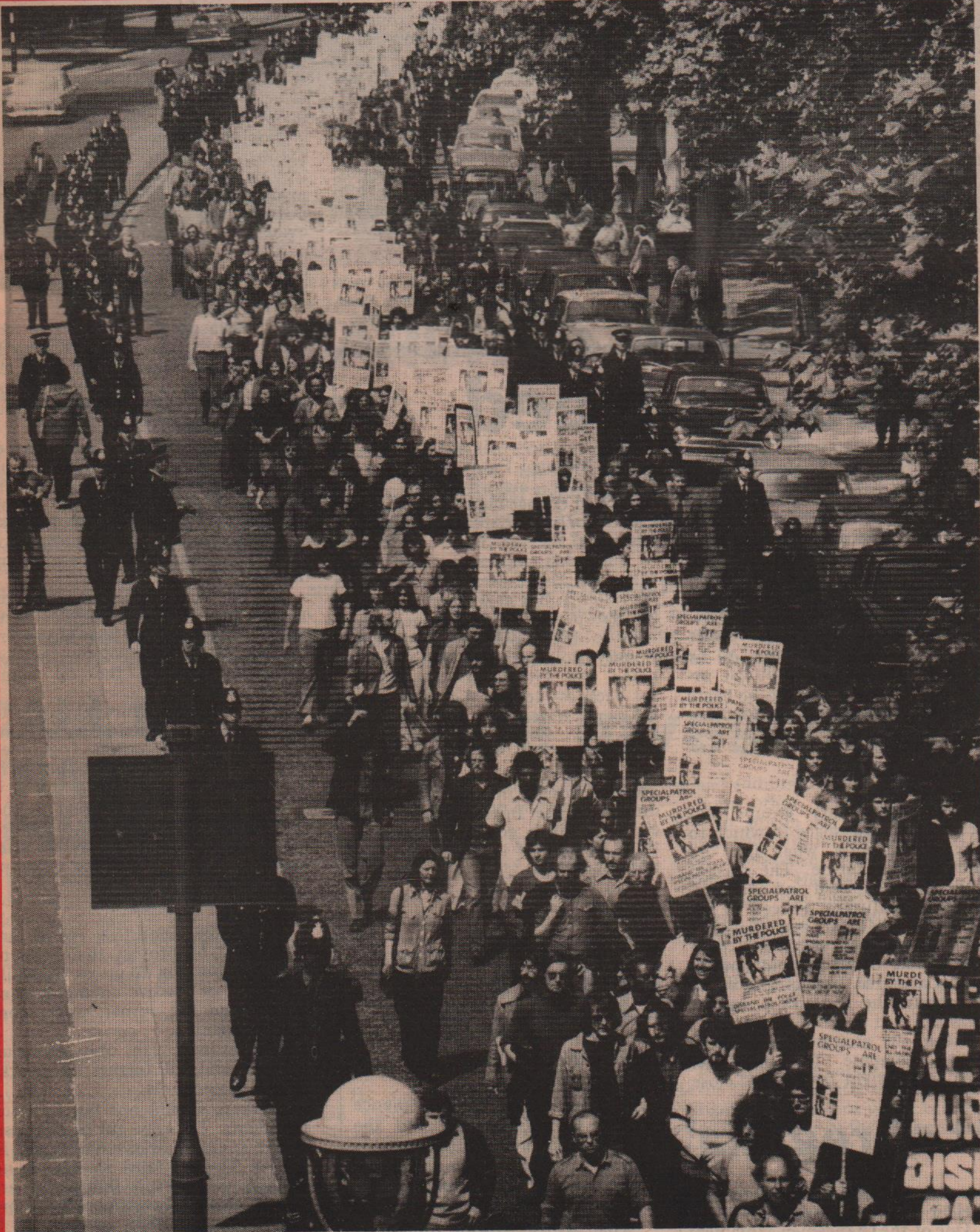


Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

THEIR CRISIS... OUR ANSWER



SOME of the 2000 members of the International Socialists who marched last Saturday in protest at the death of Kevin Gately at the hands of the police. In all, ten thousand demonstrators marched through the centre of London.

The Special Patrol Group, who brutally broke up the demonstration against the National Front on which Kevin died, had been told to stay away. Large numbers of police, however, lined the march.

At a meeting held by the International Socialists before the march began, Chris Harman, a member of

the IS executive committee, and Ian Olley, a London dockerman, spoke about the violent role played by the SPG in attacking pickets and demonstrations. They called for it to be disbanded.

The demonstrators marched from the Embarkment to Hyde Park, where George Anthony, of the Engineering Union's London district committee, and John Randall, president of the National Union of Students, spoke to a rally.

AFTER BLOODY SATURDAY — page 3.

THE ECONOMIC CRISIS, which many people hoped had vanished with the Tory government, is catching up with Labour fast.

The air is thick with the laments of millionaires about the sacrifices their workers will have to make to save the country.

As the crisis breathes down the back of their necks, the Labour government is suing for peace with the rich and powerful.

Chancellor Healey is planning an 'emergency' summer budget which will release the control on dividends, rents, property speculation.

Labour ministers, who fought an election campaign only four months ago on the slogan 'Price Control, Not Wage Control', are now talking earnestly about wage control, not price control.

They are supported by the trade union leaders. The TUC has already announced that trade unions should not seek more than 'nil norm' wage increases. That's 0 per cent on the buying power of wages.

The arguments for all this backsliding do not bear consideration.

We went through Phase One (0 per cent on wages, 10 per cent on prices) and Phase Two (£1 plus 4 per cent on wages—12 per cent on prices) because we were told wage increases caused price increases. We found that prices rose anyway, in spite of wage limits—while the money-for-nothing brigade, the speculators and the shareholders, made their fortunes.

STRENGTHEN

Now these speculators and shareholders aren't having it so good—but that's *their* crisis. It's not up to us to hold back while they prepare the ground for another bonanza.

On the contrary. As inflation gets worse, so we must strengthen our trade union organisation and extend the fight on the wages front.

We must fight for:

ONE: The thresholds now. Don't let the bosses stop you getting what you're entitled to.

TWO: 30 per cent wage increases—the minimum needed to keep pace with the increase in prices and taxes.

THREE: Equal pay for women. Stop the sell-out on this crucial issue. The gap between men's and women's wages has closed by only one per

cent in the past year.

FOUR: A 35-hour week. The best way to fight redundancies.

These demands must be fought for by the rank and file with every means at our disposal—strikes, occupations, and combine-wide organisation.

These are the ways we can protect ourselves from the immediate onslaught of the corporations.

But we will be condemned forever to a struggle we cannot win unless we start to talk about workers running their own industries—about workers running the society for which they produce all the wealth.

That means socialist politics.

BLACKMAIL

Unless we build a powerful organisation of socialists at the root of the working class, we will not sustain the struggle for better pay or against redundancy. Unless socialists argue the case for public ownership and workers' control of industry, the capitalists will always be able to blackmail us with threats of redundancy.

All those people on the left who hoped that Labour would grapple with the economic crisis and control prices must open their eyes and look.

Look at the stark statistics of price increases rising faster than wages. Look at the falling state of house-building, school-building, hospital building. Look at the statements of corporations such as British Leyland as they threaten mass sackings. Look at the increasing repression against the Left. Look what happened in Red Lion Square on 15 June.

