an end forever to the rule of the capitalist corporations.

The fight must go on. The miners must not concede a single penny of their full claim.

The campaign to release the Shrewsbury eight and to repeal the conspiracy laws must be redoubled.

We have won the first round against Heath. But the fight against Heath's policies, whoever carries them out, is far from over.

Army on the streets

Last Sunday troops occupied a civilian, working-class area of Hull in Yorkshire.

They were soldiers from the Territorial and Volunteer Reserve using regular army vehicles. At least one soldier had a gas riot gun.

It is a sinister development—a taste of Belfast in Yorkshire. The army is clearly being trained and mobilised for activity against the working-class community.

Exclusive picture and full report: page 15.

—but fight's not over

SOCIALISM — NOT A

WHISPER

WHEN HEATH called the general election three weeks ago, all the conditions were there for a great Labour victory at the polls.

Heath started by asking: 'Who runs the country?' but he shut up quickly in case anybody discovered who does. If Labour had taken the campaign to the Tories, if they had campaigned fearlessly for the miners, for the unions and against the rich men's cartel which runs the country, they could have mobilised millions of angry workers and ensured a large overall majority.

Instead, Wilson and his colleagues chose the path of 'moderation'.

Instead of fighting for the oppressed against the oppressors, he argued for 'conciliation'. 'A Labour government', he wrote in the London Evening News at the height of the campaign, will seek to unite the nation. That is why we call our programme: "Let Us Work Together". We will work to unite the nation behind policies which can put Britain on the road to industrial peace and economic success.'

This theme—the unity of the nation—dominated all Wilson's speeches, and all the Labour literature in the campaign.

RIDICULED

It hobbled Labour at every point in the argument. Wilson listed the facts about rising prices but he did not point to the reasons for them: the control of industry by capitalists and profiteers.

He complained about high rents, but he did not attack moneylenders. He ridiculed the Tories for their handling of the miners' dispute, but he never defended the miners' claim or even their decision to strike. In fact, on occasions, Wilson defended William Whitelaw for his treatment of the miners.

Again and again, he responded to the appeal from Tribune to 'make the Common Market the number one issue', hopelessly seeking to jump on the Powellite bandwagon, but scrupulously avoiding any attack on the might of the European industrial monopolies.

He and his 'team' did all in their power to avoid identification with the working class. 'Trade unionists', he told 15 million people on his final television broadcast, 'are people. Employers are people. We must unite these people, not divide them.'

And so, on Wilson's initiative, an election campaign which had promised to be 'the most divisive ever'



Wilson: the three Cs—conciliation, co-operation and consensus

degenerated into a pathetic scramble for the political centre.

Wilson wanted the best of both worlds. He wanted to keep his party's connection with the trade unions, but to appear as representative of trade unionists and employers.

As a result, he squandered the enthusiasm of millions of workers who were waiting to be mobilised. His election meetings were bigger and keener than in 1964, 1966 or 1970.

But his supporters were lulled to sleep with his constant appeals to 'sanity in industrial relations', 'a united people', 'an honourable settlement' and the three familiar C's—'conciliation', 'co-operation', and 'consensus'.

The working class mobilisation which Labour needs to win any

election was lost. But so too, was the middle ground. Once Wilson gambled everything on classlessness and moderation and it was easy for Liberals to pick up many votes that should have gone to Labour.

PROMISES

The Liberals, who are not connected to the trade unions, could pose as better moderates than Labour.

If the election, according to Wilson, was going to be won by the most moderate conciliators, then why not vote for the non-aligned moderates who had not had the chance to break all the promises once in office.

So Wilson lost much of his grassroots support and he lost the centre

as well. The press delighted in what The Times called his 'low-key' campaign. And the Labour movement has been dealt another blow by the deliberate decisions of its own leaders.

There was one sign at least that some Labour supporters realised what was happening. In the middle of Wilson's speech at an enormous rally in Bristol on 22 February, a worker rose in the middle of the hall, and shouted: 'Oh, let's have some socialism, not just talk about one nation. I am not part of Harry Hyams'.

He did not get an answer. For Harold Wilson and all the other Labour leaders could not run a socialist campaign.

This is not just because Wilson himself and many other Labour

The top red baiter

WHEN Wilson was challenged over 'reds under the beds' he never attacked the Tory witchhunters.

On the contrary. He claimed that he was the best witchhunter of them all!

In a television interview on 13 February he said:

'I have a defensible record as an anti-extremist on union problems. I had the guts to stand up in parliament in 1966 and name the communists behind the seamen's strike.

'No one was tougher than I was in the seaman's strike.'

In broadcast after broadcast, both Wilson and Jim Callaghan complained that the Tories had turned 'moderate' men into 'militants'.

The assumption was clear: workers who take militant action against the Tories are evil men opposed to the real interests of workers.

leaders are men of wealth and property who have long since ceased to identify with workers.

It is, more crucially, because Wilson knew that if he won the election, he would be forced to preserve a capitalist system in deep crisis: that the measures he would take against the workers who voted for him would be much tougher than in 1964 to 1970.

He had no intention of slaying the capitalist dragon, so he did not call the workers to arms against it.

PAUL FOOT

The Yellow Tories

by Duncan Hallas

'I AM A supporter of Enoch Powell and I am against the Common Market so I am going to vote Liberal'—Birmingham voter reported in The Times. 'I shall vote Liberal because all three candidates are pink socialists but he is the most right wing'—young woman on ITV discussion programme.

Typical Liberal voters? There is probably no such thing as a typical Liberal voter in 1974. They include middle-class people and working-class people, people whose views range from left of centre through to the far right and, above all, people who have no clear political views of any kind.

Typical

The one definite political stand that the majority of Liberal voters share (if the opinion polls can be believed) is opposition to the Common Market. So they vote for a party which has been more consistently pro-Common Market than any other!

There is such a thing as a typical Liberal candidate though. Liberal candidates, reported the Sunday Times, 'are overwhelmingly middle class'. Out of some 500 Liberal candidates this newspaper could find only five workers.

which lent second mortgages at up to 200 per cent interest.

Its former leader in the House of Lords, Lord Byers, combined his political activities with a lucrative directorship of Rio Tinto Zinc.

The Liberal hero of the dog food commercials, Clement Freud, decorates the board of the Playboy Club and has interests in the restaurant and hotel business. And so on and so on. The Liberals, at leadership level, are simply Yellow Tories.

Support

Why then the upsurge in their vote? It has little or nothing to do with their actual policies. The Common Market is only one illustration of this. It is essentially a vote against 'the system' by people who want a change but have no coherent idea of what they want to change to.

The great virtue of the Liberal Party in the eyes of much of its new support is that it has not been in power. As one commentator aptly put it, 'only grandfathers can remember the skeletons in the Liberal cupboard.'

Many of Thorpe's voting supporters are against 'big unions'

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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Social Security for Strikers



a Socialist Worker pamphlet

Thorpe's alternative Tories and Powell's new power bid

Powell

sniffs the

crisis and

moves to

the right

ENOCH POWELL has launched the biggest gamble of his career. It is one thing to criticise the Tory leadership, but the Conservative Party does not forgive those who, directly or not, urge Tories to vote Labour. Powell has given up any chance of winning the leadership of the party.

Why did he do it? Not because he lacks ambition. His every political action is driven by an insatiable lust for power. Not because he sticks to some consistent politics. He has made more somersaults on the main issues of the day than anyone else in parliament.

No. Because Powell can dimly sense a coming catastrophe for British capitalism so great that it could topple both major parties, Labour and Tory, on the scrapheap. He senses the frustration and anger of masses of people at the endless squabble in the House of Commons.

And he aims to emerge out of the chaos as the Man of Destiny, the only honest leader, who left a corrupt

boosted by Labour's move to the centre

but also fear big business. They are against 'bureaucracy' and 'state interference' but in favour of detailed state control of wages, prices and profits. They are for 'free enterprise' but against capitalism's 'unacceptable face'.

In short, they are refugees from reality. Their protest against conventional capitalist policies takes the form of support for a conventional capitalist party.

It could easily take other forms in the future. Thorpe's absurd claim that his party 'is attached to no class and no vested interest' is also that of the fascist demagogues of the National Front. A lot of Liberal support could go fascist if a credible fascist organisation developed as the Liberal bubble bursts. But equally it could go left.

For the main factor in channelling quite a lot of working class and middle class discontent into the grotesquely inappropriate channel of the Liberal Party is the conservatism

parliament long before any of its other members realised how bankrupt it was.

All the major issues are outside parliament now, and their shadow lies across the Commons chatter. Now Powell has joined the forces outside parliament. The extreme right will rejoice. They have always been the ones to gain from Powell's speeches.



Thorpe: his supporters are refugees from reality

and timidity of the labour movement.

The Labour Party is not seen by these people as a credible force for social change. And unrealistic as their views are in some ways they are right about this. In trying to prove how 'moderate', 'responsible' and competent to run capitalism they are, the Labour leaders cut themselves off from this growing groundswell of discontent.



Powell: a sense of catastrophe

by NIGEL HARRIS

Now he has proved that their politics and parliament's cannot go together.

Yet the break could also be Powell's political suicide. If the catastrophe does not happen, he becomes a comic figure on the sidelines.

Mosley split from Labour in 1931 to form the British Fascists—and died politically. In the 1930s

Churchill isolated himself as an extreme right-wing irrelevance, and it needed a crisis on the scale of the Second World War to bring him back. Without the war he would have remained irrelevant.

But Powell's break comes with a real crisis in parliamentary politics. The soft middle class reaches for any soft option—Taverne or Thorpe. The hard middle class—the small businessmen threatened by both the Common Market and the big British companies—opts for Powell.

But this disintegration of old loyalties is not enough to float a new movement. In the short term, Powell needs Labour.

Militancy

And Wilson is desperate for the Powellite vote. This general election ought to have been a walkover for Labour. On all the issues, the Tory government has been shown to be bankrupt. But Wilson has been paralysed by his fear of militancy and his central concern to protect profits. As a result, he needs Powell—just when Powell needs him.

It is only temporary. Powell is not going to get trapped in Labour any more than he was in the Tories. He is saving himself for higher things. And there are many bridges to be crossed.

He may have broken for the moment with parliament, but he remains an upper-class High Tory. So he probably cannot break through to mass right-wing politics, the basis for fascism. For that he needs to build among the bullies and the spiteful. The right needs Powell, but if the catastrophe is as great as he expects, he will need them even more.

That is still a long way off and is a different battle. Whether the situation ever arrives depends on whether we and thousands of other working people mobilise to fight for an alternative system. Only that can ultimately guard us against Powell's politics of barbarism.

Scots Nats gain thanks to Labour

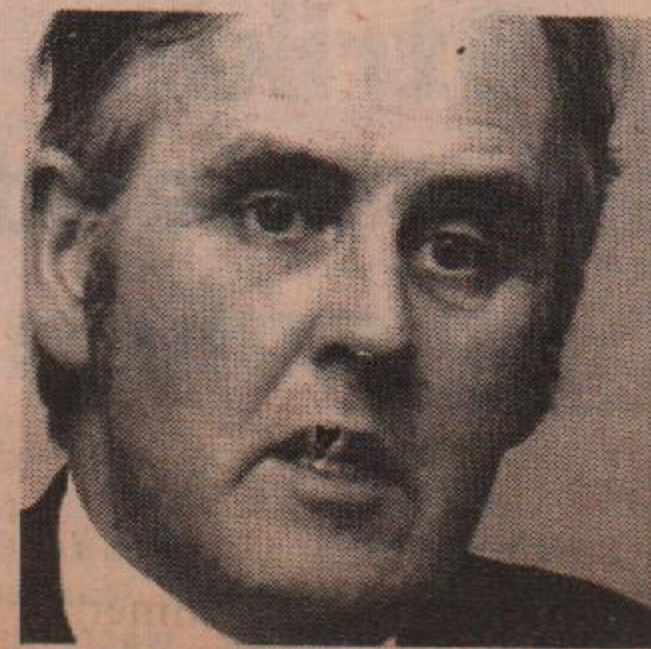
SCOTLAND'S 'TARTAN TORIES'—the Scottish Nationalists—did much better than many of the left thought possible. For the first time since Winnie Ewing's by-election victory in 1968, the SNP is looking like a dangerous political force.

It has not taken large numbers of seats from Labour. But the Scottish Nationalists have picked up many votes and prevented much of Scotland from participating in the anti-Tory swing that took place in England.

Most of their support has come from traditional Labour voters. At International Socialists' street and factory gate meetings in the two weeks before the election, many workers were so disillusioned with the Labour Party that they said they would rather vote against the Tories by supporting the SNP.

The Labour Party's dismal election campaign played right into the SNP's hands. In Glasgow, the only fly-posting on any scale in support of a Labour vote was done by IS.

The Labour Party was incapable of galvanising support. The 'left wing' former Labour MP for Woodside, Neil Carmichael, played the same



SNP leader William Wolfe

tune as the Tories in his election address: 'Our country under the Tories is becoming two nations. Let's end that now, one nation under Labour' it cried.

Little wonder that many workers fell for the radical promises and razzamatazz of the SNP. At least they sounded different.

Labour Party leaflets made no reference to anti-working-class millionaire Tom Keen's backing for the SNP at the Govan by-election.

The party not only failed to raise working-class enthusiasm on the traditional issues but, most critically for those choosing between the SNP and Labour, it failed to come out clearly with a fighting policy on oil and the giant multi-national oil companies.

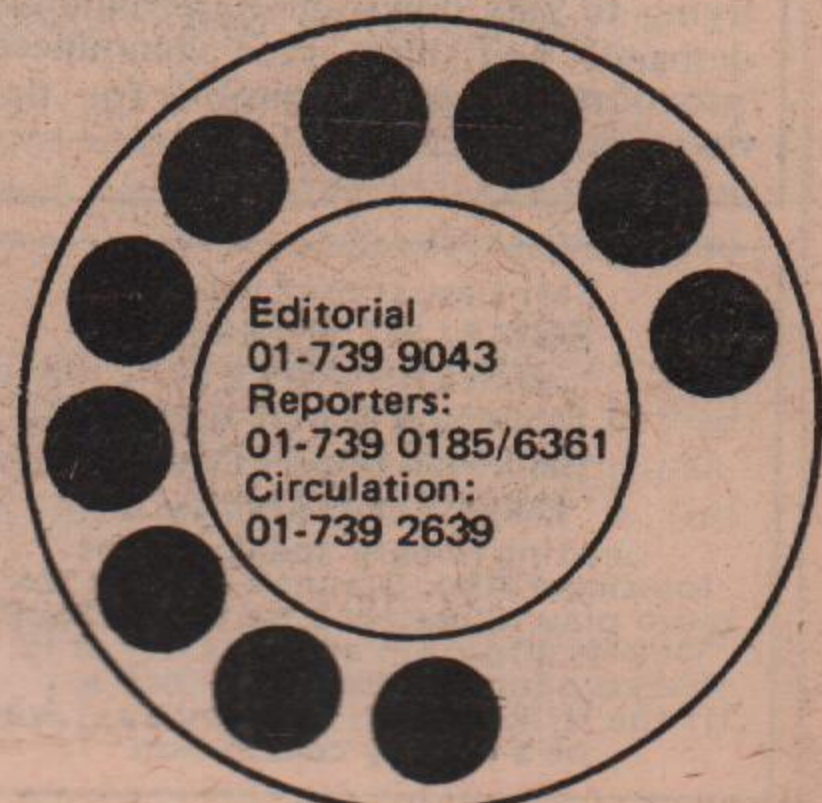
No one knows exactly what the SNP would do about the oil companies, who currently control the oil under the North Sea, if a Scottish parliament actually existed.

But in Scotland the SNP can take some of the credit for making most of the population aware that out there actually is an enormous potential source of economic wealth.

The nationalist vote has yet to be translated into any significant numbers of shop stewards or active trade unionists within the working-class movement.

What now seems clear is that Labour has become so discredited that such a reactionary development might take place unless a really genuine socialist alternative can be built first.

Steve Jefferys



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BRIEFING

THE freedom fighters against Portuguese domination in Africa report successes day by day, including the shooting down of a Rhodesian aircraft in Mozambique's Tete province. Our picture shows Samora Moises Machel, president of FRELIMO, the Mozambique Liberation Front, speaking to a meeting in Cabo Delgado province, large areas of which are now in FRELIMO hands.



THE West German government and public sector employers gave in after only three days of strikes which disrupted public transport, postal services, airports and rubbish collection throughout the country. They agreed to an 11 per cent wage increase for more than two million workers.

Though short of the unions 15 per cent claim, this figure was a considerable advance on the 7½ per cent, which was the employers' 'positively final' offer a few weeks ago. The threat of strikers pushed this up to 9½ per cent, and when the threat was carried out it broke through the government's magic barrier of 10 per cent, beyond which it had said it could not go.

The force of this example is likely to impress other big unions such as the metalworkers, and a long period of relative industrial 'peace' in West Germany could be coming to an end.

ELECTRICITY and telephone workers in the West Indian island of Grenada have returned to work after striking for nearly two months against Prime Minister Eric Gairy and his secret police.

But the dockworkers, on whom the island depends for vital supplies, are carrying on with the strike. Most shops remain closed in protest against Gairy's corrupt and despotic regime—many of them have been stripped of their stock by secret police looters anyway.

Meanwhile, the 8000 inhabitants of Carriacou, part of the newly independent state of Grenada, are threatening to declare their island independent of Gairy.

IN ONE employment office in Detroit, centre of American car industry, bullet-proof glass is being installed between the office staff and the dole queues. This says a lot about growing unemployment in the United States—and about the brutalising conditions in an industry that has seen several violent incidents in the past few years.

SQUATTERS are now occupying more than 3000 flats in Rome, where 50,000 families live in slums and shacks but up to 80,000 new flats are empty because rents are too high. Squatting has grown into a mass movement involving large groups of workers, often organised at first on the factory floor, and with the support of students and socialist community groups.

There is little council housing in Italy, and most working class families live in slums while property companies put up huge blocks of new flats they cannot afford. Groups of squatters have been taking over these blocks as they are completed.

A metalworker explained to the Italian revolutionary weekly paper *Avanguardia Operaia* how he became a squatter: 'We talked about it in the factory. Some people were afraid of the police. It's illegal, but it's the only thing to do. We collected names, then some of us went round the district looking for a suitable building.'

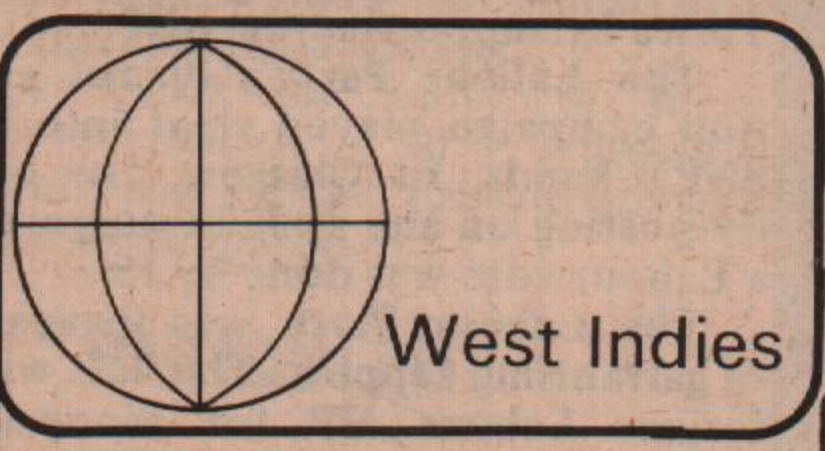
'We held many meetings to explain that this is a different sort of struggle from the one on the factory floor. A much more difficult, more tiring struggle, and you never get 100 per cent secure in the house, if the police come, you have to go, don't resist, and, most important, reoccupy afterwards.'

SIX more people have gone before the Shah's firing squads in Iran for 'attacks on the internal security of the country,' and four others have been sentenced to between five and 15 years in prison.

The date when these people were arrested, the precise nature of the charges, and the place, date and conduct of their trial are completely unknown. An official press statement stated that they had been guilty of 'acts of sabotage, murders, arson and armed aggression.'

With the recent trial of 12 others accused of plotting the Shah's death, which led to the execution of a writer and a film-maker, these events make it increasingly clear that any opposition to the Shah's regime from the left may lead to an arbitrary conspiracy charge, a mockery of a trial, and execution.

MASS ARRESTS AS JUNTA HITS OUT AT LEFT



Striker shot dead by police

by Norah Carlin

A FARMWORKER was shot dead and two others wounded in Martinique, French West Indies, when armed police descended on a group of striking banana workers in a helicopter and fired into the crowd. The body of another banana worker was later washed up on a nearby beach, but the French authorities deny he was murdered by the police.

The same day, police reinforcements were flown in from neighbouring Guadeloupe, French Guiana and France itself. The heavily armed forces of law and order seem to be the main 'benefit' of being part of France. For the workers of Martinique, whose minimum wage is two-thirds that in France and who face massive unemployment, it is hardly a benefit.

The shooting followed a one-day general strike on 12 February in support of journalists on the newspaper *France-Antilles*, who have been on strike since November. The strike had its strongest support among electricity workers, dockers, dustmen and building workers, who were themselves on strike for higher wages last month.

Picket

The banana workers stayed on strike for their wage claim of £3.13 a day instead of £2.60. When attacked by the police, about 100 of them were on their way to picket a farm where scabs were rumoured to be working. Within a week of the killing, their wage claim was met in full by the banana growers.

Many of the strikers and their supporters, especially young people hardest hit by unemployment, are going beyond striking and protesting at police murders and are demanding independence for their island. The man who represents the island in the French Senate has dismissed this as 'the latent disease of youth'. About half the island's people are under 20.

The CGT trade union leaders and the Communist Party in Martinique are trying to play down the independence demand, and have even denounced 'provocateurs' as responsible for the violence.

East Lancashire District
SOCIALIST WORKER
MINERS' RALLY
Monday 4 March, 8pm
Bank Hall Miners Club,
Colne Road, Burnley
Leading miners' speakers plus
folk singer Alex Glasgow (known for
radio play 'Close the Coalhouse Door')
Tickets 50p from any member of IS
or phone Blackburn 670493
(If the strike is won by Monday it will
be a victory celebration)

THE Greek junta has unleashed a wave of opposition against the left and the militant student movement.

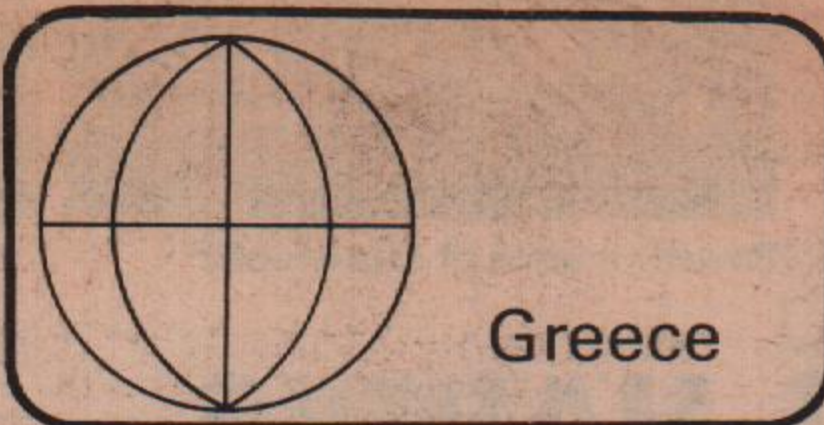
The spate of arrests is a severe blow to both parts of the divided Communist Party. Hardest hit is the pro-Moscow wing, with several members of its central committee arrested.

Arrests have also been directed against revolutionary groups such as the AASPE, an anti-imperialist student group, and student struggle committees. Thousands of students, many workers and other militants have been interrogated and beaten up. Many are still held by the military police. Torture is their normal method of interrogation.

PREVENT

More than 100 left-wing militants have been exiled to Youra, a small deserted island where Papadopoulos deported thousands of the junta's opponents after 1967. Another prison camp on Leros is being re-opened, mainly for students and activists.

The junta is prepared to use any methods to prevent new struggles building up, after seeing how the occupation of Athens led to a popular revolt.



Another reason for the oppression is the instability of the regime. It is a coalition of different, sometimes antagonistic, factions in the army leadership and has no clear political perspective. It needs time to make a new bargain with the opposition politicians and find a way to rebuild the facade of democracy.

Despite the harsh repression, neither the student movement nor the working class has been silenced. In the universities there have been partial strikes, a general boycott of classes from November to January, and last week a four-day boycott to commemorate the November uprising.

For the working class, things get steadily worse as the economic crisis deepens. Prices went up by 53 per cent in the past year, according to official figures, while wages are being held back. Unemployment has also been rising rapidly.

In the construction industry, which takes the largest share of investment, the starting of new housing has dropped by half. The building workers were first to be hit, but there have been cuts in the cement and iron industries, and big sackings in the Athens textile industry.

Under the protection of the junta, employers need hardly bother about technicalities like giving notice or compensation for dismissal. But the security police have to work overtime to keep things that way. The militancy shown last November has not been broken.

VICTORY

It is vital that the junta's plan does not succeed. Every new wave of arrests, every trial must be turned into a political defeat for the junta and a victory for students and workers in struggle.

On Sunday 24 February more than 500 people marched on the Greek Embassy in London in a protest demonstration organised by the Greek Solidarity Committee against this repression. For more information about the struggles in Greece, contact the Greek Solidarity Committee, or the Union of Greek Students in London, at 60 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1.

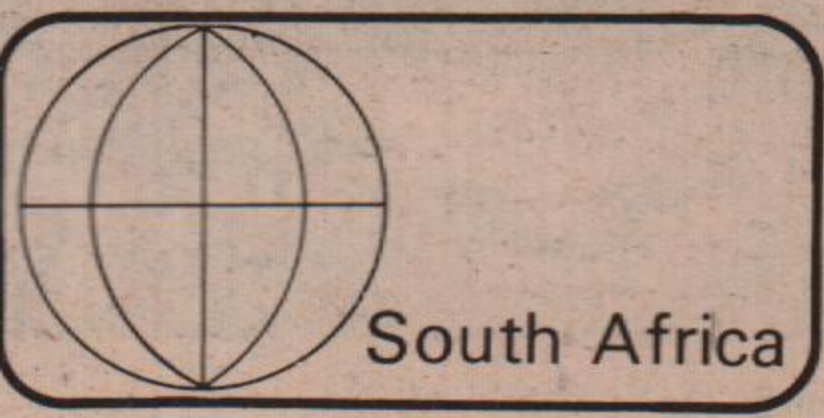
Second strike wave growing fast

by Alan Baldwin

INDUSTRIAL militancy, government attacks on trade unionists, an oil embargo, rampant inflation and a general election—the mixture is the same in South Africa.

A new strike wave by black workers, although not yet as large as a year ago when 100,000 workers struck, has already hit the textile industry, car assembly, dairies and hotels. The state is reacting with increased viciousness with further banning orders to silence its opposition. It has now turned to assassination.

Independent black trade unions are growing fast: seven new unions were formed in Natal in the past few months, covering textile, metal, clothing, furniture, food, transport and chemical workers. Applications for membership are flooding in. The confidence gained by workers in last year's unorganised strikes and the



crippling inflation rate have shown the key importance of effective workers' organisations.

The first battles are for union recognition—against hostility from the bosses and repressive labour laws which do not even recognise Africans as 'employees'. But workers cannot wait for recognition before acting.

A strike of 10,000 workers brought the notorious Frame textile group to its knees

near Durban. A walk-out at several Durban hotels brought pay increases to 8000 hotel workers. Two dairies in the Transvaal were closed by workers demanding pay increases. 2000 workers at a car assembly plant in Durban struck in support of a demand for a rate of 60p an hour.

The victories have been small in material terms, but significant. For the first time for years organised black workers themselves and are fighting for their own interests.

Beside a predicted inflation rate of 15 per cent for 1974, and a cost of living increase in Johannesburg of 17 per cent in the past year, the wage increases won are paltry. Even the claimed 70 per cent increases in the pay of black gold miners over the past 18 months—while the price of gold has almost doubled—gives them an average wage of only £23 per month, still less than half the basic subsistence wage.

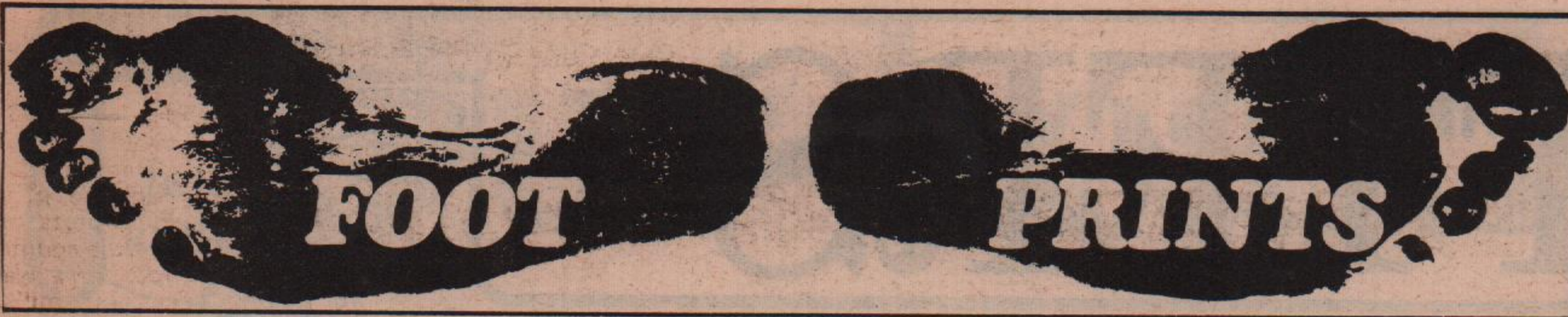
The iron fist of repression accompanies

the increased organisation and militancy of black workers. They want to have blacks organised in a way that will keep them willing fodder for the capitalist machine. Anything which goes against this is suppressed.

South African agents have murdered two exiled black leaders. Onkgopotse Tiro in Botswana and John Dube in Zambia.

The Arab oil embargo, at the request of black Africa, has worsened the economic problems of the white south, though South Africa's reserves protect it more than highly vulnerable Rhodesia. Even so, rationing is being introduced and the long-term prospect is serious.

Prime Minister Vorster's calling of a general election in April is an irrelevant move since fewer than a fifth of the population vote for virtually indistinguishable parties. Organised workers provide the political 'alternative'. They are beginning to make that point felt.



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

'Our high profits are an absolute necessity. Everybody in the country ought to be glad that they're there'.

—Sir John Prideaux, chairman of the National Westminster Bank, announcing an increase in profits from £127 million to £190 million.

'Work is boring. I'd much rather go fishing'.

—Lord Stokes, quoted in New Civil Engineer, 21 February.

LAW AND ORDER DEPT

Part One

16 FEBRUARY: David Lambert and Tony Risebro, members of the International Socialists, arrested in Harlow on suspicion of fly-posting and held for three hours in the cells (until 5.30 in the morning). At 2.30am Dave Lambert's wife Sue and baby were woken by Harlow CID who searched their house for two hours and took away documents. No charge was preferred.

18 FEBRUARY: Three members of the National Front appeared before Sheffield magistrates to hear the smiling public prosecutor declare that the police had decided to drop charges against them of conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace.

Instead—they were charged with a technical offence under the Town and Country Planning Act for putting up a poster outside the Jessop Saville steelworks. The poster called for blacks to be sent home.

John Neilson, defending, said the three were 'very respectable people' who had never previously been before a court of law. 'This is the age of political posters. Different people take different views and take them to the country and to local people.'

When the chairman of the magistrates was handed the poster, he smiled and said: 'It is not for us to judge the contents of this. That's politics.'

He quickly dispensed a £10 fine on each man and rushed off to lunch at the end of the six-minute hearing.

Part Two

THE Dorchester Hotel put on a marvellous show for the Engineering Employers' Federation lunch. The guests included most of the important knights of British industry, but not all were industrialists. The Bishop of Worcester was there, for instance.

So, most importantly, was Sir John Donaldson, president of the Industrial Relations Court, who has on several occasions protested his total impartiality between employers unions.

To some extent, this claim to impartiality was borne out by the presence of another distinguished guest at the lunch: Hugh Scanlon, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

Heart of ice

JOE CROAN LTD of Edinburgh run a 'heads I win, tails you lose' business. As a subsidiary of Associated Fisheries, they own a number of trawlers, which fish from Scotland's East coast.

The trawling industry, as is well-known, has a high death rate among its workers, so Joe Croan runs a profitable undertaking service. If you're killed on a Croan trawler, don't worry. You can be buried in a special de luxe Croan coffin.

One man who wasn't buried by Croans was Frederick Griffiths, who was mate of a Croan trawler until 18 July 1969.

That day he was loading ice in the trawler's hold. In order not to waste time, Croans had established the practice of loading new ice on

top of old ice without levelling off or removing the old ice. This was dangerous, as Fred Griffiths discovered when a slab of ice which he had just loaded fell off and smashed his head in.

Fred has been 'severely disabled' ever since, which is another way of saying that his entire life has been ruined by nervous disorder and Parkinson's Disease.

Refused

Fred has been trying to get some compensation for his accident for four and a half years. The case finally came up on 16 January at the Edinburgh Court of Session.

The judge, Lord Dunpark, absolved the firm from any blame and refused to grant any damages to Fred. He said the crucial facts of the

case were 'elusive'. Fred's version of the accident had been 'incomprehensible'.

'He did not deal in the safest way with the ice,' said the Lord. 'Had he done so the accident would not have happened. It is normal practice on the trawler to load new ice on top of old and it had not been shown that this ever led to any injuries.'

'Mr Griffiths is now permanently unemployable due to Parkinson's Disease. His symptoms were brought on by the accident, but they would probably have appeared eventually in any case.'

Lord Dunpark is a learned judge and the author of a standard textbook on Scottish law. His company is much sought after at Edinburgh's exclusive New Club. Another famous member is Michael Noble, former Secretary for Scotland and now

Minister at the Department of Trade and Industry. At the time of Fred Griffiths' accident, Michael Noble, was chairman of Associated Fisheries, and had been on the board of Joe Croan Ltd as long as anyone can remember.

In the year of Fred Griffiths' accident, Associated Fisheries made a profit of £842,000. In the year of Lord Dunpark's refusal to grant him a penny damages, the company's profit was £5,890,000.

Setting sun o'er the Lea

THE government recently discovered a new weapon in its battle to encourage foreign investment in Britain. He is David Lea, head of the Economics Department of the TUC.

Christopher Chataway, Minister for Industrial Development, travelled to Tokio recently to talk to Japanese businessmen about setting up shop in Britain. Before he left, Chataway heard that many Japanese businessmen were worried about strikes, so he invited David Lea to come along with him. Lea obliged.

Lea spoke to all sorts of businessmen and told them that in spite of all the strikes, Britain's industrial relations were excellent, and so were the prospects for industrial peace.

A summary of Lea's speeches and comments about the best way of securing industrial peace is to be included in a Department of Trade and Industry pamphlet which will be widely circulated to Japanese businessmen.

I phoned the TUC press office to find out who had paid for the expensive trip to Japan. Back came the reply: 'The taxpayer'.

NORTH LONDON International Socialists picketing an election meeting held by the National Front in Edmonton were reproached by one Front member for their claim that the Front was racist and fascist.

'I'm a Jew,' he declared. 'There's no anti-semitism in the Front.'