Look—and organise. Build the International Socialists. Build a socialist party which can protect us against the ravages of the profit system by doing away with it.

Fighting and defence fund

TWO senior Scotland Yard detectives issued High Court writs against Paul Foot, as editor of Socialist Worker, and Jim Nichol, as publisher, last Friday. We are to appear in court some time after 1 July to defend ourselves against the Labour government's attempt to put us on trial for contempt of court. The writs claim we were in contempt for naming two witnesses in the Janie Jones blackmail case in April.

This is not just an attack by the judges on the freedom of the press. It threatens the strength and even the existence of Socialist Worker.

We must defend ourselves in this case. But we cannot do so properly unless we have extra money.

Unless we get a big increase in contributions to the Fighting Fund, we cannot defend ourselves. It's up to you, our readers, to organise special collections in your places of work if you want us to put up a case against the Attorney General and his lawyers.

Don't let us go down without a fight. We can win the case, if we have your support to fight it.

This week the fund reached £1158.

Dig deep and send your money to Jim Nichol, Socialist Worker Fund and Defence Appeal, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Jones shares platform with Powell

JACK JONES, general secretary of the Transport Workers' Union, sits beside Enoch Powell at an anti-Common Market meeting in Bradford last week. When asked to explain why he appeared on the platform, Jones replied that it represented 'the unity of opposites'. The union's channels were used to publicise the meeting and the collection was taken up by local 'left-wing' Councillor Jim Roche. Motions of protest about Jones' appearance on the platform are being moved at several local TGWU branches.



BLAME THEM FOR THE CRISIS

THE PRESS has discovered that the British economy faces a crisis, heading for a balance of payments deficit of £450 million—three times last year's record figure.

Prices, at the present rate, will rise 25 per cent in the next year. Redundancies are threatened. House-building is at a ten-year low.

Even those who benefit most from the capitalist system seem to have lost faith in its ability to deliver the goods. They have been selling their shares as fast as they can, provoking a fall on the stock exchange in the past two years bigger than in 1929-31, the years of the Great Crash.

Those who defend the system have a simple explanation for the crisis. Profits are not high enough to give businessmen incentive to invest, they say, and Labour Party talk of 'state intervention' is making this worse.

But the facts knock this flat. Last year British industry enjoyed its biggest profits bonanza since the war.

Propaganda

Such arguments are merely a propaganda exercise to ward off critics of the system as it enters a crisis which is going to have devastating effects on the lives of millions of people.

For its cause we must look at the nature of modern capitalism itself.

The key economic decisions are made by increasingly massive industrial and financial concerns, owned by a very few people, competing with one another, with no effective mechanism for ensuring that they co-ordinate their plans.

The results can be seen. A year ago, businessmen throughout the world saw markets and profits booming. They opened new factories, took on new workers, bought up raw materials to turn into manufactured goods.

But in an unplanned system, there was nothing to ensure that production of raw materials rose at the same time as demand for them. Shortages led to a massive increase in prices, to huge opportunities for speculation and to world-wide inflation.

So an increasing share of the massive profits made last year went not to the industrial manufacturers but to the firms that supply the raw materials—such as the oil companies.

Big business throughout the world has been cutting back plans for industrial expansion, frightened that investment will not bring in the profits.

At once there is a threat to the jobs of those who make machines and factories—which is why the construction industry is facing a slump.

Threat

Meanwhile industrial firms are attempting to protect their present profits by pushing up prices. So while the threat of massive unemployment lurks round the corner, prices continue to soar.

Big business can only see one way out—cut still further into workers' living standards.

Workers should not fall for such arguments. The way out of the crisis is not a cut in wages and a rise in profits. The capitalist system has no mechanism to ensure that profits are turned into new investment and more jobs. Indeed, what investment is being made is usually to produce more goods with fewer workers—that is, to increase unemployment.

Nor are the vague schemes of Wedgwood Benn a solution. For the state to buy a few shares in firms that operate according to capitalist principles, will not do away with the anarchy of the capitalist system, with rising prices and the threat of collapse.

What is needed is a workers' movement to take over the capitalist system lock, stock and barrel. Only then could we ensure that production was for need and not profit.

Disaster on doorstep

DON'T FEEL complacent that because you don't live close to a large chemical plant you are safe from a disaster such as Flixborough, where 29 men died.

Thanks to the irresponsible way big business operates every one of us is in danger of having a Flixborough delivered to our doorstep. Giant road tankers are familiar on our roads. But few are familiar with the loads they carry.

Last year, for example, a 6000-gallon tanker belonging to Redland Purle, the waste disposal firm, sprang a leak while travelling through Chelmsford in Essex. The chemical waste it was carrying had started to react, forcing its way out through the tanker's filler caps.

The waste was a mixture of sulphuric and chromic acid and the tanker left a 200-yard trail which damaged several vehicles, eating away

by Terry Segars
Member of the Fire Brigades Union

the tyres and stripping the paint-work from a police motorcycle attempting to overtake and stop the tanker.

At Chelmsford Crown Court in October the firm was fined £50 for not having proper warning signs on the tanker, £50 for failing to stop the spillage, and £107 in analyst's and court fees. A small enough penalty considering the danger to lives.

Incidents like this are increasing. So much so that the firemen's union is demanding an occupational health scheme—too often firemen who go to these accidents face danger because they do not know what they are dealing with. Road hauliers are notoriously reluctant to display the proper warning signs on these tankers.

The Petroleum Officers res-

ponsible for enforcing this law rarely bring prosecutions. The one I spoke to about the Chelmsford incident said it was the first such prosecution he knew of.

Firemen are worried about the damage to their health when they go to clear up the deadly results of capitalism's indifference. The effects these chemicals have on those who deal with them are often not known—and it's going to be a hard battle to ensure someone finds out.

Chief fire officers in the South East recently proposed a joint working party with hauliers to monitor the transport of hazardous loads. It was to be financed by £10 from each interested party. The fire authorities all agreed—but not one transport firm responded. That is how concerned they are about safety.

Not only firemen and ambulance-men are involved. There are the tanker drivers themselves. If the tanker is properly marked and they

are told how to deal with an accident, then we'd have a much more reliable safety system than a law that is ignored.

The law requires only 270 petrochemical extracts to be marked. Various schemes cover all chemicals, but they are voluntary and not widely used.

Until the road hauliers are forced to take effective steps by joint action of drivers, firemen and ambulance-men, there could be a Flixborough on any road, at any time.

As Pat Kinnersly writes in his book *The Hazards of Work**: 'The time has come for an organised trade union offensive against hazards, to challenge the employers' right to set the levels of risk and to demand standards of health, safety and well-being acceptable to workers.'

Pluto Press, 90p. Available by post from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. Please include 7p postage.

Soldier who killed boy is freed

THE ROOT of the problem for Northern Ireland was to be observed last Saturday night in the Ballycolman Estate in Strabane when 30-year-old Hugh Davine was shot dead by a soldier. Trooper Alec John Fury has been charged with murder.

Trooper Fury is only the second soldier brought before a court in Northern Ireland charged with murder, though dozens of cases of identified soldiers killing unarmed civilians are on record. Trooper Fury has been unlucky in that Davine's death was roundly condemned by the Catholic Bishop of Derry and other elevated figures who are normally silent on such matters. This forced the authorities' hand.