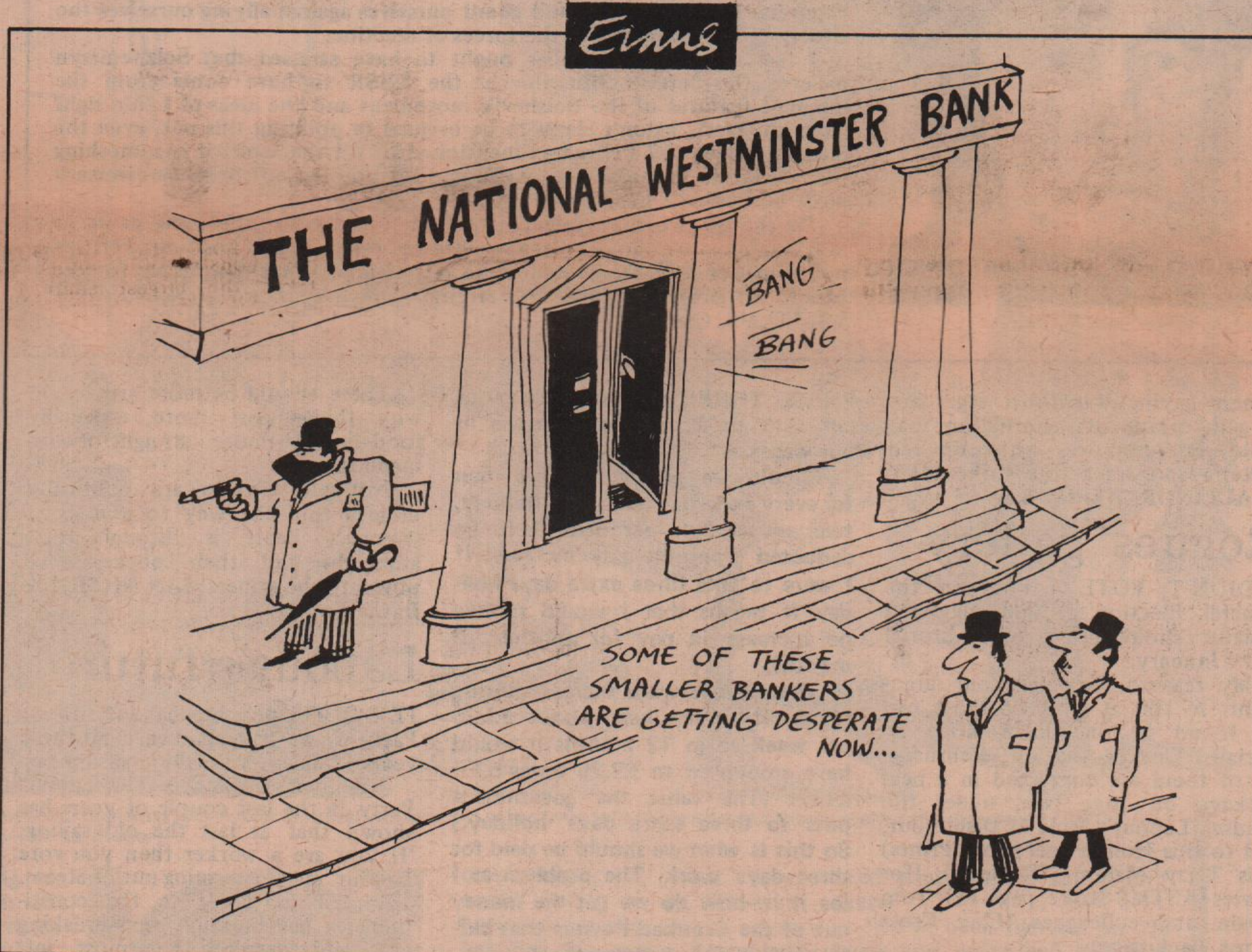
The IS members couldn't shift him from his belief although they argued that while the Front was trying to look respectable, its hardcore leaders were all old-time jackbooted Nazis.

Enter another Front member, large and blond, who began attacking the IS members as 'commies' and 'Stalinists'.

'We're not Stalinists,' they replied hotly. 'We've always opposed Stalinism.'

'Aha,' said the man, 'so you're Trotskyists. What was Trotsky's real name? Bernstein or something. He was a Yid, anyway.'

Exit Jewish Front member, sadly.



AT A TWO-STROKE

THE Marquis of Hertford has improved on the two-car family. He is starting a fashion for the two-golf-course family. He is planning two golf courses in his 10,000-acre estate at Alcester, Warwickshire, one to be designed by Tony Jacklin, the other by Jack Nicklaus. Two very exclusive

golf clubs will then be formed.

Lord Hertford, who is chairman of a public relations firm, 'explained': 'I have never played golf in my life. It is just that it seems to be the thing. There are so many golf clubs. There are 18 in the 19 miles between here and Birmingham.'

£1000—cheap at the price

ENGLISH CHINA CLAYS is the biggest company in the West Country. Two years ago it conned its 11,000 workers into accepting low wage increases so that the company could 'get on its feet'. Management promised that wage increases would be higher when profits were higher.

Profits then soared, but when the company tried to pay its workers decent wage increases, it was banned from doing so by the Pay Board and the government's freeze. English China Clays directors tried to get the courts to allow them to pay the increases, but the courts backed the government.

English China Clays wept all the way to the bank.

In press statements and letters to The Times the

company publicly deplored the 'unfairness' of the government's freeze, and persuaded the workers not to strike for more money since it was all the fault of the government.

Last Monday English China Clays workers were amazed to read that the company has given £1000 to British United Industrialists, a Tory front organisation which takes the view that Phase Three is too generous!

A spokesman for the company explained: 'The money was paid to further the cause of private enterprise.'

Exactly.

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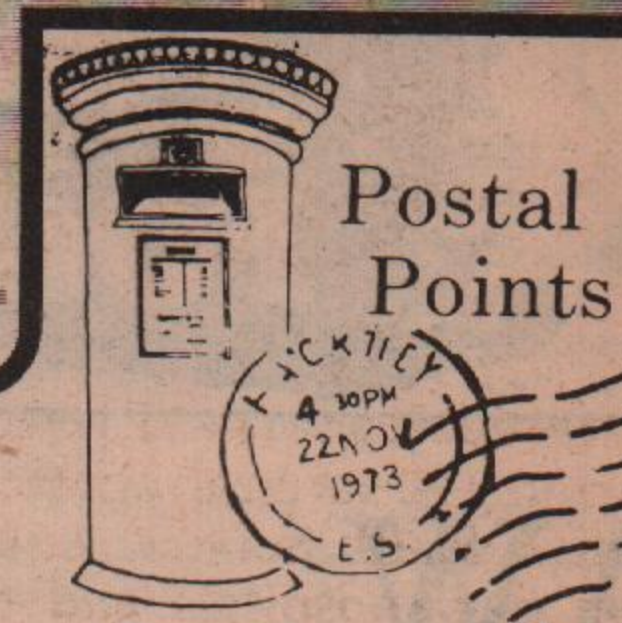
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LETTERS



DON'T GIVE US IDEAS . . . I think Socialist Worker is worth nearer 15p than 5p, so I enclose a contribution for your special fund.-FRANCES HOLLOWAY, London NW10.

ANSWER-YES . . . I agree with Jim Tanner (16 February) that more wives should be aware of the economic and social system in this country. But I do not agree that any woman, any more than any man should be content with £15 a week. You claim to stand for 'real, social, political and economic equality for women. Do you mean it? -KATHLEEN JONES, Shrewsbury.

PLEASE CAN I BORROW £130 MILLION? . . . Every week we hear of company profits soaring. On announcing that Lloyds Bank had made 75 per cent more profit-making £130 million, an embarrassed spokesman declared that the high rates of interest are maintained to comply with the government's policy of controlling spending. Obviously Heath didn't think inflated prices and compulsory wage controls are enough to make life difficult for the ordinary working man in this country.-R FYFELD, Cardiff.

WHAT KIND OF 'SOCIALIST'? . . . Hasn't the time come to be much harder with the Stalinist scabs of 'Socialist' Poland? Their role in the coal dispute is almost beyond words—almost, but not quite. If the same Communist Party members who were embarrassed by the scabbing of Poland in the Spanish Asturian miners strike and who remained silent do so this time we would go all out to expose the role of the Party in this respect. We can't be too hard on Stalinist betrayals like this.-DAVE JARDINE, Liverpool.

MAKING A MEAL OF STEEL . . . There are growing rumours that the steel shortage has come about due to the miners' action. Don't believe it! There have been shortages for over a year—ask any industrial buyer.-DAVE WILSON, Portsmouth.

WE'RE STILL LOOKING . . . My opinion is that the TV series World at War is the finest ever shown on the small screen and the episode on the Burma Campaign was one of the best . . . All the horrors of that war unfolded before my eyes . . . How many veterans (and their sons) and sons of heroes whose bones lie overseas will be in prison in the near future as a result of peaceful picketing activities? Where is the country which the men were told would be 'A land fit for heroes to live in'? -JAMES FLYNN, Golbourne, near Warrington.

If any other readers want to write about programmes, they've seen or heard, send your views to Postal Points. But keep them short please.

A DROWNING MAN CLUTCHES—AT GOD . . . Nigel Harris' article on India (9 February) was good. As an Indian I have read many articles on the subject but except for his they were inaccurate and seemed to have been written with some vested interest . . . In India as in other countries the wealthy and weary do not live as neighbours. If any other country had suffered so much as India the revolution would have taken place long ago. But a large majority of peasants and workers unfortunately believe that their troubles aren't just man made but come from God . . . A philosophy without God is beyond the acceptance of the Indian masses . . . The country has the potential for revolution but we need a revolutionary socialist party suiting the Indian environment.-SKS, Aberdeen.

The miners: what about when we all go back?

I AM A MINER, so I have obviously given a great deal of thought to our latest pay claim.

I have come to the conclusion that our union leaders are either very clever or very stupid. When our full claim is met, which I believe it will be, we are going to have every man underground on a minimum wage of £40.

I'm all for this—it's long overdue. Face workers will be paid £45. But this is a situation where men are working at the face, for only a pound a day more than day wage workers.

I can see a lot of strife building up through this. Men who have done their share at the face—men above the age of 50 who only plod on at the face for the extra money, will have lost the incentive so they will be content to sit back a bit. I don't blame them if they do.

I can see another dispute within six months of our claim being met. If the union executive realise this, they are going to have to put in another claim for face workers, which means they have been very clever.

If they haven't realised it they are very stupid. For far too long the gap between workers' pay down the pit was far too wide, now it's gone the other way.

We could argue rights and wrongs all day, but the facts are there. Who is going to work at the face for £1 a day extra when he can have a steadier job for £5 a week less?

As an International Socialist I would like to think that all miners would be content to see their comrades at last on decent money. But as a ripper down the mines I know this won't be the case.

No one goes down the mines because they like it, they go for money. And I say again, watch for the explosion before 1975. I would like to know what other miners' comments are.-M WIDDOP, Rotherham.

Wilson and the Labour Party

YOUR EDITORIAL (23 February) is 100 per cent correct when it castigates Harold Wilson for the way he has boasted during this election over his handling of 'extremists' during the seamen's strike.

What makes his conduct even more obscene was the Sunday Times revelation in 1972 that there were thousands of coloured seamen working on British ships for less than £17 a month. Presumably, their wage in 1966 would be even less than that.

But when Harold Wilson set the hounds of the special branch free to roam about the ports in 1966, it was not to find instances of ship-

Solzhenitsyn: We agree—but disagree



Russian writer Solzhenitsyn

DUNCAN HALLAS' article on Solzhenitsyn (23 February) was a useful contribution to the socialist's standpoint on this issue. Nevertheless we should have reservations on the matter, which he does not go into, but implies.

It is true that socialists must support the truth, whether it be spoken by communists, Tories or (improbable though it may seem!) National Fronters. However we should guard ourselves against allying ourselves too closely or uncritically with the forces of reaction.

I feel that Duncan Hallas ought to have stressed that Solzhenitsyn believes the current situation in the USSR to have come from the inherent features of the Bolshevik movement and the ideas of Lenin right from the start. I don't claim to be original in pointing this out, even the Sunday Times (17 February) mentioned it. All the same, it is something that socialists should deny, as Tony Cliff pointed out in his anniversary piece on Lenin (2 February).

So though we may reluctantly find ourselves in the same camp as Solzhenitsyn, we should at all times be aware of his position. Perhaps more importantly, we should make this clear in every discussion, for the benefit of those who are not certain where they should stand.-GEOFF WILLIAMS, Canterbury.

owners paying starvation wages but to gain scraps of information that could be used to whip up red hysteria and defeat the strike.-RAY CHALLINOR, Whitley Bay.

Rogues' gallery

I DIDN'T VOTE Labour in the General Election as you suggested socialists should do, in your editorial of 19 January.

My reasons outweigh your argument. A 100 at least of these can be found in one issue alone of Socialist Worker—that of 9 February. 95 of them are contained in a neat package on page two, under the heading Labour's Role of Dishonour, add to this Honest Joel (Foot Prints) plus Terry Mahon (IS News); Ifor Davies (ASTMS Strike, page 15); Tom Swain and colleagues (Clay Cross Three, back page).

I could go on finding many more—in fact I could compile a dossier—a rogues' gallery.-JOHN DUNCAN, Fakenham.

PHASE THREE allows £1 plus four per cent or a per cent increase in our wages.

Should we prefer holidays then for every extra day taken as a holiday, two and a half per cent is to be deducted from the pay increase. If I were to take three extra days holiday it means that I would receive no increase in pay for another 12 months.

The average wage increase during Phase Three has been about £2.25 per week so in 12 months it would have amounted to £2.25 times 52 = £117. (The value the government puts to three extra days' holiday.) So this is what we should be paid for three days' work. The problem as I see it is—how do we get the money out of the Crooked Powers that be? -MIKE RODDA, London SE14.

Stomach pains...

IN MY OPINION it would be most helpful if we could see more articles in Socialist Worker informing people of how everyday happenings in industry etc affect them as housewives or workers.

Knocking 'our beloved Tory leaders' doesn't in any way affect the initial reading of the paper.

There should be more articles on why things cost more, especially food—in a more straightforward manner.

Not all workers are politically minded and the way to a man or woman's heart is through their stomachs and their pockets. All power to the miners!-IAN NICHOLS, Barnet.

Labour's future

IT IS QUITE possible that the Labour Party as we have known it all these years may virtually disappear.

The performance of the Labour Party in the last couple of years has shown that at last the old saying, 'If you are a worker then you vote Labour' may be running out of steam. The Labour Party in the constituencies has literally been breaking up' and despite the 'most left manifesto for years' no one believes it anymore.

In recent by-elections the Party could not even win in seats where previously the Labour candidate was automatically elected.

This of course doesn't mean that the workers went to the Tories or the Liberals; it is just that the chickens have come home to roost after all these years. The workers at last have seen the Labour Party for what it really is.-BRIAN ORFORD, Paris.

We need a crowd!

THEY SAY TWO IS COMPANY, three is a crowd. How lucky the boys from Steyning Grammar School (23 February) are that they are a crowd. My friend and I are two girls also at a grammar school who are completely surrounded by 'true blues' except for one of the masters. As long as we keep from politics we remain on good terms with the rest of the form. But it annoys us that so many supposedly intelligent people can be so blind as not to see any social injustice in Britain today.

Perhaps they have been over-protected by Conservative parents, but it does seem sad that there is not one glimmer of hope from any of them. They're at an age (17) when you'd think they would be mature enough to start exploring other political views. Do you think you could put us in touch with any other small minority 'pairs' like us? -DEBORAH MOORE, Rugby.

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ROGER KLINE

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

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

Our health on the operating table

FOR three years the Tories have been performing a surgical operation on the National Health Service: cutting spending on new hospitals and equipment, sewing up wage packets tighter, and charging the patients more and more for the treatment.

They have turned the chronic sickness of the NHS into an acute emergency. They have put the clock back 25 years.

Most hospitals are still late Victorian ruins with a few plasterboard extensions and a coat of gloss paint. A visit to the doctor still means a 45-minute wait watching the bare walls of a converted shop before three minutes with a harassed and overworked man with scarcely the time to scribble the prescription.

The grim fact is that 526,000 people have been waiting for operations, many for more than two years, while three million patients on private medical insurance indulge in organised queue-jumping on services and skills filched from the NHS.

There are people, too old to care for themselves, who await death without dignity or privacy crammed sometimes 80 or 90 to a ward, where nurses and attendants are heart-broken at the misery. There are mentally handicapped people, drugged into torpor and stored in prison-like asylums hidden in the

by DR GERRY DAWSON

country, who could almost certainly lead normal lives if enough money was spent on care hostels, day centres and sheltered accommodation in towns.

The unpleasant truth is that the National Health Service Limited is still the biggest employer of sweated labour in Britain, mis-using the cheap labour of 500,000 women and immigrants in the hospitals, exploiting the dedication and humanity of 30,000 nurses, and pushing junior doctors to exhaustion and breaking point.

The Lancet, for 150 years the voice of the medical establishment, is not given to overstatement or melodrama. So when it warns: 'The economic state of the NHS is far more serious than indicated by the

£111 million cut in the planned budget for health and personal social services', we can be sure it is a grave warning.

'This unhappy diagnosis rests on persuasive evidence both of staff shortages and of financial stress among the low-paid . . . Services to patients are probably deteriorating . . . Simply to restore a devaluing NHS budget would require an extra £125-130 million a year,' says the report.

Meanwhile, what have the Tories done? Since the NHS started it has been handicapped by inadequate buildings and low wages. Under the Tories both have got markedly worse.

The £111 million cut was only the latest in a series of attacks on a hospital building

programme already made almost meaningless by inflation. The country is littered with half-completed buildings and semi-executed plans and every new building has a question mark against it, from a new porters' mess to a proposed District General Hospital.

The long-promised plan for health centres to replace doctors' front-room surgeries—four-fifths of those in working-class areas were built before 1900—has been stopped in its tracks.

Every hospital board has had to submit lists of cuts in its building programme—while at the same time hospitals are being closed at a record rate: 38 in 1972 alone.

Health Service workers have borne the brunt of the Tory wage policy. Hospital workers who had spontaneously revolted against their treadmill wages were singled out for an eight-week bashing by Sir Keith Joseph. In the spirit of Tory fairness they were not offered one penny extra after eight weeks of strike action—action taken only after the most desperate soul-searching.

Replaced

With that example before them, the nurses and others had to accept Phase Three terms or leave the hospital service. The result is that most hospital departments exist on a shoestring with staff permanently overworked and undermanned. More and more hospitals have to rely on private medical employment agencies for vital staff.

The next five years could easily mean the death of our National Health Service, to be replaced by a two-tier system: for the few, semi-private medical insurances schemes depending on doctors with increased private practices linked to teaching hospital staff and facilities, and for the rest of us an increasingly scanty and backward family doctor service run mainly by immigrant doctors and emergency deputy services giving a minimum basic health coverage.

The improvements urgently needed if the family doctor system is to be pulled out of the backwaters require money that central government consistently refuses to spend. Instead both patients and health workers will be victims of a re-organised health service run by appointed upper-class civil servants whose main brief is to cut costs.

And warning has been given of further increased prescription charges, charges for each doctor's visit and 'hospital' charge for all patients in hospital. Soon a sick person's first question will be: 'Can I afford to be ill?'

Hospital workers fight for OUR lives



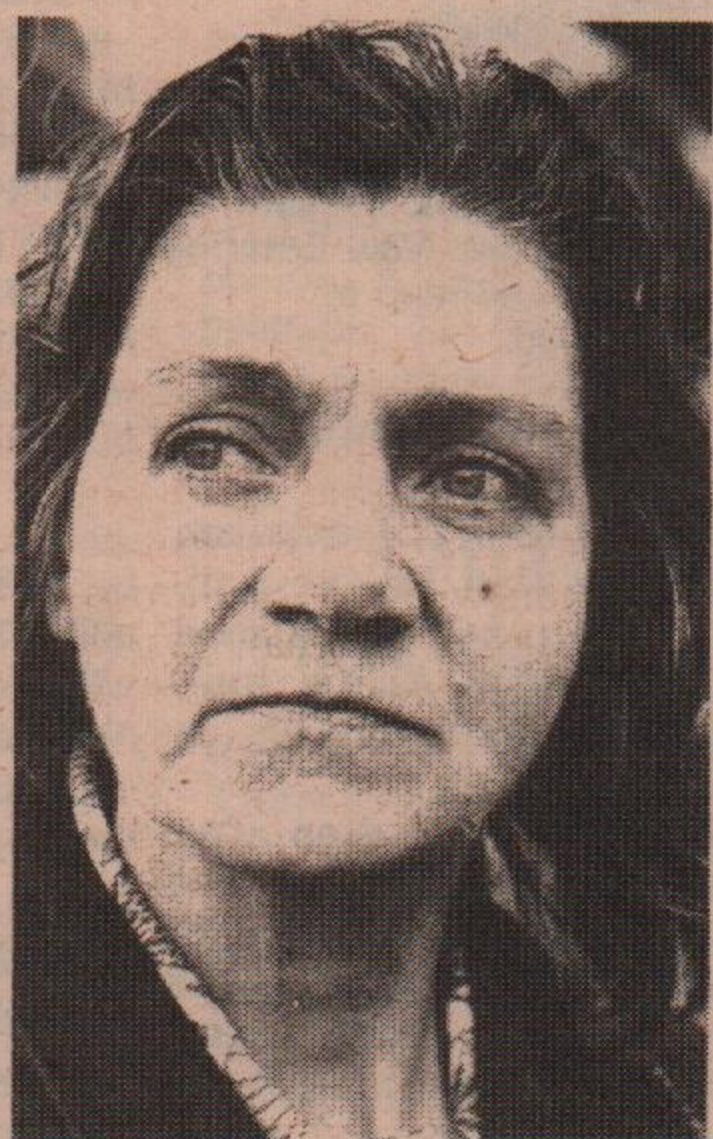
East End members of the International Socialists join Poplar Hospital workers and other local people on a protest march against the threatened closure last weekend. PICTURES: Peter Harrap (Report)

GWEN EVANS is fighting to avoid becoming a victim of the Tories' Health Service cuts. All her life she has worked in East London hospitals—now she is one of a group of women workers leading the battle to save Poplar Hospital from closure.

Gwen is a shop steward of the public employees' union NUPE. 'They've just taken everything away from us in this part of London . . . it's getting to the point that there's just nothing else for them to close down,' she said.

'The closure of this hospital is about the last straw because the family doctors just can't cope. I mean, there's only four doctors on the Isle of Dogs and that's got about 80,000 people living on it and big factories, generating stations and three major docks. They could be the best doctors in the world and they couldn't cope. It's getting worse here every year.

'This is why closing Poplar Hospital is so mean. Its casualty department isn't just a casualty department, it's a



GWEN EVANS

community health centre. It's been running seven days a week ever since it's been built. Each doctor that's come here has had a love for the people of Poplar.

'East End people will really miss their hospital—unless we can force them to build a new

one, which is what they ought really to do. They've been promising us a new hospital for years. But what with the Tory government and all the cuts, I just don't believe them.

Support

'I've just watched the Health Service going down and down and the reason's simple, they just won't spend the bleeding money on it. And what they do spend is mis-managed because the people who run the hospital service are a law unto themselves and they seem to be chosen because they are out of touch.

'If any worker wants to know why they should support hospital workers, it's dead simple. Workers are the people who pay for the hospitals, they are the people who use them, they are entitled to say whether their hospital goes or not.

'We've been round all the factories and said to them: Get up and fight—this is the crucial spot when you are going to

need your hospital and it ain't there.

'We've been fighting for 2½ years and we've had MPs and we've had promises. But my advice to anyone in this situation is don't forget your unions, bring them right in. Hospital workers have got to be as united as the miners are.

'You need the union no matter what status you are in the hospital, from doctors down to nurses, and ancillary workers have definitely got to be in the unions to fight what we've got to fight at the top, which is some fat little old git whose making a fortune somehow.

'Under the new system nurses are going to be pushed around like nobody's business. If they don't get in the unions and have this stopped, the profession they love will be gone.

'We want Poplar Hospital all full go, like all hospitals should be. This Health Service is in no position to shut any hospital, because they've given us nothing and they are still giving us nothing.'

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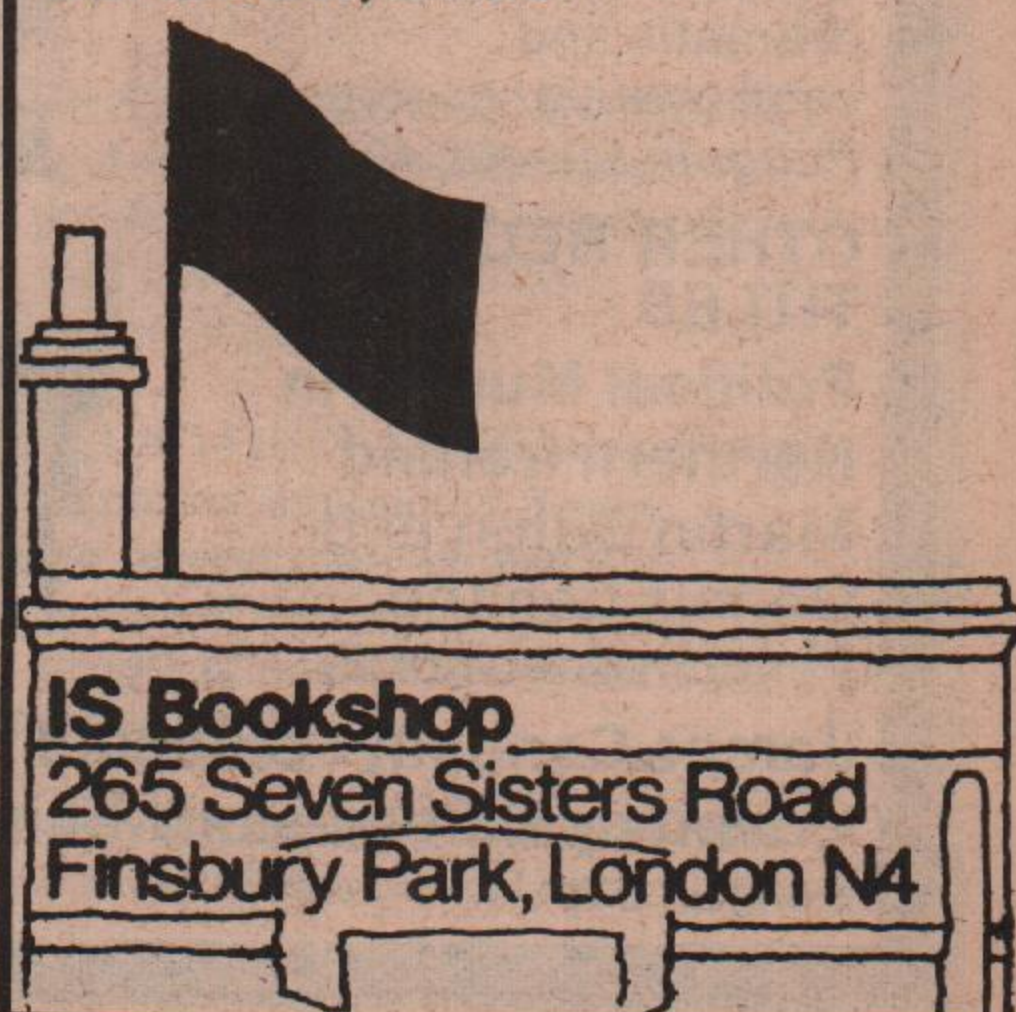
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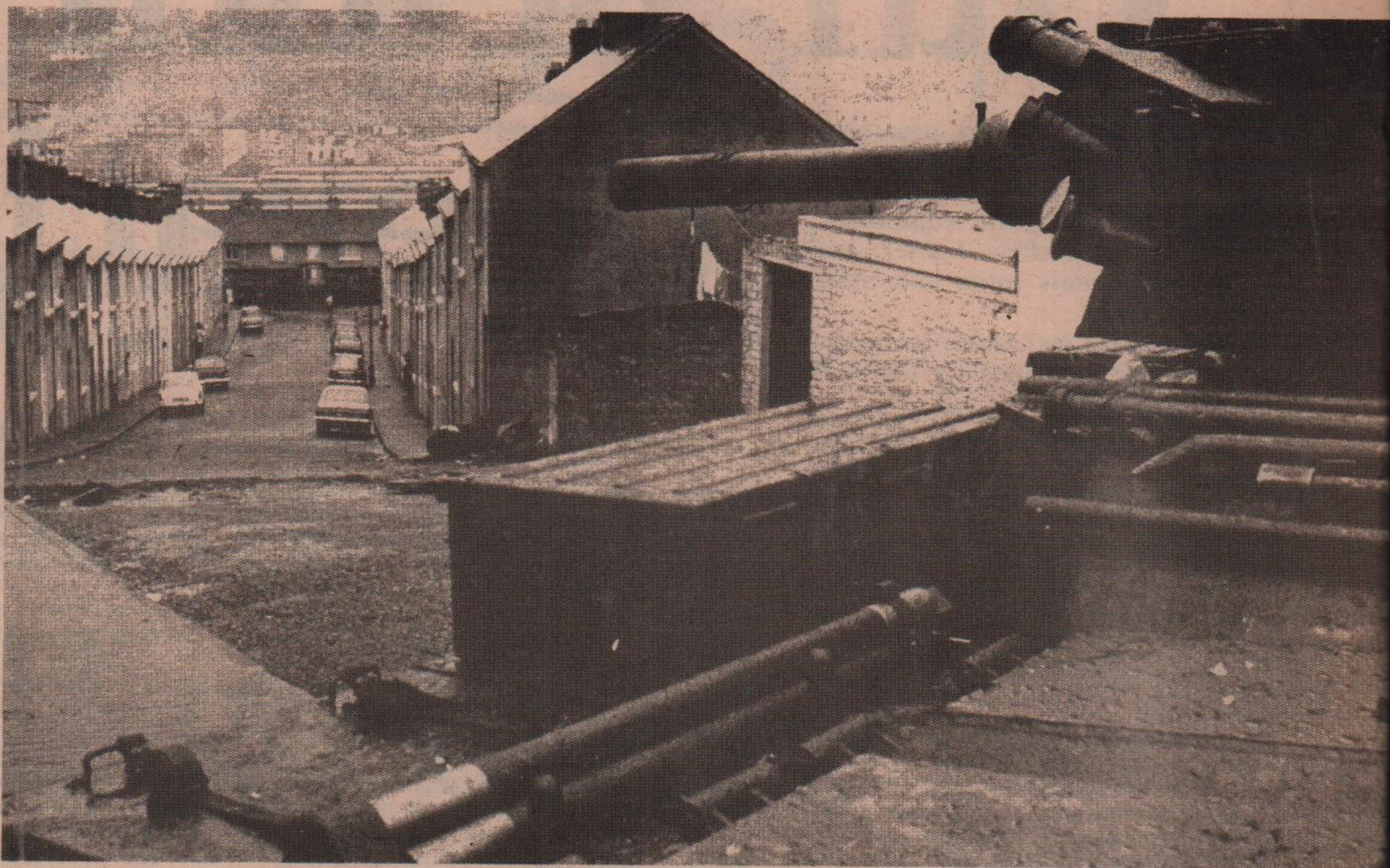
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Derry: the front line report ...



ON 5 OCTOBER 1968 a civil rights march in Derry was bludgeoned by the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

The demonstrators were demanding an end to the sectarian discrimination in housing against Catholic families, discrimination that condemned them, the overwhelming majority in Derry, to the worst slums.

Such an exercise in grassroots democracy proved too much for a police force reared on 50 years of intolerance and entrenched bitterness towards Catholics.

Men, women and children were clubbed to the ground. A water canon drenched and battered them. Even such a respectable politician as Mr Gerry Fitt had his head split by a police baton.

Two days later, a report of the

5 October events reached Socialist Worker in London. It was scribbled in a mixture of Biro and pencil on scraps of paper in an almost unreadable hand.

But once we had deciphered the code, the message was stark and unmistakable. Here was a brilliant socialist writer, able to convey in short, graphic sentences the reality of Northern Ireland:

'This is not a riot. It is an uprising. It is an elemental outburst of rage by a class that has been denied jobs, homes and human rights by a regime that is as near fascism as makes no difference.'

It was the first article that Eamonn McCann wrote for Socialist Worker. He has written many more since then, but it still stands as a milestone in socialist journalism.

For the Derry march and

Eamonn's account of it tore aside the indifference and ignorance of British socialists to the political and economic state of affairs across the Irish sea.

Derry 1968 revealed the ugly truth. Northern Ireland was a police state.

The apparatus of government since the creation of the 'mini-state' following partition in 1922 was based upon terrorising the minority of Catholics into submission.

For them, the worst housing, the heaviest unemployment and crudely gerrymandered political boundaries to ensure a permanent Unionist majority in even such cities as Derry.

Divine

And for any who dared to question the right of the Protestant businessmen and landowners to rule by divine right, there were the armed and uniformed thugs of the RUC and B-specials to hand out rough justice in back streets and prison cells.

Those first stirrings in Derry and Belfast seem an age ago now, forgotten by the more recent shocks of British troops policing the streets of 'British' cities, of Bloody Sunday and internment and the ending of Stormont rule.

Now in his new and truly magnificent book, *War and an Irish Town* (Penguin Special, 40p) Eamonn McCann reminds us of those early days.

The civil rights march from Belfast to Derry on 1 January 1969: 'The march was a horrific 73-mile trek which dredged to the surface all the accumulated political filth of 50 Unionist years. Every few miles groups of Unionist extremists blocked the route... It was frequently stoned from the fields and attacked by groups of men with clubs. There was no police protection. Senior RUC officers consorted openly with leaders of the opposing groups.'

Eamonn's account of the terrible pounding the people of Derry have taken from police and

army in the last five and a half years should stop the mouths of all those Irish 'experts' in press and television who rant against the 'violence' and 'hooliganism' of the Catholics.

He shows how the career politicians, the Humes, Fitts and Coopers, moved in at the very outset of rebellion in Derry to stifle any independent political organisation led by genuine socialists.

They preached moderation and peace to people throwing off 50 years of submission to tyranny. Inevitably, the younger workers, deprived of jobs (the jobless rate in Derry in 1966 was 20.1 per cent compared to 2.6 per cent for the whole of Great Britain)



Eamonn McCann: his book ran into trouble with the publishers. Penguin rejected his title *You Are Now Entering Free Derry* and cut a number of passages from the text.

resorted to petrol bombs and paving stones.

The fragile roots of socialism were submerged first by the political hacks, then by the armed might of the British Army, bulldozing and machine-gunning its way into Free Derry.

The IRA, for years—even after 1968—a spent force, was revived as a direct result of the lack of any other leadership on the Catholic workers side and the violence and intimidation of the army on the other.

The Catholics had to defend themselves. The IRA stepped into the vacuum. The 'terrorists' denounced by both the SDLP and the army were their own creation.

Eamonn sets the balance right about 'violence': '... a group of women seized Marta Doherty, a local girl who was about to marry



a British soldier and tarred and feathered her. Within hours Miss Doherty was the best-known bride in Britain.

'Local photographer Larry Doherty captured a striking picture of her, head sheared, tied to a lampost and covered in tar. It appeared on the front page of every British paper and was scanned by the news cameras...

'Less than a week before Miss Doherty's experience Mrs Elizabeth Groves was standing in her kitchen in a house on the Andersonstown estate. She had a Republican song playing on her gramophone.

'A soldier standing in her garden aimed his riot gun through the open window and blasted a rubber bullet at her face. It tore both her eyes out. There were no pictures of the blind Mrs Groves in the British papers or television...'

Threaten

Eamonn analyses the role of British capitalism and its army. The crude terror of Stormont and Unionism had outlived their usefulness because British big business now had a substantial and growing investment in the South. The Unionist jackboot could trigger off a Catholic reaction both sides of the border that would endanger profits North and South.

So Stormont had to go and the cheerful bulldog grin of Willie Whitelaw would replace the Unionist grimace. But any attempt by Catholic workers to force the pace of change and to threaten capitalist interests would still be met with the crunch of army

boots in the ba and Belfast.

He argues, c lute right of the the Catholic army. But at attacks both th ism and bomb Provos and the Communist Par the Officials.

In a section the Irish strugg of the great so Irish freedom: Larkin's central not understand ary theory, li action, is imp pressed through revolutionary pa

In fact, the Connolly and L a bone of con Socialist Worker self. We argue propaganda and by a handful of not be a substit ively difficult b of building workers' move Ireland, a task by the Socialist W in the South.

But his book e call for just suc party and it may as much of a first frontline re Worker back in C

Every reader special effort to is simply and b It is the best a real situation deserves to be passed around in Britain.

British Imperialism versus the Irish workers? FIND OUT IN PENGUINS

War and an Irish Town Eamonn McCann

This vivid picture of the political and military events of the past few years in the Catholic ghetto once known as 'Free Derry' throws light on the background to the war and draws some dramatic and controversial conclusions. Penguin Special 40p

OTHER RECENT TITLES

Political Murder in Northern Ireland Martin Dillon and Dennis Lehane Penguin Special 45p

James Connolly: Selected Writings Edited by P. Berresford Ellis Pelican 50p



Britain's grip on Ireland and freeing the Shrewsbury pickets from jail

A kind of prison for wife who waits

Above: the guns of the army maintain an alien vigil on the city walls. Left: Eamonn McCann's first despatch in Socialist Worker in 1968.

THE TORIES attacked every working-class family during the last 3½ years. They attacked with high prices, low wages, curbs on the unions, rent increases and more besides.

But for special attention they selected the building workers of North Wales, their wives and their families. Up to now they have jailed six men as an example to the rest of us.

Marlene Tomlinson's husband Ricky has been in jail for more than two months. She and the other wives are still struggling to overcome their sense of shock at the viciousness of the treatment they received.

But why shock? The men standing trial must have been leading militants. Their wives at least must have known exactly what was at stake.

These were out of the ordinary people, used to being in the front of the struggle and in the news. Not just ordinary trade unionists.

Killed

Marlene Tomlinson tells another story. She finds herself faced with two years alone, bringing up her two boys Clifton, aged three and Gareth, now 16 months, born during the weeks of the 1972 building strike.