Perhaps he will console himself by recalling the recent case of Corporal Foxford, who killed a 12-year-old boy in Newry last year and was charged with manslaughter after a similar outburst of condemnation by priests and bishops.

The three-year sentence on Foxford caused Daily Telegraph leader writers to burst blood vessels.

So the Corporal appealed and last week he was freed—on the amazing ground that the prosecution in the original trial, by failing to call two witnesses, had deprived

TROOPS OUT SAY MINERS

The committee of the Houghton Main Colliery branch of the National Union of Mineworkers accepted in principle at its last meeting a resolution calling for the withdrawal of British Troops from Northern Ireland.

the defence of the opportunity to cross-examine them.

The man who delivered this remarkable judgement, Mr Justice Lowry, was made a member of the Privy Council a week before the appeal came before him. That is what is called a coincidence.

Despite the Protestant paramilitary groups' rejection of talks with the IRA, calls for a ceasefire continue to come from the individual organisations. Last weekend the Ulster Defence Association urged a 'period of peace' so that elections could be held and the Ulster Freedom Fighters, the most shadowy group of all, followed suit.

The UFF probably does not exist. It is a code word used by the UDA and others for units involved in the assassination of Catholics. On occasion it has also been used by army plain-clothes squads.

The fact that it, too, has been represented as 'calling for peace' indicates the urgency of the paramilitary Protestant groups' desire after their successful strike, to be accepted as 'proper' political organisations with a right to be heard in any discussions of Northern Ireland's future.

Unable

The para-military groups also need a breathing space in which to work out exactly what they do want for the future. The success of the strike exposed and exaggerated their confusion. Forced to define what political and constitutional set-up they seek, they have been unable to go beyond opposition to a united Ireland and vague talk about 'the Protestant way of life'.

Within the groups different tendencies compete for influence. Some are outright fascists and close

to the National Front. Others, probably the majority are old-fashioned Orange bigots. A few have called for a 'socialist independent Ulster'.

But what unites them is that they see themselves primarily as Protestants, not as workers. As long as that persists they will never be able to break out from the reactionary politics which have dominated the Protestant community for decades—despite the 'anti-establishment' statements they regularly issue.

None of the 'solutions' being put forward by the Protestant groups would involve the withdrawal of the British army or the end of British economic domination. None that is, go to the root of the problem.



The International Socialists Irish sub-committee urges all trade unionists to move resolutions along the following lines at their shop stewards' committees and branches:

'Recognising that the violence of the past few years and the present sectarian strife in Northern Ireland is the direct result of the long history of British domination of Ireland, this branch believes:

'That British troops should be withdrawn from Ireland now.

'That the Irish people have a right to determine their own affairs.

'That all Irish political prisoners in Britain and Ireland should be released.

'We therefore call on the union executive to do all in its power to support the campaign for the immediate withdrawal of British troops and end British imperialism in Ireland.'

Truncheon 'part of regalia'

THE NEWS that the Republicans who marched in the funeral procession of hunger striker Michael Gaughan in sweaters and dark glasses are to be prosecuted seems not to have shaken the confidence of extreme right-wingers that they are free to parade in whatever uniform they choose.

Last Saturday 1500 Orangemen paraded through the strongly Catholic district of Hebburn, near Newcastle. Many wore Orange sashes and dark glasses. Others carried truncheons. Chief Superintendent Colin Hardman told the local Sunday

Sun that the truncheons were 'part of their traditional regalia'.

One of the Orangemen explained: 'We carry them to stop our members breaking ranks, but if other people try to break our ranks we will murder them.'

Members of the National Front were on hand along the route of the march, including the Front's prospective parliamentary candidate for South Shields, Bill Owen, who said that he hoped the Orangemen would join in a National Front parade in London later this year.

IRELAND: WHY LABOUR MUST WITHDRAW THE TROOPS NOW

Monday 1 July, 7.30pm,
Unity House (NUR Headquarters),
Euston Road, London N1
(opposite Euston Station).

Speakers include Joan Maynard
(Labour Party national executive)
Steve Jefferys (International Socialists
executive committee),
Alistair Renwick
(Troops Out Movement)
Organised by the
Troops Out Movement

After Bloody Saturday



How the International Socialists on Saturday's march looked from Downing Street.

Some reflections on violence

by Raymond Challinor

IN 1848, at the big Chartist rally on Kensington Common, in London, a special constable told one of the demonstrators: 'If you kill me, that's murder. If I kill you, it's simply a matter of preserving law and order.'

The capitalist state has always justified the use of violence by the military and the police. Much less violence used by demonstrators has always been condemned and dealt with severely. Whenever trouble has arisen, politicians and the press have fed the public with stories about frenzied mobs, wild and uncontrollable, senselessly killing and destroying property for its own sake.

Professor George Rude, who has made a study of crowd behaviour, says this is totally untrue. 'All talk of the famous "blood-lust" of the crowd is largely based on legend and a few selected episodes in the French Revolutionary Terror,' he states. 'But it is a legend that dies hard.'

Hanged

In an analysis of disturbances in Britain between the Porteous Riots in 1736 and the Chartist demonstration of April 1848, Professor Rude has calculated that crowds have killed, at the most, a dozen. On the other hand, the courts hanged 118 people and the troops shot 630 more. Overwhelmingly violence came from those who ostensibly were supposed to preserve the peace.

The findings of Professor Rude could be extended from 1848 to the present day. Such incidents as the miners' lock-out of 1893, when troops shot strikers at Featherstone, the deliberate and cold-blooded battering by the police of a Liverpool crowd in 1912 while two warships trained their guns on the rebellious city, right down to the shooting of 13 civilians in Derry on Bloody Sunday 1972 and the murder of Kevin Gately—all these show that most of the violence comes from official sources.

Herbert Asquith, later to become prime minister, was home secretary in 1893. Socialists and trade unionists held him responsible for the miners shot at Featherstone during the lock-out. For years there was bitterness in the working-class movement.

Deceive

In the book, *The Strange Death of Liberal England*, George Dangerfield wrote: 'Hecklers used often to remind him of the affair. "When you murdered those men in 1892," someone yelled at him once in a political meeting. The answer was afterwards quoted as a pleasing instance of the Prime Minister's wit and of his exact memory: "I didn't murder them in 1892; it was in 1893."'

Significantly, Roy Jenkins, the present home secretary, is a great admirer of Asquith. He has written a biography of him. Nowhere in the book does he utter one word of criticism of Asquith over the Featherstone murders.

Is Jenkins not likely to adopt the same attitude towards the Special Patrol Group over its conduct recently in Red Lion Square?

The existence of the Special Patrol Group is simply another indication that the Labour government's Social Contract is a Social Swindle—an attempt to deceive workers into accepting cuts in real wages. It is impossible for Harold Wilson, Michael Foot and other ministers to talk plausibly about a partnership with trade unionists when they keep their own highly trained group of thugs in dark blue uniforms for smashing picket lines and hitting these same trade unionists on the head.

WHY WE MARCHED WITH PLACARDS

UNLIKE almost every other group on Saturday's march in protest against the murder of Kevin Gately, the International Socialists carried a banner and placards.

For this we have been criticised, for example by the Communist Party. In doing so, they said, we were going against the wishes of both the march's organisers, the National Union of Students, and Kevin Gately's parents.

We did not decide to go ahead independently out of contempt for Kevin's memory.

by Alex Callinicos

On the contrary, he died at the hands of the police on a demonstration against the National Front and to play down the political implications of his death, as the NUS tried, would have removed any point from what he did.

It is important to bring home the truth about what happened in Red Lion Square. It is important that the chance is taken to bring home to the labour movement that

more and more use is being made by the government of squads of police specially trained to break up pickets and demonstrations. It is important to win support for the demand that the Labour government gets rid of these squads.

Simply to mourn Kevin Gately's death without stressing why he died and such murders and police violence can be prevented would be political cowardice. That is why we took banner and placards with us on the demonstration.

CALL BY TRADE UNIONISTS

A MEETING of more than 1000 trade unionists called last week for an independent inquiry into the racist rally by the National Front and an immediate campaign by the labour movement against racism and the National Front.

The branch of the local government officers' union, NALGO, in Islington, North London, passed by a large majority a resolution expressing dismay at the events at Red Lion Square. The branch 'demands an independent inquiry into why the Home Secretary permitted a declared racist rally by the National Front in open hostility to immigrant labour in the UK,' said the resolution.

'We request an immediate campaign against racism and the National Front in the labour movement be initiated by NALGO executive in close collaboration with all other trade unions. We send our deepest sympathy to the bereaved parents of Kevin Gately.'

Gordon Peters, a member of the branch executive, said afterwards: 'I hope very much that the ugly threat of fascist mobilisation and of police protection for them will be taken up and actively opposed by militant trade unionists in their workplaces as well as on the streets.'

Police investigate police

THE following statement was issued to the press on Monday.

COMMANDER Roy Habershon and another senior police officer from Scotland Yard called at the offices of Socialist Worker on Monday. He explained he was heading an official inquiry into the events leading to Kevin Gately's death during the anti-fascist demonstration on Saturday 15 June.

He explained that, in his view, Socialist Worker should 'put up or shut up' about our statement that Kevin Gately was murdered.

He suggested that the evidence on which the statement was based should be made available to the St Pancras Coroner, who will be holding an inquest into Kevin Gately's death on 11 July.

We see no objection to anyone who was on the demonstration giving evidence to the Coroner about what happened on Bloody Saturday. But we do object very strongly to investigations carried out in this matter by Habershon and other senior police officers.

Commander Habershon, it should be remembered, has been for several years chief of Scotland Yard's bomb squad. He was responsible for inquiries into the Angry Brigade case in 1972, as a result of which Jake Prescott went to prison for 15 years on charges connected with explosives, the only substantial evidence was that

he had addressed an envelope.

Four other young people were sent to prison for ten years. Four others were found not guilty. At a press conference after the verdicts, Commander Habershon made it plain that he disagreed with the verdicts and considered that these four were guilty.

Habershon's appointment to conduct this inquiry, is frankly, incredible.

But our quarrel is not just with Commander Habershon.

It is ridiculous and scandalous that Kevin Gately's death should be investigated by a senior police officer—when the violence of the police should be the main subject of the investigation.

Habershon admitted on his visit that he was 'to some extent compromised' by his position as a police

officer investigating the police. But, he argued, 'there is no one else who can do the job.'

There is. The National Council of Civil Liberties, who have plenty of experience in these matters, are conducting an inquiry into the events of 15 June. They are advising anyone with information on the demonstration to get in touch with them.

But even that is not enough. The events of that day emphasise the urgent need for an inquiry by the trade union movement into the activities of the Special Branch and the Special Patrol Group.



URGENT—Appeal for witnesses. Any witnesses to arrests during the anti-fascist demonstration on Saturday 15 June are asked to contact Andy De La Tour: telephone 01-278 9526.

Posters and papers seized

TWO policemen went to the Orwell Bookshop, Ipswich, last week and ordered the owner, Sean Halpenny, to take down one of the IS posters about the Gately murder, and to stop selling last week's Socialist Worker. They said that the poster and paper were 'inciting people to violence', and were therefore in breach of the Public Order Act 1936—an Act introduced to control Sir Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists.

Sean Halpenny refused to comply—so the policeman said that he was 'obstructing an officer in the course of his duty'. They tore down the papers, grabbed the posters and walked out warning Sean that he would hear from them again.

LETTERS

FINE WORDS, LITTLE ACTION

ANN WALKER'S article on the Transport and General Workers' union and Jannie Lievow's letter on the print union SOGAT's treatment of its women members both point to the need for rank and file organisation amongst women workers.

The technical-managerial union I'm in, ASTMS, like many others, has an admirable record of fine sounding resolutions on issues important to women which are consistently ignored in negotiation, if not directly negated.

Little effort is made to involve women in the union; the Journal features the legs of women members on strike rather than reporting the issues at stake, a national conference on women has been called for July, without the membership being informed so that resolutions reflecting grass root demands could be taken.

However women in ASTMS are now beginning to move on this. A fortnight ago, a meeting of London members resolved to support the demands of the Working Women's Charter, not simply as another piece of paper to have ignored, but as a set of demands for both men and women to organise around at the workplace.

We also called for the opening of debate to the members and for a real commitment from the union towards women.

Such action needs to take place throughout the trade union movement. We urgently need to build a rank and file organisation which can fight for the kind of demands embodied in the Working Women's Charter.—IRENE BRUEGEL, London, NW5

Dole threshold

I AGREE with your article (8 June) by Steve Jefferys on thresholds. But I find it hard to understand why you have not once mentioned the fact that people in receipt of unemployment benefits are not being catered for.

Are they not paying the same price for food as people whom you tell, 'Sign an agreement now and get the lot.' Where do we sign one? With Mrs Castle?—A G KYNE, Neath.

The politics of Lenin

Paul Ginsborg



International Socialists pamphlet 20p

Price: 20p + 4p postage
10 copies or more post free

Paul Ginsborg's Introduction deals with the main political arguments which Lenin used in his work in the Russian and World Revolutionary movement.

Available from IS Bookshop,
265 Seven Sisters Road, Finsbury
Park, London, N4.

Could this happen here?



Flixborough: Where 29 men died

SINCE I live within a few hundred yards of the giant petro-chemical complex at Baglan Bay, I was interested in Pat Kinnersly's excellent article on Flixborough (15 June).

Next to the Baglan Bay plant, which covers more than 1000 acres, is a comprehensive school with 3000 pupils. There are at least 4000 council houses within smelling distance of the site.

Those benefactors of the up and coming workers, Wimpey Ltd, can let you have a house with a lovely view of the installation for around £8,500.

Apart from the danger which could occur from mechanical, electrical or human failure, there is the everyday problem of noise and pollution.

It is never quiet around here,

day or night, and the smells from the plant defy description. British Petroleum have made various excuses and plenty of promises, but the noise and pollution continue unabated.

If you bedded down 10 elephants on one bale of straw for a fortnight, you might get an idea of the smells regularly let loose on the people in this area.

Almost every day, low-flying planes skim the houses and then zoom across the plant. If a plane plummeted towards the complex, it would be a miracle if the pilot could correct any failure of the machine.

Port Talbot's Labour-dominated council needs the BP works. When the tenants' association met them some time ago, Alderman Griffiths

—the Mouthpiece if not the Godfather in the Taffia—said the Afan Lido, a showpiece on Aberavon seaford, was not subsidised by the people of Port Talbot but by the monsters of the British Steel Corporation and BP Chemicals.