'At the time I didn't know what the strike was all about. I did know that conditions in the industry were bad. When someone is killed the firm only gets summonsed for so much money—in return for a life. I wish I'd known more so when anyone said anything I could have defended them.

'They used to have strike meetings at our house, and I was in the kitchen. They'd stop talking when my head came round the door. At that time I didn't know them.

'I wasn't used to mixing with a bunch of men. I didn't have enough self confidence to talk to them.

'That summer I was having Gareth. It was on St Valentine's Day last year the police came. Ricky had been to work and he was lying on the settee. Z Cars was on the telly.

'We were used to the police from the strike. They used to consult about where the pickets would be.

'They said, "We've come to arrest you." I said, "Don't be

silly." It didn't seem real.

'I said, "I hope it's not like this programme on telly where you knock them around and don't feed them. I don't want him back battered and bruised. I want him back how he went."

'Ricky was laughing. And the baby was in the pram.

'I don't know everything about the strike even now. But I don't believe what the prosecution said. And I don't believe the police should knock people about.

'I don't think they should have searched us wives when we came to court. They wanted to get us worked up and upset. They acted as if we were criminals.

'When the trial was on one of the jurymen was ill. So the trial was suspended and Ricky came home. Then we had a policeman outside day and night. We were under house arrest. My brother came three times and they wouldn't let him in.

'Now Ricky's in prison people treat me like a different person. People pass me in the street. Others have stopped me and told me he was wrong.

'What it comes down to is that they don't want to know what really goes on. They're afraid to stick up for their rights.

'I'm not bitter, don't get me wrong. I'm just not interested in those type of people.

'The children are too young to understand. And I'm glad in a way. Clifton thinks his dad's away working.

'I never say prison. I say "the place". I don't want him to be brought up with that. I don't want to take his babyhood away from him.

Outside

'Think of the situation the wife is left in. Ricky was going to do up the old cottage where we live. There's no plaster on the walls and there's rising damp.

'The floors are covered with water. I stuck it three months like that, carrying the babies to bed to save them from the wet floor. Before I left there was always a man prowling around outside.

'I've stayed with my friends John and Rita Carpenter for a fortnight and I've been at my dad's for a month now.

'Ricky doesn't know I've been in the union too. When I first worked in 1954 I earned £2 7s 6d a week as a machinist at Granby



Marlene Tomlinson and Clifton, aged 3: 'He thinks his dad is away working.'

Garments. My fare used to be 7½d or 8d. We made stuff for Marks and Spencer's and they used to search us in case we stole anything.

'I've worked in lots of places in Liverpool. I liked working on the shop floor. But they put me in the special sample room, where all the girls went about saying "Yes sir", "No sir" and giggling with the boss like he was really someone.

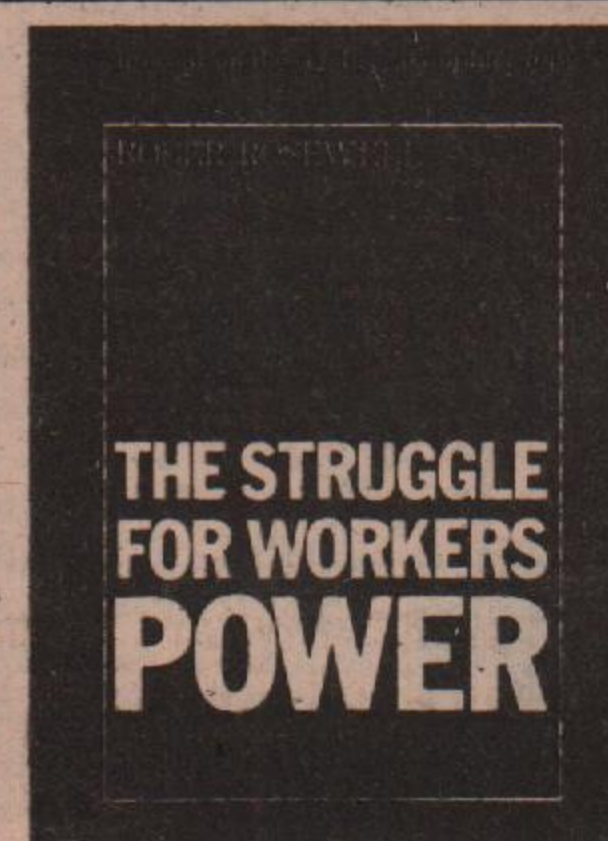
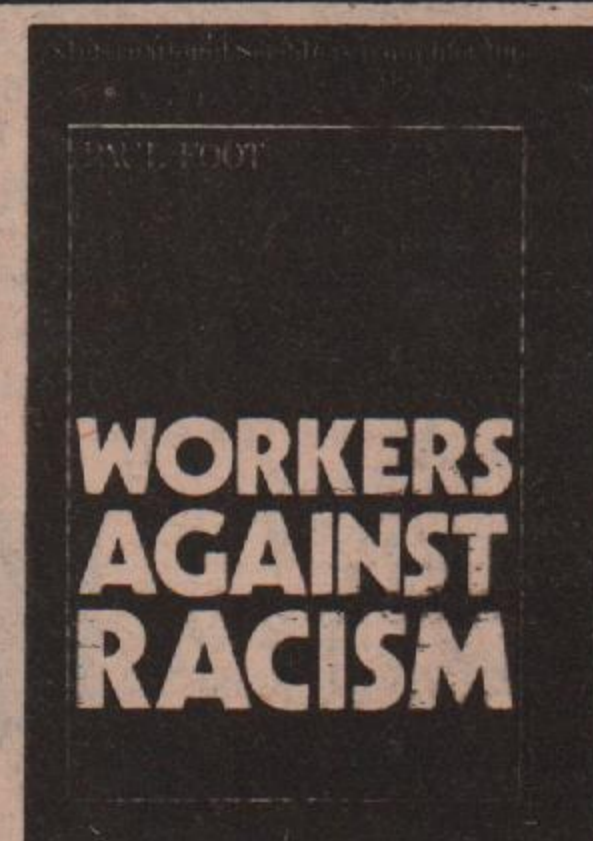
'I got out of there. Yes, years ago I was telling my bosses that I don't believe they're my betters.

'If you believe in something then you fight to the very end. My life's changed completely since all this. I never used to take notice of what happened, just sit at home with my sewing.

'But I'm involved now. I can see that Heath's done very well for himself in the time he's been in. Now I think that we've got to fight for our rights.

'I really do. Because I want a better world for my children. I've got a right fighting spirit in me now.'

● Last week Marlene Tomlinson sat in at the council offices demanding they find her a house. At 5pm she got word that they had one waiting for her and she could pick up the keys.



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.

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

Interview by JUDITH CONDON

The long struggle to toughen up the unions

THE FEROCIOUS ATTACK on the trade unions by both Labour and Tory governments in recent years, underlined by the lack of fight of the union leaders, has thrown up the idea and relevance of a rank and file movement.

A conference to discuss the need for a grassroots' movement to hit back at the employers' offensive meets in Birmingham at the end of this month, called by a number of rank and file papers.

The history of the British working-class movement is studded with rank and file attempts to force the trade unions to break out of the narrow confines laid down by the system. As the Birmingham conference approaches, the successes and limitations of those earlier movements is worthy of analysis.

The trade unions began as illegal, persecuted organisations.

But with the extension of the vote to male workers in the 1870s, trade union leaders were lobbied by Liberal politicians, hoping they could deliver a tame working-class vote.

But industry was subject to regular slumps. When that happened the workers paid in employment, lower wages and worsening conditions. The trade union leaders had no answer and Liberal administrations were a party of business not labour and their sympathies were not with workers.

In 1900, to fill the political credibility gap, the Labour Representation Committee was formed to give workers a direct interest in parliament.

The fight at the grassroots



Top: Ben Tillett speaking to striking dockers in 1911. Above: Tom Mann, another early influential rank and file leader.

Defeat

The few mild reforms on trade union law and social insurance were grossly inadequate for workers suffering the worst effects of recession.

The conditions were ripe for the rank and file to intervene.

The Industrial Workers of Great Britain was formed and in the Singer strike of 1912 it organised and brought out thousands of workers. But with the defeat of the strike the movement was smashed and its militants sacked and dispersed.

A more fruitful development came with the growth of the syndicalist movement around such figures as Tom Mann. Its starting point was the existing movement and it called for the birth of industrial unions from amalgamations of existing unions. Every worker in a particular industry was eligible, regardless of craft or skill, as long as he worked in that industry.

The movement based itself on the rank and file. The demands for reforms were powerfully echoed in the Miners' Federation, in transport, the railways and engineering. A whole generation of militants were schooled in the fight for union reform, amalgamation, the growth and control of the rank and file and direct action.

From 1910 to the outbreak of the

First World War, a series of massive strikes, inspired and often led by the rank and file, broke out. Each year saw millions of strike days added to the previous year's totals. The trade union leaders were forced to move to the left to maintain any pretensions to leadership.

In 1912, as a direct result of rank and file pressure, the Triple Alliance, made up of the miners, transport and rail workers was formed as a powerful industrial weapon.

With the outbreak of war in 1914 the strike wave slowed down but the rank and file movement was not dead. Particularly in engineering, the shop stewards' movement was well entrenched in the factories. The needs of war production herded thousands of new workers into the factories and trade union membership grew.

The Shop Stewards and Workers Committee Movement organised strikes on the Clyde, in Barrow, Liverpool and elsewhere, despite government persecution, prosecution

First of two articles by Jim Higgins

and exile

In 1917 the Russian revolution acted as an inspiring beacon to millions of socialists throughout the world. In Britain, it answered for many the troubled question of politics and industrial struggle.

For communists the class struggle was the development of workers' strength. There was no principle artificially dividing the movement into industrial and political wings. The simple criterion for activity was that it should aid in the building of a movement to smash capitalism and to create the organisation that would lead the struggle.

In 1920, the Communist Party of Great Britain was formed. Overwhelmingly working-class in composition, its small size was less

important than two significant advantages. The party was an integral part of the labour movement. The best fighters from the shop stewards and the pre-war amalgamation and reform movements were members. They had shared experience and considerable influence upon a whole generation of socialists and militants from the previous struggles of the rank and file.

In late 1920 the boom burst. The government had had time to prepare. In 1920 and 1921 the miners were demanding improved pay, hours and nationalisation of the mines. The Sankey Commission reported in the miners' favour but the miners became tired of delay. They struck and called the Triple Alliance to their aid.

Enthusiasm for the strike was high among not only the miners but railmen and transport workers too. At the last minute the NUR general secretary called off the strike and the miners fought on alone.

That day was known as 'Black Friday'. From a position of strength, the trade unions were put on the defensive. In a series of actions, the most important the engineers' lock-out of 1922, the employers, ably abetted by the government, forced down wages by 30 and 40 per cent.

It is with this background that the Minority Movement—the best-known and most influential rank and file movement—was formed.

Schooled

The shop stewards' movement looked to the Communist Party for a lead. In all the large unions there existed men steeped in the old lessons of trade union militancy and solidarity, together with a new generation schooled in the immediate post-war struggles.

In August 1924 the first conference of the Minority Movement was held. 217 delegates representing 200,000 members attended. Two years later there were 802 delegates representing almost one million workers at the third congress.

The Minority Movement was based on sections within the different unions and industries.

Wherever possible, branches were organised at pit, workshop and factory level. In South Wales there were 51 pit groups, 18 in Yorkshire, eight in Durham. In other areas the Miners' Minority Movement was organised on an area basis. The movement was

strongest in the mines but powerful groups were maintained in transport, engineering and the railways.

Each section produced its own programme appropriate to the particular industry and union. The railway men's Minority programme, for example, called for the 42 hour week, two weeks' holiday with pay and free rail passes, lowering the adult age to 18 and one union for all railway workers.

The engineering programme called for 44 hours, factory-committees to represent all grades, organising of women, youth and apprentices, the amalgamation of all unions into one Metal Trades Union and £4 a week wages.

The network of factory and workplace branches could popularise the programme and agitate for it within the union machinery. Nationally the Minority Movement maintained a paper, Workers' Power. The major sections produced papers for their industry and literally hundreds of local, often duplicated, papers served the groups and branches.

The combination of agitation within the factory and the union gave the movement an influence and some success. The planned development of a movement that could organise solidarity, by-passing the reactionary and constitutional objections of the trade union leadership, gave added credibility to the programme of demands.

The aim of the movement was the creation of a bridge that took workers beyond trade union demands to political and socialist ones. The Minority Movement was potentially the most effective force for militant trade union advance and the growth of revolutionary socialist forces.

OUR NORMAN

HERE AT SCRUMTHORPE NORTH THEY'RE INTO THE NINETEENTH RECOUNT

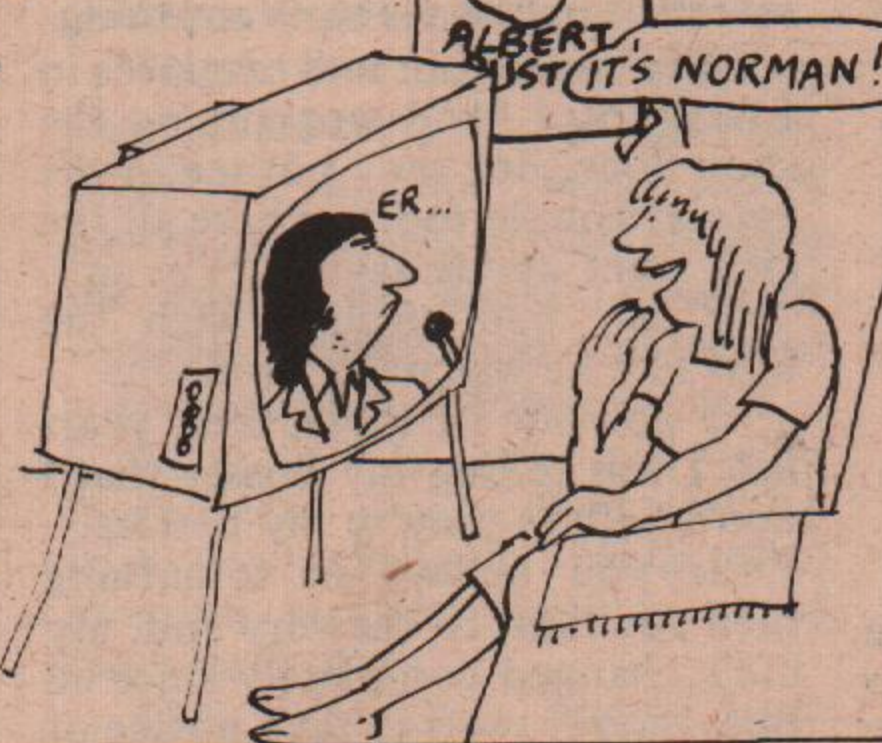


LET'S FIND OUT WHAT THIS EXPECTANT CROWD IS THINKING... YOU SIR - WHO DO YOU WANT TO WIN?



LABOUR

ALBERT DUST IT'S NORMAN!



LABOUR. BUT THEY'RE ALL A SHOWER OF *# @ \$!! THINGS'LL BE BAD EITHER WAY...



NOW QUICKLY BACK TO THE STUDIO!



DID YOU SEE ME?



THEY CUT YOU OFF WHEN YOU SAID BRIAN CLOUGH SHOULD BE PRIME MINISTER

NEXT WEEK: the lost opportunities and the lessons for today



An executive takes action. Gun practice in Executive Action.



The Big Boss? Bruce Lee in the Hong Kong made Fists of Fury...

Executive Action, starring Burt Lancaster, Robert Ryan and Will Geer, written by Dalton Trumbo, directed by David Miller. General release certificate A.

WHO KILLED John Fitzgerald Kennedy, president of the United States of America? It is a question that has never been satisfactorily answered in the 11 years since he was gunned down in Dallas, Texas.

The American establishment produced one hurried and wafer-thin argument: there was no conspiracy from within the ruling class to remove the president. Lee Harvey Oswald, conveniently rubbed out before he could come to trial, was a pro-Castro 'pinkie' who had been to Russia—just the man to give to a nation force-fed on the 'communist menace' since the end of World War Two.

The official Warren Commission Report repeated this drivel through many volumes, ignoring the growing weight of evidence to show that several marksmen had been involved in the assassination. This in turn pointed to a well-planned plot rather than a desperate and futile attempt to change the system by one lonely radical.

But the problem for the left was obvious: why should any section of American big business or the armed forces conspire to remove a president who, behind a cheap mask of liberalism, was a tough, committed, hardline capitalist politician?

Kennedy had stepped up the war in Vietnam. Kennedy had authorised the Bay of Pigs attempt to invade Cuba—unsuccessful, but it showed his heart was in the 'right' place.

TRIGGER

His own dubious past record on the black question should have been enough to prove that his attacks on racialism were just vote-catching gimmicks.

But David Miller's exciting movie reminds socialists that the ruling class doesn't see things the way we do. It has its own set of attitudes and outlook. And the more hysterical sections of big business are terrified that a mealy-mouthed liberal might actually trigger off a movement for change that could eat into their power and privilege.

The film says there was a conspiracy. A group of rich businessmen and retired high-ranking soldiers meet to discuss the Kennedy menace. The president's chumminess towards Martin Luther King and the black movement could create a white backlash, blood in the streets and instability for the profit system.

His Vietnam politics, they think, will lead to a communist takeover.

And so the plot goes ahead. Under the burning desert sun, hired marksmen crackle away at dummy figures in a car. 15 miles an hour is too fast for accuracy. OK—one of the conspirators will use his power to make sure the Kennedy cavalcade through Dallas moves

EXIT THE CHIEF

at 12 mph and goes past the best spots for the assassins.

A scapegoat is required. The computer chooses Lee Harvey Oswald, who, the film proves with quiet persuasion, was actually an FBI informant posing as a leftie. A double is hired to move around Dallas, getting in rows about his 'commie' ideas, having his rifle repaired, getting himself known so that the real Oswald will be a tempting fall guy for the police. And then Oswald himself will be shot by a Dallas nightclub owner also in the pay of the plotters.

The plot succeeds, of course. The major weakness of the film is that, at the thriller level, the thrills are rather muted by the fact that you know the victim will die and the assassins will get away.

And politically the businessmen's reasons for the plot to kill Kennedy are hurried over in a few, bitty opening scenes. A more detailed account of their ideas would have strengthened the film's credibility.

But it is a competent, gripping and well acted movie drama intercut with old, grainy TV pictures of the real event. Writer Dalton Trumbo and actor Will Geer were witchhunted during the McCarthy red scare of the early 1950s and their involvement in the film helps to underscore its authenticity.