Therefore we need both to subsidise the bunfights and other functions held frequently at the Lido at the people's expense.

Mrs Letts, the mayor, is reported in the Swansea Evening Post as saying the local gasworks, which doesn't even make gas except in the height of winter, is as dangerous as Baglan Bay.

Need one say more about the stalwarts of the Labour Party, who were responsible for putting the works where they are?—JOCK DONLUN, Greig Close, Port Talbot.

A socialist and the Easter Rising

GEORGE LAMBOR's argument (15 June) that the fight for national self-determination is somehow incompatible with marxism, is almost a perfect re-construction of the arguments levelled against James Connolly in the early years of the 20th century, one of the most theoretically capable marxist revolutionaries to come out of Ireland, who was also a participant in the struggle for Irish self-determination. He was executed for his role in the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin.

Connolly resolved the two positions by demonstrating that given the imperialist domination of Ireland the class struggle and the national struggle merged. For if British imperialism represents the force that maintains the whole exploitation of Irish labour, then how is it possible to talk about the establishment of socialism without tackling the imperialist power, without achieving national self-determination?

In the North the working class is split, but the origin of the split lies within the conscious strategy of British imperialism. That strategy in the early years of the 20th century developed the splits to their fullest extent, in order to win the Protestant working class to the side of British imperialism.

The tradition of the 'loyalism' of the Protestant working class is thus based upon the manipulation of British imperialist interests.

However in the present situation increasingly the aspirations of the Protestant working class, and the needs of British imperialism are clashing—witness the recent strike. The need is (and always has been) for a non-sectarian class-movement.

The possibility of such a movement has only become possible as the Protestant working class begins to split from its traditional alliance with British imperialism.

Although the IRA is not a marxist organisation we support its fight against British imperialism because it is possible to remain under imperialism domination and talk of fighting for socialism. In fighting British imperialism it has played a part in splitting the Protestant working class from its alliance with imperialism.

Every defeat for British imperialism represents an advance for the British working class and thus a proportional weakening of the British ruling class.

It is important not to confuse methods and politics, certainly it is correct to criticise their methods, however it is necessary to note that these methods are the result of the peculiar circumstances of the Irish situation.

Given the struggle for national self-determination must be supported, although the methods of struggle may be open to criticism.—R SPALDING, Norwich.

HOLD BACK PORTUGAL!

YOUR (22 June) comment on the Communist position on the wages struggle in this country and Portugal displays your usual sad lack of analysis (and also, incidentally, ignores the real advances made by Portuguese workers since 25 April).

Obviously the two situations are quite different and require different revolutionary tactics. In Portugal the most urgent task is the organisation of the mass movements after 45 years of fascist disruption and economic banditry.

Until this work is complete there will remain the danger of an immediate and bloody return to fascism. When capitalism chooses the battleground the result is Chile.

When the working class chooses the ground, the result is Russia 1917. Can there be any doubt about who in Portugal is hoping to be allowed to fight on the ground of economic collapse?—TED SLADE, Richmond, Surrey.

With thanks to Caxton's IS

I AM AMAZED and pleased to see a group of hard working people belonging to Caxton International Socialists factory branch participating in various demonstrations and meetings.

On Saturday 12 June they held a social in aid of Mr Cecil Sampson and the Brockwell Three Defence Fund at the Nightingale pub in London which was very successful, it was well organised, which enabled people to enjoy themselves. Mrs Sampson and family have praised the organisation in helping them in their troubles and also thank them for the donation given at the social.

This group also chairs meetings at various branches whenever they are called to do so. I wish these members all the best in their work in the future. We made £35. £15 to Mrs Sampson, £10 to Brockwell Three, £10 for the fight against the Attorney General—M KHAN, London

Who says there's no crisis in the NHS?

IT'S EASY to get emotional and subjective about the situation the nurses are in, but alternatively, it's easy not to give vent to the situation one's in when in a National Health Service Hospital.

I'm immobilised after a major spinal operation and in a ward of over 20 patients there are only two staff on duty. One is a first year student and the other a relief from another ward.

No crisis?

This is a typical situation that occurs everyday. Patients unable to move, being treated like animals to be fed and cleaned twice a day. Is this the prescription for a healthy recovery?

The nurses themselves are too frustrated by the vicious circle of totally inadequate facilities to 'dedicate' themselves to people who need help.

Fodder

The leadership of the unions, together with the falsifying professional image of the Royal College of Nursing distracts the nurses from pursuing a direct path to change.

Only when the rank and file—the fodder of the NHS really get themselves organised will there be change.

There must be a concerted effort on the part of all nurses to demand through industrial action a decent deal.

It is past the 'talk and put-off' stage.

They've waited too long—being conned by moral bribery. The immediate harmful effect on patients is minimal compared with the long term effects if nothing is done now.

Anyway the patient is already suffering without any positive action by the nurses here, but through a totally antiquated organisation.

The NHS is run on a financial shoestring because no profits are made. It's time people came before profits.—KATHLEEN DOOLEY, Ipswich.

Holding back for Labour

THE ARTICLE by the NUPE member on the state of the hospital unions (8 June) was fine but missed one important point. Alan Fisher is holding back his members because of loyalty to the Labour government.

This was finally made absolutely clear on Thursday 6 June when Alan Fisher appeared on Thames Television's 'Today' programme and gave this as one of the main reasons for not taking militant action now.

The Social Compact must be exposed week by week in Socialist Worker for the fraud it is. With Wilson stomping the union conferences SW must provide the answers now.—PARMEN LEONTOVITSCH, (GMWU), Hospital Porter, Reading.

Please keep your letters as short as possible, type them if you can, don't worry if you can't. But write on one side of the paper only, and space them wide so we can read them! Address them to LETTERS, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2. All letters must be signed—but specify if you don't want your name published.

Postal Points



The face of fascism in Britain 15 June, 1974. Behind the police line march the National Front complete with spiked union jacks. PIC: Peter Harrap (Report)

Trade unionists must fight against fascism

THE NATIONAL FRONT is again in the news. And needless to say the capitalist gutter press have accused the left of whipping up trouble on the recent demos. The articles they print are designed to create sympathy for the bully boys in blue, whose job was not to defend the rights of groups to demonstrate but to lash out and injure those who wanted to demonstrate against the fascist scum.

The role of the police came through quite clearly, it was to protect the Front. There are important lessons to be learnt, when the fascists crawl from under the flat

stones they hid under, then the left must see it as a challenge and organise against them. Trade unionists should be playing a leading role in organising against these bastards.

It is known that the Front have started several new branches in places as far afield as Plymouth and Penzance, whenever they organise public meetings they must be disrupted and if necessary confronted on the streets and fought, we must not allow them to grow. So how about it comrades? We stopped them in the past and we can do it again.—DAVE EDWARDS, (TGWU) Plymouth.

Remember

THE NATIONAL FRONT is the same as the Nazis. The demonstration against black people and immigrants, are to find scape-goats and put blame on these people.

The United Nations general assembly described Nazism, Neo-Nazism, Racism, and similar practices as brutal violations of human rights.

Most of the British people never have had the experience of the Nazi concentration camps, gas chambers and torture, but millions of people died at the hands of fascism, the most brutal experience of torture and killings the world has ever known.