Of course, it is a work of fiction. But who, after Nixon and Watergate would argue this version of how Kennedy was killed could not be true?

See it. And try to take with you someone who has been convinced by Ted Heath's twaddle about the violence and extremism of the left and the moderation and decency of the right.

Be warned. 11 years after Kennedy's death, velvet gloves are out of fashion again. Knuckledusters are in vogue once more.

ROGER PROTZ

SATURDAY: BBC-2. 9.40pm. Yesterday's Witness examines **THE BURSTON SCHOOL STRIKE of 1914.**

SUNDAY: ITV, 12am. Weekend World has **THE MAKING OF THE PRIME MINISTER.** At 10.30pm, ITV is Johnny Speight's play **IF THERE WEREN'T ANY BLACKS YOU'D HAVE TO INVENT THEM . . . EDITION, BBC-2***, looks at the way newspapers reported the 1974 election campaign.

MONDAY: BBC-1. 8pm. Panorama's **FLAGS, FLOWERS AND WINGOOSE MEN** is about

KUNG FU, the oriental art of self-defence, is turning into the biggest outdoor commercial boom since the hula-hoop. In the heart of East London's boxing territory, sports shops are sold out of karate suits and Kung Fu training academies are being hurriedly set up by unemployed judo experts.

Many junior Kung Fu fans have attended the lessons on body kicks and skipped the ones on the philosophy of why-you-shouldn't-kick-anybody. The result is school bus-stops with small Bruce Lees and David Carradines kicking each other's heads in

While the David Carradine TV series has popularised the Kung Fu boom it is the Bruce Lee Hong-Kong made films that are the heart of the craze.

Bruce Lee's *The Big Boss* has now been seen by nearly three million filmgoers, while the joint Hollywood/Hong Kong production, also starring the now dead Mr Lee, *Enter The Dragon*, opened simultaneously at four London West End cinemas and has had a blanket national release.

The TV series, *Kung Fu* popped up on the screens as soon as it was clear that Bruce Lee was the biggest thing in movies since Julie Andrews in *Sound of Music*.

Set in the West Coast of America in the late 19th century, at the time of the Chinese immigration, its hero is a half-Chinese, half-American Buddhist priest, Kwai Chang Caine.

He is to be found helping striking miners, down-trodden farmers and oppressed minorities. He doesn't boss them about, but makes them more aware of the choices facing them. He's an unusually dignified rebel allowing himself to be bullied and sneered at by cowboys, sheriffs and speculators before tossing them all over Main Street.

At times his wise words sound quite socialist. As when he announced that the oppressed must be put in charge of their own liberation, and that Man, in striving to possess things become instead possessed by them.

While Carradine has tramped the TV screens, American Chinese Bruce Lee made his name in cheap Hong Kong made films.

The Big Boss was his big film. A peasant arrives in town, and gets involved against a factory management who could clearly teach ICI and Ford a thing or too. Not only do

Eric Gairy's Grenada.

WEDNESDAY: BBC-2. Man Alive has **FOR THE LOVE OF TRIUMPH*** about the closure of the Triumph motor-cycle works at Meriden and the work-in.

THURSDAY: BBC-1. Play for Today is the postponed **EASY GO***, devised by a group of Deptford children.

FRIDAY: BBC-2. The Money Programme **WHERE COAL IS KING***, on the American mining industry.

*Time unknown at time of going to press

ENTER THE BOSS

they pay rotten wages, but they slice up potential militants and freeze them into ice blocks.

Lee doesn't worry about the details of shop-floor bargaining. He massacres the entire board of directors on the boss's front lawn.

Lee's Hong Kong films are a product of Hong Kong's crazy situation, a rich little capitalist outpost on the fringe of Mao's China, with incredible poverty, incredible wealth and Maoist millionaires.

The result on the screen are little parables of noble Bruce Lee fighting for the poor. With *Enter The Dragon* the situation changes. For Hollywood money means that this film tries to be yet another follow on to James Bond.

BEATEN

But why are kids in London and Aberdeen and New York and San Francisco queuing up outside the cinemas, and gluing themselves to the TV to watch villains being bounced across the screen?

One obvious reason is the dream factory. An escape from Dalston or Detroit thanks to the little bloke who never gets sand kicked in his face.

But another for the American audience is the change in attitude to the Far East. What was Southern Asia in the 1960s? A place where the Vietnamese were bound to be beaten—after all they only had pop-guns and the jungle. But the American government had bombers and battle fleets so they were bound to win.

But they didn't. So, what did those funny little men have going for them?

A new image of Asians appears. Quiet, thoughtful David Carradine, who thinks before pulverising his opponent, who doesn't need guns or brute force. Virtuous Bruce Lee who wins through by superior technique, not physical strength.

It's not a question of film directors setting out to bring out the post-Vietnam film. But it is a question of Lee and Carradine fitting in with a different American mood.

But as Marx said: 'Between equal fights, force decides'. And Kung Fu is apparently an increasingly popular recreation for the police force. So if a mysterious stranger should arrive at your picket line, watch his left heel very closely.

DAVID WIDGERY

Officials rat on jailed pickets

EARLY in January the building and construction sections of the Transport Union put out a statement denouncing the trials of the North Wales building workers' pickets.

The section executives called for a campaign to free the three who had been jailed and to secure the repeal of the Conspiracy Acts which put them there. They called for the TUC and the Labour Party to take up the cause. They called a one-day strike.

All this is to their credit. But little has been done since.

TGWU general secretary Jack Jones has made three major TV appearances since the first jailings. He sent a letter to every national newspaper in the country about the industrial situation in Britain. And it was printed by them all.

Jones has had four golden opportunities to shatter the conspiracy of silence on the Shrewsbury jailings. He took none of them. He hasn't made a single fighting speech on the issue.

His counterpart in the Union of Construction Allied Trades and Tech-

UCATT executive supports action To free Shrewsbury three

E.C. ELECTIONS

BROS. J. Hardman and A. Utting have been

UCATT's National Executive has stated that it will support regional campaigns to free the three building workers sentenced to imprisonment at Shrewsbury last month after being found guilty of conspiring to

The story UCATT general secretary George Smith tried to get withdrawn

nicians, George Smith, has an even worse record. The aim of Smith's campaign on Shrewsbury is not to challenge the sentences, the convictions, or the conspiracy laws.

Smith really swung into action after the appearance of the January issue of the monthly UCATT journal, Viewpoint. The

offending item was the front page lead which was headed 'UCATT executive supports action to free the Shrewsbury Three'. Smith tried to get this issue of the journal withdrawn.

He failed. The journal had already gone out for distribution. But he, and his mates on the executive, were to have their way

later the same month.

In a press release carefully timed to come out just as the Liverpool Trades Council conference on Shrewsbury was due to take place, the UCATT executive rounded on the jailed men.

In what can only be described as one of the most deplorable statements ever issued by a union, UCATT's executive insisted that the Shrewsbury trial was not an attack on the right to picket. It was only an attack on certain, illegal methods of picketing.

In its statement, UCATT actually states that the Tory government upholds the right to picket.

They support this absurd claim by referring to the case of one of UCATT's own full-timers, John Broome. John was first acquitted of obstruction for arguing and then convicted on the instructions of the Home Secretary. He appealed to the House of Lords who upheld the conviction.

The UCATT executive conclude that the House of Lords' decision 'clearly established the right of peaceful picketing'.

They omit to mention that John

Broome lost his appeal, an appeal—incidentally—financed by the union. But there are more damaging and more misleading, not to say slanderous, statements yet.

'The accused at Shrewsbury have been found guilty of having agreed beforehand or on the picket line itself to carry out personal violence or damage to property or to intimidate individuals. Thus in the Shrewsbury case the clear issue was therefore whether there had been assault, damage to property, physical intimidation or intention to do any of these.'

Involved

And again: 'Neither UCATT nor any other trade union could or should support its members committing acts which are obviously of a criminal nature and which are contrary to union instructions.'

These statements completely distort the issues at stake in Shrewsbury.

None of the three charges on which the first three men were jailed, required evidence suggesting—far less proving that the defendants were personally involved in acts of violence. Conspiracy, affray and unlawful assembly are charges on which anyone in virtually any situation involving two other people could be found guilty if the authorities so wished.

The statement aims to separate UCATT from the principled stand the Transport Union adopted in its statement. This sectarian attitude is immensely damaging to the jailed men's cause. It is of great comfort to the employers, with their record of law-breaking in the construction industry and the government.

The statement is a stain on the whole of trade unionism.



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 LINKS between the shop floor and the Engineering Union machine have been much weakened recently—which means that union democracy is also weaker.

The 'check-off' system of deducting union dues direct from wage packets, and the postal ballot, coupled with the growing importance of shop stewards' committees, have cut attendances at AUEW branches.

Most branch meetings no longer hold discussions of the issues facing the union—yet these branches still elect all but a tiny few of the district committee delegates. The result is that many district committees are divorced from shop-floor realities.

The coming AUEW rules revision conference is the chance to correct this.

AUEW members of the International Socialists, meeting in Manchester recently, decided to campaign for the number of shop stewards on district committees to be doubled. The intention is to move these committees closer to being standing local action committees.

The right step was taken in 1920 when stewards were first put on to district committees in their own right. Since the union's roots are incontestably in its shop stewards' organisations, that step needs to be followed through.

But International Socialists don't accept the right-wing idea that low branch attendances means branches should be merged under full-time secretaries. The strength of the engineering union is its tradition of working rank and file officers.

Delegates

The right-wing want a stronger machine run by increasing numbers of full-time officials who will look after the union's cash and adopt cautious policies. Rather than make proposals to live up to the branches and bring them more into the centre of policy-making, the right-wing prefers to kill them off with even more bureaucracy.

IS engineers emphasised, on the contrary, the need to step up the activity of the members. The branches could be strengthened by placing the election of national committee delegates in the hands of the district committees and by restoring voting by branch ballot for all full-time officials.

Participatory democracy is at the kernel of all factory decisions. If you don't attend a meeting, or if you're defeated in the vote, you have to accept the majority decision of those present. If you take part in a meeting, putting or listening to the arguments, then you have a right to vote.

This responsibility should be returned to the branch. The postal vote does away with the vital ele-

Time we got more democracy into this book

Steve Jefferys
second article

ment of participation and so opens union elections to much greater intervention by the employers' press and television.

Full-time officials in the engineering union are still elected by the members, unlike in many other unions where appointment has become more and more common. But that regular elections take place doesn't mean that officials should be allowed to serve out their terms if they consistently disregard the wishes of the members. They should be subject to recall.

The possibility of recalling some officials does already exist in the engineering section. But the mechanics of the operation are rather vague.

IS engineers are also campaigning for this to be tightened up and extended to all officials. If 10 per cent of the branches in any official's constituency demanded a ballot then one would have to be held. A two-thirds majority of those voting would be sufficient to secure a recall.

Present rules make it difficult for the national committee to call a national strike. Unless there's no time, a ballot of members has to be taken, and the resulting delay means the employers have access to the press and TV to put their case. The delay also means the employers can pre-

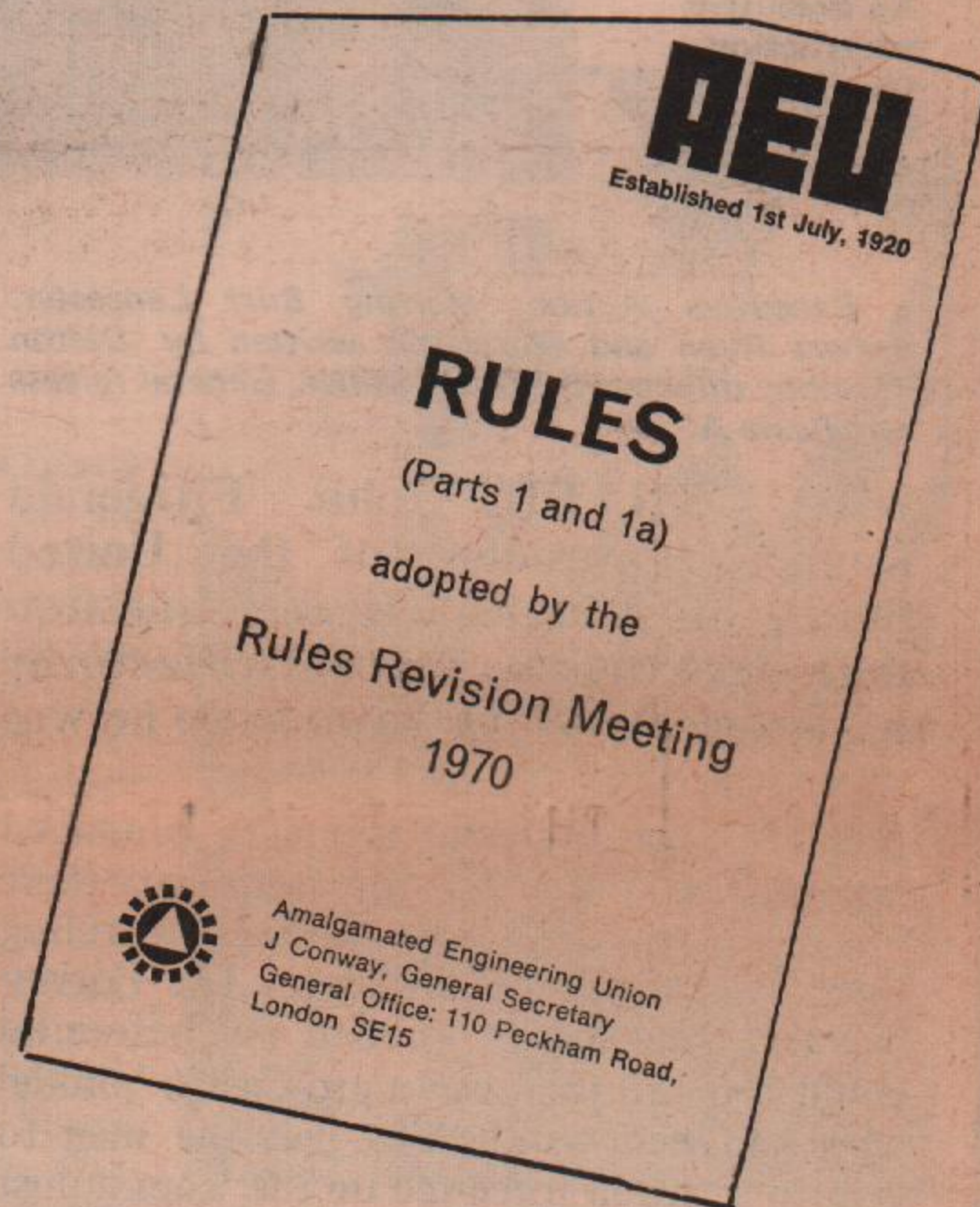
pare by stockpiling, and the government can prepare by moving troops. So the apparent 'democracy' of a ballot before strike action actually shifts the odds in the bosses' favour.

There is no procedure for suspending strike pay in a national strike and establishing a Fighting Fund, and this too favours the employers, who know the union could be bankrupted within a few weeks. Again a rule change is proposed.

Among the many other proposals being advocated by IS engineering union members are that the wage rises of full-time officials be limited to the increases won for skilled engineers in national negotiations with the employers, and that control of the AUEW Journal be taken out of the general secretary's hands and made the responsibility of the executive council.

These proposals arise from the aim of the International Socialists to strengthen rank and file organisation within the trade unions and to win rank and file control of the unions. They stand in stark contrast with the miserable suggestions being put out by the engineering union's right-wing.

If the giant AUEW is to be geared up to face the capitalist crisis of the late 1970s, every member should consider adopting these suggestions and raising them in his or her branch. Without democratic, fighting unions to organise resistance, future struggles will be increasingly more difficult to win.





INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST NEWS

WHAT'S ON

PUTTING SOCIALISM INTO THE ELECTION

A MASSIVE effort to introduce socialist argument and agitation into the election campaign has been made by IS branches all over the country.

The activity of IS members in the North West London District—Colindale, Harlesden and Acton branches and two factory branches—was typical of IS everywhere. In the two weeks before polling day branch secretaries Phil Hall (Harlesden) and

Fiona Williams (Colindale) sent circulars to all members outlining activities every day of the campaign.

The timetable worked out like this:
THURSDAY 21 February, 10.30am: Street meeting on precinct by Wembley Central Station.
12 noon: Lunch-time factory sales round GEC Wembley and neighbouring cafes.
2.30pm: Street meeting at the Acton shopping precinct.

5pm: Meeting on waste ground Swiss Cottage, station.

6pm: Picket of Harold Wilson's meeting at Swiss Cottage. No heckling. Placards demanding release of Shrewsbury Three, free collective bargaining, etc. 80 papers sold.

FRIDAY 22 February, 10.30am: Meeting at Paddington Church Street, Market.

12.30pm: Paper-selling outside Associated Automation, Dudden Hill Lane.

2.30pm: Public meeting at Shepherds Bush.

4.30pm: Paper-selling outside Queens Park and all other tube stations in the area.

SATURDAY 23 February: Street meetings in Kilburn Square and Harlesden.

Afternoon: 'Kick out the Tories' Demo set out from Kilburn Square at 2pm—70 IS members and close contacts took part. The demonstrations went up to Cricklewood Broadway and into Willesden.

SUNDAY 24 February: 'Blitz' of estates for paper-selling.

MONDAY 25 February: Distribution of 200 leaflets advertising two public meetings and arguing the case for voting Labour.

TUESDAY 26 February: Harlesden branch public meeting with speakers Steve Abbott (NUM) and Jim Nichol (IS).

WEDNESDAY 27 February: Public meeting at Colindale—speakers Steve Abbott and Lew Adams (ASLEF).

During this furious activity, the sales of Socialist Worker for the district have been pushed up from 600 to more than 1000. From sales outside factories, 20 workers have expressed interest in reading the paper regularly and joining IS.

LEAFLETS

Said Fiona Williams: 'There are two things which have come home to us very clearly from the campaign. One is that in many instances we've provided the only real political activity in the area.'

'Again and again, people have come up to us and said: "We haven't seen Labour in this campaign. Can you get us any Labour stickers and rosettes? It's very good to see you young people out for socialism..." and so on.'

Activities of this kind have been taking place all over the country. In **MANCHESTER**, IS printed and distributed 30,000 leaflets urging workers to vote Labour. In **HARLOW**, 5000 leaflets were circulated, and a 'Kick out the Tories' meeting, addressed by Hugh Kerr and Laurie Flynn, collected £9.50 for the Staffordshire miners.