We have to prevent this happening again. We have to look at various juntas and fascist butchers who have executed and tortured socialists for their political convictions, for the truth about life they conveyed to people, for their pure conscience and love for humanity.

In Chile alone after the great tragedy in September 1973 more than 80,000 persons were murdered. Among the victims were many workers, peasants, writers, journalists, singers, actors.—SIMON MORADY (victim of a Nazi camp) Oldham.

Stop them now!

FOLLOWING the incidents which occurred at the demonstration and counter demonstration several points must be made.

In the performance of their duty, the police frequently and obviously

exceeded the bounds of what has previously been considered 'reasonable force', which we now all know resulted in the death of a Warwick University student.

It has become apparent that, as in the 1930s when the economic position of Britain was in crisis, when unemployment was rising, when racism was directed against ethnic minorities, and when Mosley and his movement reared its ugly head, the police force has become a weapon for the protection of Fascist organisations who blatantly and deliberately propogate their views and aims by any means necessary.

Much play has been made of the counter demonstration carrying placards and flags which could be used as 'weapons' yet how many more times are we to see the National Front brandishing flags topped by metal spikes?

The National Front and the Orange

POLICE WANTED RIOT

THOSE OF us who marched in the anti-fascist demonstration could not fail to be disgusted by the blatant brutality shown by the police.

If they didn't want us in Red Lion Square why did they march along beside us all the way from Charing Cross without asking stewards to divert the march? Liberation say that this route was agreed with Scotland Yard a week before hand. The truth of the matter is that the police were determined that the march was going to end in a riot and they did all they could to provoke it.

The callous use of armed mounted men is unparalleled since the days of the Depression. Gately is not the first socialist to fall in the fight against fascism. He won't be the last.

That fascist Martin Webster declares that in future National Front members would be 'carrying cudgels'. When they do we will know how to meet them.—BILL BALL, (Communist Party), Lewes.

THE STRUGGLE OF THE OPPRESSED . . . George Lambor (15 June) suggests the struggle in British occupied Ireland has split the working class . . . But the split was achieved and maintained by the ruling class to ensure that they could exploit all workers. The essential difference between the two groups, Catholics and Protestants is that the Catholics generally know of their exploitation while the Protestants through the Orange Order felt they were superior—and so sided with their class enemies . . . The split can only be ended by a revolutionary party showing the reasons for the split, and the nature of the Orange State . . . We International Socialists support the right of the Catholic community to protect itself and as the IRA is at the fore of the defence we support it. We don't claim the IRA's bankrupt policies will achieve the revolutionary solution, but we adhere to the essence of marxism and support the right of the oppressed to fight back.—STEVE LEHARNE, Cardiff.

SOCIALISM OR SECTARIANISM? . . . A genuine labour movement can only be created in Ireland if the British are out. No such movement can come from the Official or Provisional IRA. The Socialist Workers Movement must be constantly put forward as the only organisation which has the politics which could liberate all Irish workers.—R PAUL CLARK, Manchester.

MORE ON THE CARIBBEAN . . . You should report the struggles in the Caribbean more—like the New Jewel Movement in Grenada, the New Beginning in Trinidad and Tobago and the anti-imperialist struggle in 'French' Martinique and Southern Africa. Is there a connection to be made between the struggles of the sugar plantation workers in Trinidad and the attempt by Tate and Lyle employees in Liverpool to resist redundancies?—M W DRINKALL, Ruislip.

RIGHT WAVE LENGTH . . . Any reader who might be concerned about his Fidelity Radio Portfolio of shares after reading Fidelity Radio Workers Angry (13 May) need have no fears on this score, extracts from the Report by the Chairman, J Dickman, outlined in that popular Worker's Daily 'The Financial Times' indicate that sales have: Increased from £9,762,940 to £13,128,238. Pre-tax profit up by £323,744 to £2,208,215. Exports increased by £309,000 to £840,000.—E W DIX, Stafford.

SAUCE FOR POULSON IS . . . John Poulson, capitalist and crook has been moved from Walton to Wakefield Prison—10 miles from his home . . . It is in direct

contrast to the treatment that the Price sisters have received.—C D A'BILL, Sheffield.

SAUCE FOR DEWS . . . The centre pages of a Wakefield District Council newsletter was taken up with profiles of our new councillors. One mentioned was Colin Dewes, chairman of the education committee, member of the general purposes planning committee, magistrate for 25 years, chairman of the bench and juvenile court—and a Sunday school superintendent . . . He's just been charged with accepting bribes from John Poulson . . . I wonder if the next newsletter will contain an article apologising for him, or explaining how Dewes could sit in judgement on his fellow men . . . The article said at the end You're Paying More But Getting Better Value. It should have read You're Paying More But Someone's Getting Better Value.—BOB CROWTHER, Wakefield.

IT'S BAD ENOUGH WITHOUT THE MOVIES . . . The review of the film Nada (8 June) says that it ends with 'torture then mass state violence' . . . I can't think of anything more likely to make me throw up than 'entertainment' featuring torture . . . Anyone who goes to see a film like that then goes home to bed must be sick . . . Torture is quite unpleasant enough as a set of statistics.—BILL FAKES, Cambridge.

LEARN YOUR BURNS! . . . In printing the Robert Burns poem (8 June) you misquoted . . . It's not 'We have no right to try it' but 'We have a right to try it'.—ROBERT LOGAN, Howff Burns Club, Kilmarnock.

IT'S NOT JUST ORGANISATION . . . Let's have more on education, women, marriage, the family . . . The most important thing is to organise within the working class but many people who agree about overthrowing capitalism question the human and social aspects of socialism.—MARTIN UPCHURCH, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

GREAT, GREAT PLAY . . . How wonderful it was to watch such an entertaining and soul-reaching play like The Cheviot, The Stag and Black, Black Oil (BBC-1, 6 June) . . . The 7.84 Theatre Company have my wholehearted gratitude for such an important play and issue of our time. Lets all hope for more such productions!—LEE MORGAN, London E11.

KHAKI CONFUSION . . . As an ex-soldier I would like to point out that the majority of 'workers in uniform' are politically confused. They are indoctrinated into a capitalist system and yet come from a working class background with socialist beliefs and yet aren't allowed to voice them . . . As socialists we should treat them not as alien but as under privileged workers, and convince them to be prepared if not to fight, then rebel against their capitalist overlords in the socialist cause.—M DAWSON, Hull.

WE'RE AGIN IT . . . I'd like to know the International Socialists view of religion . . . It is an important organ of the capitalist system, preaching conformity, stifling free thought, I think it needs more comment and illumination in the paper.—THOMAS MUSGROVE, Edinburgh.

IN THE THIRTIES . . . Fascism has once again raised its ugly head in this country. The ghosts of Hitler, Mussolini and Mosleyism still live. All socialists must unite and close our ranks to clear this cancer from our midst. Student Kevin Gately was murdered protesting in Red Lion Square against the fascist jackboot of the 1970s, as we did in Olympia and in the East End of London in the 1930s. In Kevin Gately's memory all true international socialists must again vow—THEY SHALL NOT PASS.—BOB SANDERS, Camborne.

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM



THE Penguin English Dictionary defines socialism as 'a political and economic theory that the means of production, distribution and exchange should be owned by the nation, that wealth should be equitably distributed and that opportunity and security should be available to all.'

That sums up a fairly common view but it is a view that no marxist can accept for a moment.

First of all, what does 'owned by the nation' mean? What is this 'nation'? It is the ABC of marxism that societies are divided into classes. Of course they are divided in other ways too, by language, sex, religion, state frontiers and so on. But the fundamental division, the one that for us overrides all others in importance, is the class division.

Why? Because, as Marx and Engels put it in the *Communist Manifesto*: 'The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles. Freeman and slave, patrician and plebeian, guildmaster and journeyman, in a word, oppressor and oppressed, stood in constant opposition to one another, carried on an uninterrupted, now hidden, now open fight, a fight that each time ended, either in a revolutionary reconstitution of society at large, or in the common ruin of the contending classes.'

Struggle

This is not just true of the past. It is equally true of capitalist society today. 'The modern bourgeois [capitalist] society,' the *Manifesto* goes on to say, 'has not done away with class antagonisms. It has but established new classes, new conditions of oppression, new forms of struggle in place of the old ones.'

In the first place, then, socialism is about the class struggle. It is about the class struggle from a working class standpoint. It is about the 'revolutionary reconstitution of society' in the interests of the working class.

This is a very different matter from 'the nation' owning this or doing that. Modern 'nations' contain, typically, workers, capitalists and a middle-class. They contain

In a class of our own

conflicting class interests. And the interests of 'the nation' usually means the interests of its ruling class, the capitalist class, interests which are opposed to the interests of working people.

When reformists such as the Labour Party leaders, both 'left' and right, speak about public ownership or nationalisation they are talking about state ownership of this or that industry and most certainly not about the revolutionary reconstitution of society in the interests of the workers.

But isn't state ownership of industries such as coal-mining, the railways, steel and the rest, a step towards socialism?

We need to be clear that state ownership, as such, has nothing whatsoever to do with socialism.

Look, for example, at the very beginning of civilisation: 'The city state has, from the beginning, been a closely knit administrative unit. And the form the administration has taken is one that undoubtedly would be called communist... The means of production... are owned by the god... and administered by the high priest. The body of priests form the administration... The inhabitants of the state may own nothing...' writes G Bibly in his book '4,000 Years Ago' (Penguin 45p).

The sort of society Dr Bibly is describing is the very earliest kind of class society. The original civilisations—the Middle East, Egypt, India and Central and South America, were of this type.

All had in common the state ownership of what was then the main means of production—the land. All had in common the growth of oppressed and oppressing classes—workers on the land and those who ruled and exploited them.

As soon as you talk of state-ownership, and it is as old as history, you have to ask, Who, then, owns the state? Who controls what happens and in whose interests?

Duncan Hallas

Where we stand on Ireland

The Labour Government, and the Tories, have said there can be no moves towards a united Ireland until the majority in Ulster agree. Surely that's democratic?

Leaving aside the British Government's right to decide the future of the Irish people, what is usually described as 'Ulster' is in fact six of the nine counties of the traditional Ulster.

When Ireland was partitioned in 1924, the other three counties were allocated to the South since they had overwhelming Catholic majorities—and would have endangered the Orange majority in the North.

'Democracy', in such an undemocratic set-up, is a nonsense.

You call for the withdrawal of British troops. Wouldn't that lead to a bloodbath?

For 300 years, the strategy of the British ruling class has been to use the Orange Order to keep the Catholics in line. At the same time, British troops have always been available to back up the Orangemen.

If the troops were pulled out, the Protestants would have to review the situation. Undoubtedly, some extreme Orange elements would favour an invasion of the Catholic areas. But without the British troops, it's doubtful if they would get much support.

How can you support the IRA? After all, they're just bombers and murderers?

Many people who agree with us on a number of other issues are hostile to our view of the Northern Ireland situation—and especially our support of the IRA. Let's spell it out.

The IRA are fighting against those who have dominated their country and tortured their countrymen for centuries.

Against a class of people, who in the pursuit of profit, allowed at least a million Irish men, women and children to die in the potato famine of the 1840s.

Against a class of people who put whole towns to the sword in the 18th century to establish their right to that profit.

Tactics

Against a class of people who, knowing how precarious their supremacy in Ireland was and still is, engaged and still do engage in the systematic poisoning of workers' minds and lives to turn Protestant against Catholic in the knowledge that those who fight for the crumbs from the master's table will be less likely to fight for the cake.

Against a class of people who practice similarly vile but slightly more subtle tactics to keep workers in their place in England, Scotland and Wales.

Against, in short, the British ruling class.

We should remember, when next we strike or work to rule or put in an 'excessive' wage claim, that the lies and vilification that will be spread about us in the Press, and the viciousness we will receive from our bosses, is a fact of daily life for the Catholics and the IRA in Northern Ireland. Except that it is many, many times worse.

And so we understand the accumulated bitterness and repression that makes men and women take to the bomb and the bullet.

We do not, however, believe that is a way to end that repression.

Terrorism can easily become as reactionary as the enemy it is fighting. By its very nature, it rules out the collective activity of the mass of workers to solve their problems, leaving them passive onlookers to the designs of a few.

It also hardens the sectarian divisions between workers. The events of the last three years point up the failure of terrorism.

The strike by the Ulster Workers Council—reactionary though it was—gives a clear indication of the way Catholic and Protestant workers can solve their common problems of jobs, homes and exploitation.

Action on a massive scale by workers across the sectarian divide and directed against the British ruling class and not the Catholic or Protestant working class, is the only way forward.

Socialist Worker has recently received many letters from readers attacking our position on Ireland. Many of their criticisms are also regularly put to International Socialists in their workplaces. JAMES TAIT, a carworker in Scotland, answers some of the questions often put to him.

It is because the IRA does not have this approach that we are very critical of them.

But while we disagree bitterly with their terrorist tactics, we are not prepared to line up behind the hypocrites in Parliament, Press and Army to condemn them. We know who the real terrorists are—and centuries of 'British peace-keeping' in Ireland prove it.

Decades

What about the attacks on the troops? No-one in this country can excuse that.

If the troops were doing in Africa or Asia what they are doing in Ireland, many people would say: 'Bring them home, Britain has no right to be there'. The fact that they are next door to us, in Ireland, doesn't change their role—to police a country on behalf of big business.

But they're needed in Ireland to keep the Catholics and Protestants apart.

That's what they said about the British troops in India—they were needed to keep the Muslims and Hindus apart. In Cyprus they were keeping the Greeks and Turks apart.

Why were these people at each other's throats? Because Britain had controlled them for decades by divide and rule, by poisoning the minds of one against the other, so they would be too busy fighting each other to unite against their common enemy—Britain.

What is happening in Ireland today is the result of centuries of divide and rule.

The problems facing Catholics and Protestants can only be begun to be solved by the removal of the troops. Then the people of the whole of Ireland would be able to decide how they want society organised.

Why do you call upon trade unionists and socialists to support people like the Price sisters? They maimed and killed people with their bombs.

The fight to throw British imperialism out of Northern Ireland is part of the fight against the British ruling class. The Price sisters did not, as the press say, 'maim and kill' anyone.

The bombs they were accused of planting were aimed at destroying British property, not people. The fact that Scotland Yard made a balls-up of clearing the area after receiving a warning in ample time is their responsibility.

No-one was killed by the bombs. But, to repeat, we do not believe the tactic to be correct if the support of working class people is to be gained.