The sales of Socialist Worker throughout the country have reached new heights. Last week 52,000 copies were printed and distributed. Almost all were sold. On Monday, **GLASGOW** IS branch reported that their record 3150 order was sold out.

In several small mining villages of West Wales, where Socialist Worker has never been seen before, 250 copies were sold last week, and IS public meetings have been arranged in Ammanford, Ponterdawe, and Ystradgynlais.

Every effort must be made to hold these gains. In the last general election—in June 1970—the print order for Socialist Worker was 12,500. It fell back a week later to just over 10,000, but rapidly climbed back to 12,000.

Thousands of workers have been introduced to Socialist Worker for the first time during the past three weeks. Every effort must be made to make the relationship permanent.

Victory to the Miners

TWICKENHAM IS public meeting: Victory to the miners. Speakers: A miner, Harry Wicks and Cecily Hastings. Wednesday 6 March, 8pm, The Fox, Church Street, Twickenham.

GUILDFORD IS public meeting: Why the miners must win. Speakers: A miner and Dave Peers (IS national secretary). Tuesday 5 March, 8pm, Foxburrows Hall, Foxburrows Avenue, Westborough Estate, Guildford.

Meetings

LEEDS IS public meeting: The General Strike of 1926—its lessons for today. Speaker: Harry Wicks. Thursday 7 March, 8pm, Trades Club, Upper Fountain Street.

PADDINGTON IS public meeting: After the election—the way forward. Thursday 7 March, 8pm, Labour Party Rooms, 5 Church Street, Edgware Road, London NW8.

PARTINGTON IS public meeting: Lessons of the General Strike. Speaker Fred Winter. Tuesday 5 March, 8pm, The Community Centre.

WARLEY IS public meeting: After the election—where do the workers stand now? Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Friday March, 8pm, Room 2, Old Palace, Bishop's Way, Maidstone. All welcome.

TEESSIDE District IS public meeting: After the election—the way forward. Speakers: Greg Douglas (CEU, ex-chairman Anchor site shop stewards), Dennis Brook (NUM Kellingly) and Laurie Flynn (Socialist Worker industrial reporter). Friday 8 March, 8pm, AUEW Hall, Borough Road, Middlesbrough.

IS PARTY TRAINING COMMITTEE: Meeting for IS members interested in the use of tapes and slides for training within IS and propaganda outside it. Sunday 3 March, 2pm, 76 Gillespie Road, London N5 (near Arsenal tube).

LONDON IS students aggregate meeting: Wednesday 6 March, 7pm, Room S101A, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, WC2. All London IS students to attend.

Notices

LATEST ISSUE of the Socialist Worker special for members of the Electricians and Plumbers Union now out. 3p, plus 3p postage from EPTU Special, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

BOUND VOLUMES of International Socialism journal: A limited number of bound volumes of issues 36-55 have been produced for those who did not take advantage of our pre-publication offer. Price, including postage, £7.30. Orders now please to IS Journal, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Delivery will take a couple of weeks.

ELECTROSTENCILS: IS Books can cut your stencils for 75p. Send art work (black and white only please) and money in advance to IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Excellent for all typing, and printing. Half-tones not guaranteed. State whether for Roneo or Gestetner duplicator.

SOCIALIST WORKER needs help from IS students in London. If you have mornings or afternoons free and/or a driving licence please phone Margaret Renn immediately 01-739 2639.

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.

IS WANTS PACKER AND STOREMAN: driving licence an advantage. Apply to Mel Norris, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Phone 01-739 1870.

SW LITHO needs someone for general office duties. Contact Mel Norris at 01-739 1870.

HOTEL WORKERS: Any readers and supporters of Socialist Worker who work in hotels and are interested in exchanging information on wage rates, conditions, etc. and in building long-term links within the hotel industry, please contact the IS industrial department, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN (phone 01-739 26273).

Correction

IN an article which appeared in our issue dated 15 December 1973 it was alleged that the world of Property Housing Trust made a loan of £995,000 to the Community Housing Association via a company called Benesco. This is untrue. No such or indeed any loan has been made and the World Property Housing Trust is not connected with the Community Housing Association or Benesco nor do they have any knowledge of the matters referred to in the article.

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York IS members' enthusiastic response to last week's paper—but they and all the other IS branches deserve just as much praise

NEWS IN BRIEF

BIRMINGHAM district IS has now secured premises in the centre of the city. Last weekend a lease was signed on a shop in Digbeth, just 20 yards along the road from the Digbeth Civic Hall.

This gives Birmingham IS a sizeable bookshop at street level, a meeting room for up to 40 people and an office. The building needs renovating, but it is hoped to open the bookshop early in March.

GLASGOW: 250 people came to the Maclellan Galleries to hear Tony Cliff speak on the miners and the election. Other speakers were Charlie Anderson (NUM), from the Dunfermline miners' strike committee, and John Rafferty, chairman of the strike committee at Auchinleck, Ayrshire. Ten people joined IS.

YORKSHIRE: Two useful meetings, each attended by 30 miners, heard Dennis Brooks from Kellingly pit and Paul Foot (IS) speak on the miners' strike and the need for socialist organisation. After the meetings, a miner from Askern pit joined IS, and three people, including a miner at the Yorkshire Main pit, joined at Conisborough.

THE latest issue of The Worker, paper of the Socialist Workers Movement (Ireland), carried important articles on the fight of Irish rank and file trade unionists against the National Wage Agreement, the Irish equivalent of Phase Three and on perspectives for the Irish left in the 1970s, tracing the struggles in the north and south from the Civil Rights campaign to today.

Industrial news in the paper includes reports from Chrysler, and a long article on the Provisional IRA explains why '1973

was unhappily a year of disorganised retreat for the anti-imperialist movement, a year in which the British ruling class made major inroads on the resistance.'

Major contributors to The Worker are Brian Trench and Mike Miller, who also contribute regularly to Socialist Worker.

IS branches at present sell 700 copies in this country and could sell many more, particularly to Irish workers who are thinking of returning home. Place bulk orders now, 4p per issue—money in advance if possible—from the Irish Sub-committee, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

CAMBORNE, Cornwall: About 60 people came to a weekend school in the nearby Tucking Mill Sports Pavillion. Dave Peers, IS national secretary, and Wally Preston,

Weekend school a success

TWENTY IS members gathered in Coventry from various Midland branches for a weekend school for working women in IS.

Each could choose to attend sessions on writing an article for or a letter to Socialist Worker, on producing leaflets or on asking questions and speaking at a meeting.

For these they prepared a written piece or a short talk before they came. Then each could choose between two afternoon sessions on how to act as an IS member in your factory or office or on the role of housewives.

There was a good general discussion on Women's Voice and Socialist Worker and a social in the evening. At this the CAST theatre

from the IS National Committee, spoke on the general election and the building of a socialist alternative. Staverton Bridge, a folk group from Totnes, performed at an excellent social in the evening.

BIRMINGHAM:—An IS weekend school included discussion of the problems of building factory branches, the political education of IS members, the role of Socialist Worker, industrial perspectives and the economic and political outlook.

A discussion on Socialist Worker highlighted several viewpoints. Some speakers argued that the balance in the paper between industrial and other stories was correct. Others felt there should be more on the problems of immigrants and women.

group presented their play Come in Hilda Muggins.

The Women's Sub-committee of IS intends to organise similar schools in other regions. From the first experience they will probably be on Saturdays only, rather than all weekend, since the turn-out on Sunday morning was poor.

While women members of IS could leave their children with their husbands or friends for one day it obviously proved too difficult to come for two days or stay overnight.

In spite of this problem the Midlands school was successful and the women who came thought it productive. Some decided to run similar schools for other working women in their own branches.

Unions row may go to the NIRC

THE ASSOCIATION of University Teachers is to use the anti-union National Industrial Relations Court in a bid to stop ASTMS, the supervisors' union, from recruiting post graduate students.

There has been a long-running dispute about which organisation can best represent postgraduates. The National Union of Students has recently been active in organising postgraduates and has been trying to undermine ASTMS' ability to recruit.

But two IS members on the NUS executive have repeatedly argued that postgraduates in an employment situation are best organised into a trade union as well as their local student union.

Student unions are not trade unions and do not have the ability to defend their members' interests to the same extent, they argue.

The dispute at the University College, Swansea where postgraduates are on strike over pay rates, has been the trigger for the AUT's action. The strikers are members of ASTMS and have organised such efficient blacking that the college is near to close down.

The NUS executive has already decided not to appear before the NIRC. But it remains to be seen what ASTMS, also called to give evidence, will do.

It is not surprising that the AUT, with 20,000 members on the top teaching salaries in the country, and which is not affiliated to the TUC, does not want genuine trade unions organising within the university walls. And it is not prepared to allow post-graduate students to join it.

Ian Gibson of the ASTMS executive and chairman of the union's academic advisory committee said that the AUT's concern for higher education did not extend to mobilising its members against the recent cutbacks in education announced by the Tories.

His reaction was: 'If we had 20,000 members we wouldn't take these cuts lying down.'

Whatever judgement the NIRC gives, the court action indicates that the AUT leadership knows where its friends are—in the bosses' court.

Support for miners

YORKSHIRE:- Bradford Trades Council has accepted a call from Engineering and Supervisors' Union branches to set up a miners' strike support committee to argue the miners' case, take collections on the shop floor and at union branches and to provide solidarity picketing if requested by the miners' union.

Keighley Trades Council secretary is to write to the NUM offering any support the miners might need.

A Shrewsbury 24 Defence committee was set up after a meeting on the Shrewsbury trials called by Bradford, Keighley and Shipley Trades Councils.

Woking strikers say 'We fight on'

WOKING:- The strike for union recognition at Con Mech Engineers in Surrey is now in its 24th week.

The original strikers have been whittled down over the weeks and months of the struggle. But

by SW reporter

those who remain are more determined than ever to fight to the finish.

Meanwhile Robert Dilley, the autocratic anti-union boss of the company, is preparing for

another appearance at the National Industrial Relations Court which has proved such a useful weapon to him in the past.

Dilley's claim for £100,000 compensation for loss of trade from the AUEW is due to be heard soon. And once again it will be taken by Sir John Donaldson, the veteran union basher.

Dilley called on the forces of law and order at Woking last week. One of his bank statements was found by the pickets.

Later Dilley came out on to the line and boasted of how he had '£250,000 in the bank and didn't care'. The pickets informed him that they had discovered his spectacular wealth themselves. He then accused them of breaking into the offices and called the police.

The strikers had a set back last week when an Air Products lorry went through their lines. This is the first time an Air Product driver has gone through for some time.

The strikers believe that a rumour has been spread that the strike is no longer official.

Ryder Rentals, a lorry hire firm, is still going through and the pickets are anxious for solidarity blacking of this firm.

They also desperately need finance and would welcome the opportunity to speak to meetings to raise funds and explain their case.

Donations and messages to Ron Connor, 78 Brookfield, Horsell, Woking.

THE RANK AND FILE CONFERENCE

'We must end the isolation'

RON PEARSON is senior shop steward at the Royal Portsmouth Hospital and a member of Portsmouth Trades Council's executive and the Wessex Shop Stewards Committee. He is also a member of the Communist Party.

Ron is a member of the editorial board of the paper Hospital Worker which is among the sponsors of the 30 March rank and file conference in Birmingham. Socialist Worker asked him what Hospital Worker aimed to do.

'We are aiming to bring to the notice of hospital workers that local problems are the same throughout the National Health Service. The sooner we can get together we can assume that branches will be fighting round the same complaints.'

'Then we will not be isolated. The problems of closures, bonus schemes, canteen prices, staff shortages and low pay do not belong to just one area.'

'The paper has given the facts and figures. When the workers realise they're going to lose on a bonus scheme, they sit up and take more notice. The paper provides the arguments to carry the day.'

'This week nurses in my hospital were reading the paper and said it was great and asked why nurses didn't get together nationally. With this sort of support and the growth of our sales we can aim to make a big impact in the future.'

'Some people say we hammer the trade union leaders. But if the leaders make mistakes we are entitled to complain. We are not a breakaway. We are doing the opposite—getting rank and file trade unionists together.'

'We are doing what the trade unions are not doing. We are not against the trade union movement but another branch of it, long overdue.'

'NUPE the public employees' union, is going to be reorganised. We've got to use the paper to raise the issues.'

'I hope we can get democratic elections and control of our unions.'

The best person to represent any worker is someone who has worked in the firm. But most of our officials haven't.

'There must be hundreds of good men and women who could be officers in the union. This lack of democracy is one of my biggest complaints. Officials get lots of perks and £50 a week. I would become an official for the same money I'm getting now.'

'We need an organisation which can bring unity and financial aid to small groups of workers and the less powerful. We need an action committee for rank and file unity and strength.'

'We are going to need it whether the Tories or Labour get in. The Tories are out to smash the unions as we know them today. We are going to be smashed or the unions have got to stand up and call a general strike if necessary.'

'All trade unionists have a chance to be delegates to the Birmingham conference. This keeps it in the official movement. We must try and drum up

support for local organisation. We must have regional and local organisation. This is the only way.'

'I went to the National Liaison Committee and saw what was going on there. It was one man and a dog making the decisions and a 1000 coming to listen. If the decisions were discussed and differences ironed out it could carry much more weight.'

'The trouble is that it is not a national liaison committee. In cases it did a good job and got the enthusiasm, but it was just based round a few people. There are not enough local committees to carry things out.'

'If branches send delegates expressing the wishes of others, they have to carry it out. That is what democracy is all about. Not about individuals representing themselves.'

'This conference can only do good. We must go out and get delegates from our branches and make sure it is a success.'



RON PEARSON

'We need movement to show leaders how to fight'

COLIN MOORE, convenor at Woodhead's Coil Springs, Ossett, Yorkshire, told Socialist Worker: 'The need for the conference in Birmingham on 30 March has never been more obvious as far as our factory is concerned.'

'The days when individual factories could win wage claims by fighting alone are over. Two years ago we occupied our factory for six weeks in support of the last engineering claim.'

'We were the only factory in the Wakefield and Dewsbury AUEW district to take any action. We won an increase of £2.50, which is less than we got under Phase Two.'

'Although we formed a combine committee linking all the factories in the Woodhead Group, we are still not in the

position to take on the government by ourselves. This makes a national fight over the engineering claim vital, even if there is a change of government.'

'Since our last dispute we have been cynical about the AUEW leadership but we were still not quite prepared for Scanlon's latest treachery. If we are going to keep up with the rising cost of living, let alone improve our position, it is no good relying on the trade union leadership.'

'It is now up to the rank and file to organise nationally and build links with other sections of the labour movement in order to show our leaders that if they don't give us a lead then we can do it ourselves.'

PROTEST OVER FORCED FEEDING

MORE THAN 100 people demonstrated outside the British Medical Association headquarters in London on Sunday calling for doctors to condemn the force-feeding of Irish political prisoners. The picket was organised by the Irish Political Hostages Committee.

A week earlier, more than 300 people demonstrated outside Gartree Prison, Leicester, where Hugh Feeney—one of those jailed following the London carbombs' trial—is being forcibly fed. His mother, who saw him recently, said:

'Hugh looked horrible. He was lying like a wax figure, his legs are giving him trouble and by the end of the visit he was completely exhausted. He started twisting in the bed because of the pains shooting up and down his legs.'

This is just a small glimpse of the barbarous treatment being handed out to the Price sisters, Gerry Kelly and Hugh Feeney, who have been on hunger strike for 100 days now. Although the demands of the prisoners are quite reasonable—to be sent to a prison in Ireland and be granted political status—the 'liberal' British press has refused to make any serious comment on the brutality now being inflicted on the four.

Socialists and trade unionists should not assume that this sort of repression is reserved solely for the Irish. Resolutions should be passed through trade union branches and trades councils in support of the prisoners' demands, and sent to the Home Office.

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SW sales -we need your help to keep climbing

FIFTY-TWO THOUSAND copies of Socialist Worker were printed last week.

This success is due entirely to the fact that the election campaign proved there is a thirst for socialist ideas. Harold Wilson pulled big crowds to his meetings last week and these are the people who are interested in politics.

But the number of Socialist Workers sold at these meetings was also tremendous: In Leicester 150 sold, in Wandsworth 75, in Hampstead 85. And the reason? Because these are the people who are looking for credible answers.

We often feel that because we compare our paper to the hundreds of thousands of copies printed in Fleet Street that we are incredibly small and that the number of people interested in socialist ideas is also very small. But in fact the numbers are limitless—to increase our print order by a third in the weeks of the election is proof enough.

But 52,000 isn't the peak. It should be seen, by all our readers and sellers, as the point from which we can now start building a mass circulation socialist paper.

Over the past two weeks we have had an amazing response—some subscribers have written asking for extra copies of the pre-election issues, others have placed regular orders, for anything from five to 20 a week. Several of these orders mean that we are now getting Socialist Worker sold in new towns.

There are two things that you can do to help us now—either ask the person who regularly delivers or sells you your paper for an extra copy next week. Or write to us if you already have a subscription, and we will send you extra copies as you need them—they don't need to be paid for in advance.

Write to: Socialist Worker Circulation, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS or telephone 01-739 2639.

Sparks strike as deal is axed

GLASGOW:—350 electricians and apprentices employed by Glasgow Corporation stopped work on Monday. They had already held a one-day token strike the previous Thursday.

The dispute, in the Lighting and Maintenance Department, started because the 1974 contracting agreement was not brought in. It allowed for pay increases of up to 34 per cent and would have given approved electricians £1 an hour, not an unreasonable wage by today's standards.

But the Tory Phase Three posed problems over the paying of the agreed rate. Officials of the Electricians' Union, following union policy, presented the full claim to the employers—who quickly sent it to the Pay Board.

Expected

The board came up with a 'solution' that allowed increases of between 7 and 9 per cent. The unions refuse to recognise the Pay Board, but its reluctance to raise support for the full wage claim casts doubt on its leaders' real intentions.

Most electricians in Scottish local authorities have always followed contracting wage rates and expected these to be paid. This time a National Joint Council set up by the officials without consultation at shop floor level caused problems. The claim was presented to local authority employers again but no support was raised to back it up.

Glasgow Corporation electricians have taken action themselves but realise that all electricians covered by the 1974 agreement must join action if they are to succeed.

The miners' fight is everyone's

SCOTLAND:—While many Scottish miners regret that the lessons of mass picketing in 1972 have not so far been put into practice, other lessons have.

The strike committee at Auchinleck, near the two largest Ayrshire pits, Killoch and Barony, has organised a six-man squad each day collecting fallen wood on the Dumfries estate of the Marquis of Bute. This is sawn up and given free to the old and sick who otherwise might go cold for lack of coal.

The whole community is fighting to win the strike. The two local clubs have cut their already cheap prices by 2p off a pint or off a small whisky. The strike committee has also persuaded them to provide a free meal once a day to all strikers and anyone else going hungry in Auchinleck.

These meals are paid for partly by the clubs and partly from donations received from local shops, bookies and individuals as well as from collections in Glasgow organised by the International Socialists. The clubs have also started giving their members weekly food vouchers for goods at local co-ops.

The miners in Auchinleck are well organised for a long fight, although many believe it won't be needed. Said Tom Stewart, treasurer of both the strike committee and Barony NUM: 'Whichever government comes in we'll have to test them. It's the full claim we're after—nothing less.'

170 tons of coal a week are being delivered to old people in the Bonnyrigg area of Scotland. Similar action is being taken by Derbyshire miners.

Union victory on 'lump' site

NORTH LONDON:—120 building workers on the St Silas North site, where 240 flats are being built for Camden Council, have won a great victory for trade unionism against the lump. Bill Kaye, acting UCATT shop steward, two militant concrete-men and a Pakistani bricklayer were reinstated last Monday after some crude management victimisation.

The 'no lump' clause in Camden Council contracts does not operate on the site because work started before 1972, but since January the men have been taking



These soldiers are not on a street in Belfast. This is Hull, East Yorkshire.

THE ARMY ON THE STREETS OF HULL

by Martin Shaw

HULL:—'At approximately 12.15pm an army unit appeared, fully armed with rifles, and surrounded an area of houses contained by Margaret Street, Leicester Street, Wellington Lane and All Saints Street.

The detachment, 30 to 40 strong, concentrated on one house, 14 Leicester Street, and foot soldiers took up definite positions along the pavements of the street. One soldier shouted "move in" and all the troops rushed towards the house.'

It wasn't Belfast—but Hull, last Sunday. The eye-witnesses were International Socialists Mike Berkoff and Dave Lewis who live in Margaret Street. The sortie was not publicised, only through Hull IS has it come to light.

'We always take two steps. We get permission from the owner of the property and we notify the local police' said an Army spokesman.

Detective Inspector Pierce of Hull Police disagreed: 'We weren't informed' he said.

SHAKEN

They didn't warn the local residents either. Number 14 is a derelict house, but the only one in the street, the rest are fully occupied terraced houses. The Army told Socialist Worker: 'We will have to bear in mind the effect of this on local people. It could have shaken them up a bit—but it wasn't meant to.'

Most local people were shaken. How would you feel if you looked out to see fully armed soldiers charging up your street?

'At least one soldier carried a riot gas cylinder,' said Mike Berkoff. 'Several car-loads of officers drove around the area while this was taking place.' Indeed the general impression was that there were quite a few big-wigs around seeing how their lads coped with forcing their way into a terraced house. 'They disappeared as quickly as they had arrived. The whole incident took place in about 20 minutes,' said Mike.

their own action to organise the job.

Last week, Bill Kaye was summarily transferred, and the foreman for a new subcontractor made it clear that Bill was being moved because he was a 'trouble-maker'. At almost the same time the concrete-men and bricklayer were sacked for the same reason.

At a site meeting last Monday the men decided unanimously to strike. Within minutes management agreed to all their demands.

went on.

Regional TV news and most national press newsdesks are closed down completely at this time on Sunday. The whole incident seems to have been carefully timed to minimise publicity. If a student hadn't had his camera handy, there would have been no pictures of what happened.

One soldier told bystanders that it was 'only an exercise'. But Army exercises are a preparation for the real thing. One Irishman in Margaret Street suggested they were

planning 'to send the Territorials to Belfast'. It seems more likely that they are planning to bring Belfast to Hull and other English cities. Who will this be directed against?

A Hull IS leaflet answered this question.

'Only on Saturday, one of the Tory election candidates warned about "urban guerrillas" in Leicester Street or anywhere in Hull. There are only ordinary working-class people, trade unionists and socialists. Is it us the army is preparing to

attack?'

Several years ago Army theorist Brigadier Frank Kitson applied the 'lessons of Ulster' to British working-class struggles. 'It had nothing at all to do with Kitson' claimed the Army.

Who believes this? The Heathrow airport operation was a large ambitious provocation carried out on a flimsy pretext. The short, sharp and furtive Hull sortie shows what could be an everyday occurrence for workers in their own areas.

Hull IS have pointed out that 'We cannot accept this kind of army activity in the streets of Hull'

It cannot be accepted anywhere.

Classified

Copy for the Classified section must arrive by first post Monday morning. Adverts will not be accepted over the phone. Charges are 1p per word, semi-display 2p per word. CASH WITH COPY to Classified, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

HOSPITAL WORKER No 7 NOW OUT! Important article on Poplar Hospital closure, facts on agency staff, ambulance-men and canteen boycotts. Lots of articles on nurses—an ideal opportunity to involve nurses in the Hospital Worker. Rush orders to Business Manager, 8 Beverstone Road, London SW2.

ONE OR TWO COMRADES (preferably couple) needed to share large flat, 10 minutes Central Manchester. Phone 061-792 5780 or write to G Brown, 465a Bury New Road, Salford 7.

CINEMA ACTION and EALING No 1 BRANCH AUEW presents the films *Arise ye workers*, *Fighting the bill*, and *The UCS struggle*, Friday 8 March, 7pm, Hanwell Library, Ealing, West London. Admission by trade union card only—all trade unionists welcome. Proceeds to North Wales Defence Committee.

POST OFFICE WORKER: latest issue now out. Articles on action in the UPW, POEU, CPSA and SCS. 3p per copy (plus 3p postage) from 1 North Place, Waltham Abbey, Essex.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD: Film 'The Salt of the Earth'—about a miners' strike in Mexico—followed by discussion of issues it raises, of vital concern to men and women involved in any strike in Britain today. Friday 8 March, 8pm, Old People's Day Centre, Half Moon Yard. Admission 10p. Organised by Hemel Women's Voice Group.

SHREWSBURY AND MINERS BENEFIT SOCIAL: Friday 1 March, 8pm, Nightingale pub, Nightingale Road, Wood Green, London N22. All welcome.

MINERS' BENEFIT ROCK CONCERT: Chili Willie and the Red Hot Peppers, Bearded Lady, plus disco. University of London Union, Malet Street, WC1. 7.30pm, Saturday 2 March. Tickets from union office or at door 50p. Organised by London Student Organisation.

LANDLORDS, TENANTS AND SQUATTERS: the fourth in a series of talks on Law and Class. Tuesday 5 March, 6.45pm, Room 510, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2. Speaker Stephen Sedley. Admission free. Organised by the Haldane Society.

LESSONS OF THE 1926 GENERAL STRIKE Speaker Bob Dent. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, March 4th. North London Group. Organisation of Revolutionary Anarchists.

RIISING FREE has asked us to point out that the classified advert for the 'Clockwork Box' poster, which appeared here last week and gave their address, had in fact no connection with Rising Free. Readers who responded to the advert will, however, receive the posters.

THE WORKER: This month's issue of the paper of the Socialist Workers Movement (Ireland). Articles include the National Wage Agreement, Chrysler Ireland, The Irish Left in the 1970s, the Provos, etc. Bulk orders 4p per copy through Irish Sub-committee, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Debtors please pay.

FARMHOUSE HOLIDAYS in North Wales: within easy reach of the station, fishing, friendly pubs, pony trekking, frequent transport to the coast, bring your wellies... Six-berth self-contained caravan, all mod cons, £10 per week. Bed, breakfast, evening meal and packed lunch, £9 per week—reductions for children. Phone Chirk (069186) 2272.

IS MEMBER (male) needs own room in friendly house or flat within reach of Kings Cross, London. Phone Nigel Siederer 01-278 4575 daytime.

WANTED: fifth person, female, preferably with non-straight job, for mixed communal house in Hornsey, North London. Own room, comfortable house, £32 pcm (inclusive, except food). Ring 01-837 4521 ext 30 (10am-6pm)

PERFORMERS (M & F) needed by THE COMBINATION at THE ALBANY EMPIRE: a new community cabaret theatre. Singing essential. Instrument/strong personality/experience preferable. Write plus photo to Jenny Harris, The Albany, Creek Road, London SE8.

NEW PAMPHLET: The Chinese answer 10 chief questions on China—22p, + free 'China reconstructs', Lenin: The State and Revolution—22p, Imperialism—22p, What is to be done—32p. Marx: Critique to the Gotha Programme—24p. Mao: The Chinese Party and Revolution—20p. D Volpe, 16 Belmont Court, London N16 5QD.

WORKERS' CONTROL AND THE CRISIS Birmingham Saturday 2 March—which way forward after the election? One-day conference starts 10am. Transport House, Broad Street, Birmingham. Delegates and individuals 30p. Organised by West Midlands Workers Control Group. 021-458 7859.

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.



I would like information/join the International Socialists

Name

Address

Trade Union

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

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Journalists act - and split big news bosses



Pensioners and trade unionists on the near 10,000-strong demonstration in London last Sunday demanding increased pensions. Some travelled from Scotland, the North and Wales to be there. PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report)

THE NPA, the national newspaper owners' organisation in England and Wales, is still taking a tough stand against the journalists' pay claim.

On Monday, the NPA again refused to open immediate pay negotiations with the NUJ, despite last week's decision by the giant IPC, owners of the Daily Mirror, to break away from the NPA and negotiate separately with their journalists.

IPC decided to pull out last Thursday after concerted industrial action, particularly in Manchester and Glasgow, where journalists walked out demanding immediate local negotiations to settle their wage claim.

Tension built up in IPC after management abandoned their earlier pledge to make an offer and merely read out a prepared NPA statement that wage offers could not be made at company level. This followed an NPA decision to offer nothing in reply to the NUJ national claim, originally £20 a week across the board, but now scaled down to comply with Phase Three.

Refused

Last Tuesday, on the fifth day of industrial action in the Mirror empire, NUJ officials met the NPA labour executive. Again they were told there was no money to pay any increases and that if the unions did not accept this then big redundancies would result.

But the NUJ stood up to this new blackmail and refused to drop the claim.

NUJ representatives then met the full NPA council, which is composed of various lords and other fabulously wealthy men. Once again they heard the pleas of poverty.

NPA chairman Lord Goodman, threatened a lockout if the Mirror journalists did not resume normal working immediately on the NPA's terms.

But the NUJ's negotiating committee stood firm and canvassed union chapels about action. The reply was that while members were not anxious to take industrial action during the week of the election, they would afterwards. The committee also decided to make the Mirror dispute official.

Then on Thursday last week, IPC boss Don Ryder made his move. He summoned Ken Morgan, NUJ general secretary, and said IPC would pull out of the NPA and would guarantee negotiations with cash on the table within two weeks if the Mirror journalists went back to work. With this offer, the Mirror journalists did return.

Since then the NPA has repeated that there will be no offer for six months. At the Sun, management are already indicating they would like to settle and might also break from the NPA.

Journalists on the Daily Telegraph and in the Beaverbrook empires—Daily Express and London Evening Standard—have threatened industrial action unless a company offer is made. Journalists on other papers, such as the enormously profitable Financial Times, are moving in with similar demands.

Campaign

Throughout, the tactics of the NPA have been to play for time, hoping that the return of another Tory government in the election would mean another total wage freeze. But the threat of a new freeze has prompted the Fleet Street journalists to keep up the fight during the election campaign, when all their professional prejudices lead them away from determined action.

Now IPC has broken from NPA other employers are likely to follow. But this could lead to serious difficulties for some Fleet Street journalists.

The collapse of the NPA could lead the Beaverbrook and Harmsworth press barons to merge the Daily Express and Daily Mail or even shut both down. They claim that they are not making enough money and constantly use this argument to foster insecurity among all printworkers in Fleet Street.

If they move in the wake of the IPC breakaway, journalists will need to take united action with other printworkers to prevent sackings.

ANGER GROWS IN COALFIELDS

ANGER is growing in the coalfields at the 'soft sell' tactics of the miners' union leaders, which are weakening the strike and the solidarity.

Pickets have been reduced from six to four, in some cases to one, and sometimes removed altogether. The union has issued instructions to stop the picketing of oil-fired power stations.

In EAST ANGLIA pickets at Kings Lynn, Wisbech and Sizewell power stations have been reduced in size. Only a token picket stands at the gate of Ipswich power station. There are no pickets at the ports where oil is discharged.

At SALTLEY coke depot queues of 150-200 lorries, including sand and gravel lorries, stand waiting to load up. Some are taking as many as 10 loads through the picket on a permit allowing only one.

Last week two carloads of miners from BARROW decided to tail the lorries of one of the transport firms involved, Brian Thorpe, of Thorpe Hesley, near Rotherham.

Said miner Pete Clarney: 'The two lorries stopped after a roundabout and our car pulled up behind. When the first lorry left our car pulled out and the second lorry tried to drive us off the road. Later one of the lorry drivers tried to dazzle one of our drivers with his headlights.'

During the 1972 miners' strike the company was blacked for breaking picket lines. Jack Lalley, president of the Midlands miners, says he has an agreement about Saltley with the West Midlands Gas Board. What is he doing about Brian Thorpe's bully boys?

Miners know what they are going to do. After the strike, the only drivers with union cards will be allowed to load coal at pitheads.

Cash Kerr, a miner picketing COCKENZIE power station in Scotland, said: 'I feel foolish standing here watching the lorries going through. Last Sunday between 9am and 3pm, 20 oil tankers went through. That's during overtime

hours. You can't call that normal deliveries of oil. Even more goes through during the week.'

In LEICESTER, after pressure from the Transport Union, the pickets were withdrawn from a coal-fired power station. Pickets there are restricted to branch officials. At Snibston pit one harried picket was unable to cover two gates and an adjoining NCB smokeless fuel plant. In one hour three lorryloads of smokeless fuel drove out.

Jack Jones, president of the Leicestershire miners, told the pickets withdrawn from the power station that if they continued picketing without union permission they were on their own and would get no legal aid from the NUM if arrested.

In SHEFFIELD last Saturday 5000 miners and engineering workers demonstrated in support of the strike, but this display of solidarity was marred in a speech by Arthur Scargill, NUM Yorkshire president, who spoke of 'a substantial increase'. Many Yorkshire miners are worried that this means less than the full claim.

But in SOUTH WALES miners have no intention of lifting the pickets on any power stations, oil-fired or not. Gareth Williams, a member of the West Wales NUM District Committee, said: 'Any attempted sellout by the NUM leadership or an attempt to split the ranks will be

rejected by the miners.'

Official NUM collection sheets are as rare as gold dust. The massive goodwill of other trade unionists for the miners is being lost for want of organisation and the will to succeed.

Even so, trade unionists are giving cash support. Dockers in the Royal group in London voted to levy 25p each a week for the Kent miners. They have already passed on £1000. This idea has been taken up by all the major ports.

In many areas there is discontent not only at the lack of picketing but that pickets are often not paid. Travelling expenses for pickets, it is reported from Scotland, are paid at 3p per mile for rank and file miners and 12p for NUM officials.

Three reasons have been given for the faint-hearted approach of the NUM leaders: fear of the Industrial Relations Act, the desire not to embarrass the Labour Party by displays of militancy during the election, and the manoeuvres of the right wing on the NUM executive.

Miners, like every other group of workers struggling for better pay and conditions, feel strongest, and are strongest, when engaged in mass activity. Dissension, recrimination and apathy follow if miners are excluded from action to win their own claim.

Miners must not allow their strength to be frittered away in this fashion. If the NUM national leaders refuse to lead, then miners in the coalfields must take up the task.

by SW reporter

Vote of confidence

LAST WEEK'S collections of £371.65 brought the fighting fund total for February to a fantastic £3069.68. This was more than £1000 over our target and is a real vote of confidence by our readers in the role played by Socialist Working during the election.

Outstanding among the donations from IS branches last week was £105.65 from Camden, £55 from Hackney—which included £20 raised from a jumble sale, and £43 from Newcastle, which was the branch's fifth contribution to the fund in four weeks!

Thanks also to Harlesden £20, Salford £20, Doncaster £24, Colindale £12, Maidstone £3.50 and the anonymous subscriber who sent us £3.

The February target was increased by £2000 as an emergency measure to finance the expansion of the paper and our activity through the election

Send donations and collections to National Treasurer, IS, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

Rich men who run 'relativities' fraud

MINEWORKERS' leaders have now spent two weeks putting the case for their claim of £35 to £45 a week before the Pay Board relativities inquiry.

This is being handled by three government appointed gentlemen. They are Sir Frank Figures, Pay Board chairman, salary £300 a week, his deputy Derek Robinson, salary £250 a week and Lord Netherthorpe.

Netherthorpe is one of the 15 lucky directors of Fisons who in 1972 got an average of £480 a week each in directors' fees.

The salaries of these gentlemen is the key to the relativities fraud. Com-

parisons with the rich, the real relativities, are forbidden. Only comparisons of groups of workers, one against the other, are permitted.

Derek Ezra, £460 a week boss of the Coal Board, has already expressed his delight at this operation. Last Friday he said that after a relativity had been established then the job is 'to stick to it'.

System

Ezra is keen that the wages struggle should become a slide rule exercise carried out by so-called experts and in no way involving the rank and file mineworker. His paymasters in big business and elsewhere are even more anxious to see such

a system get off the ground.

This is because other workers could be trapped in a fixed relativity below miners. This is what Michael McGahey, miners' vice president meant when he said that the miners were not a special case and should not crawl to prosperity on the backs of other workers.

The 'relativities' scheme could also be used to set one section of the NUM against another. Over the past week there have been clear indications that the inquiry might recommend a much lower offer to surface workers than to face and underground workers. This would be contrary to NUM conference policy and would also undermine the unprecedented unity achieved over recent years

ADVERTISEMENT

Fight the employers' offensive! For united trade union action

National Rank and File Conference of delegates from trade union bodies to be held on 30 March at 11.30am at Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham.

This Conference is sponsored by the following rank and file papers: GEC Rank 'N' File, The Hospital Worker, The Carworker, The Steelworker, London Transport Platform, The Collier, NALGO Action News, Post Office Worker, Rank and File Teacher, Tech Teacher, Case Con, Redder Tape.

This advertisement has been paid for by the Organising Committee. For a letter of invitation to be brought to the attention of your trades union branch/shop stewards' committee/trades council/district committee, write to Roger Cox, Secretary, Organising Committee, 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10.

TU Body: _____

Address: _____

Please send an invitation to the conference. (Return this form to the Organising Committee Secretary at the above address)