You say that the struggle in Ireland is not about religion, that religion is used to divide the Irish people. What do you think the situation is about?

The same thing it's been about for 800 years. The right of the Irish to decide their own destiny.

British big business now has more investment in the South than in the North. They started 'liberalising' the Northern regime to placate the Southern government, but this proved too much for the Orange Order.

Interests

Since then the British government has tried a whole series of 'solutions' to regularise the situation and so ensure the continuation of their profits.

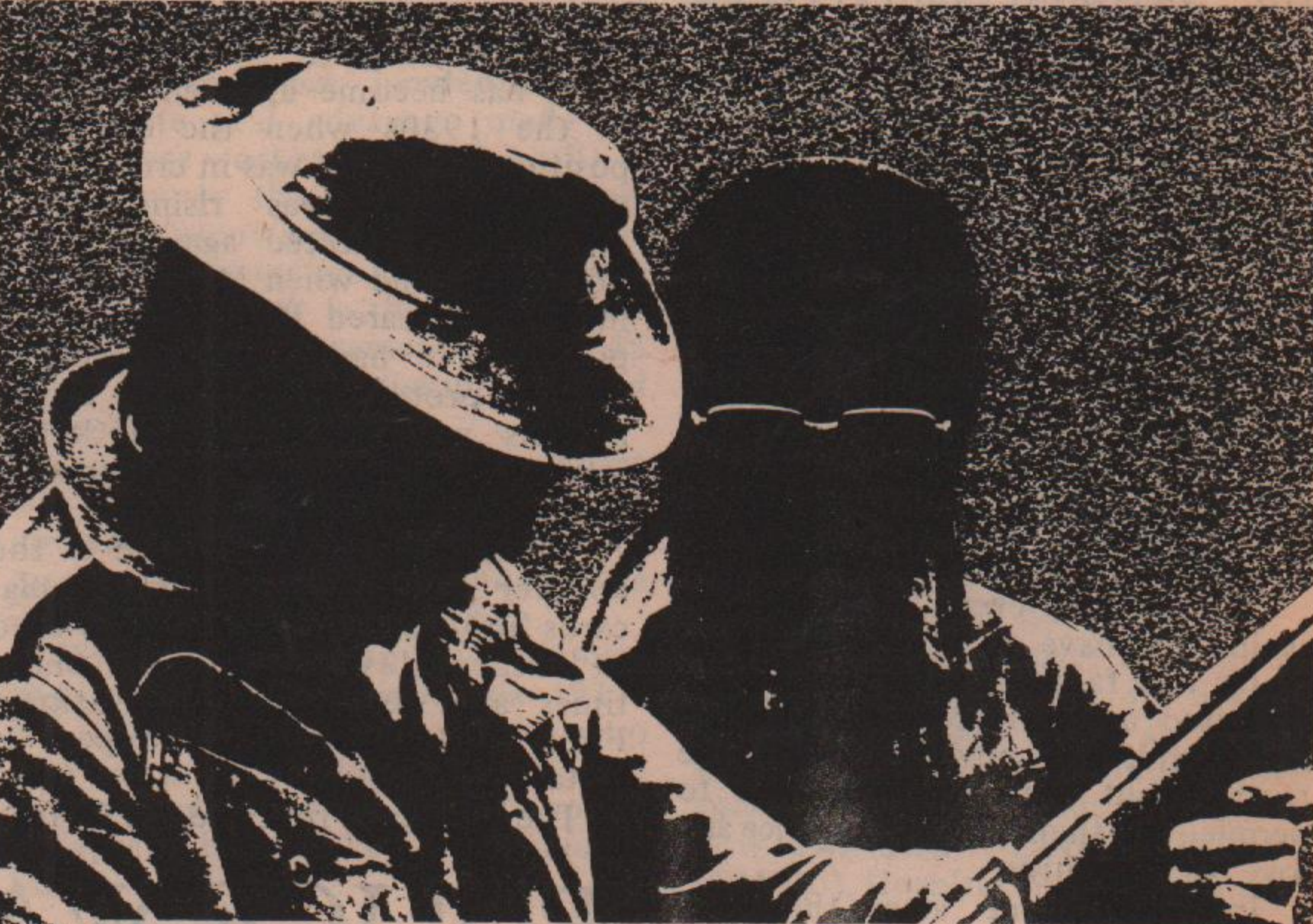
So far they've failed totally, and no solution within the framework of capitalism looks likely. Meanwhile the Protestants of the Shankill and the Catholics of the Falls still suffer high unemployment, low wages and terrible housing.

So what do you think the answer is?

As socialists in Britain, we believe the British troops must be removed before any progress is possible. We have to argue for this.

Only an organisation which fights against British imperialism and its Irish supporters North and South can point the way forward. Only on the basis of such a fight, in the whole of Ireland, will it be possible to show Protestant and Catholic workers where their true interests lie.

What is needed is a revolutionary socialist working class organisation. Our comrades in Ireland, the Socialist Workers Movement, are trying to fulfill this monumental task. They're small, the task is huge—but we see no alternative.



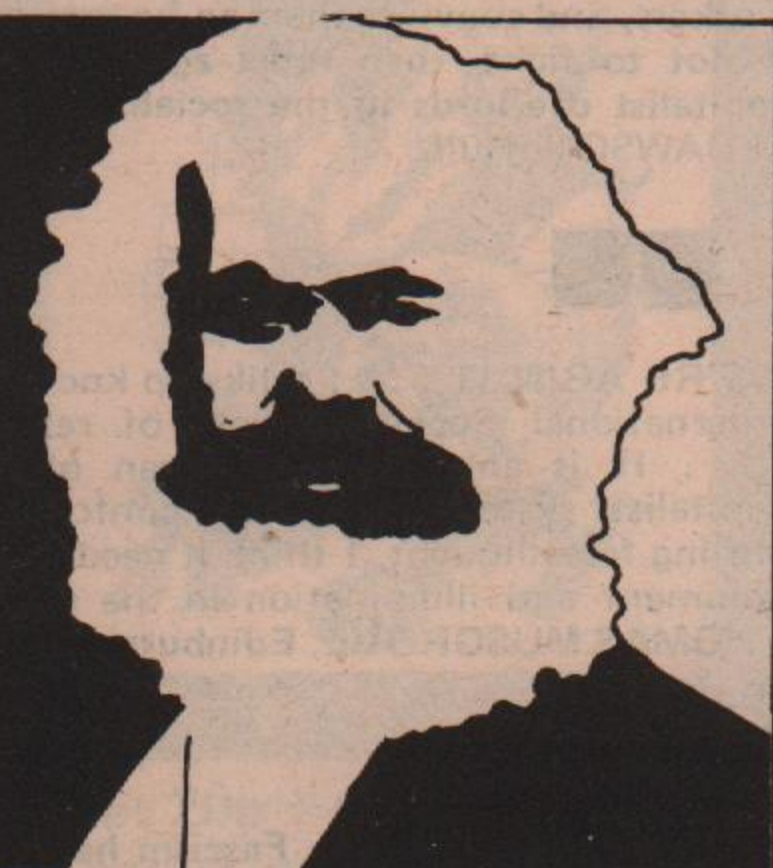
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For the attention of all Branches
TO BE READ IN FULL AT NEXT BRANCH MEETING

It has become necessary to repudiate the suggestions, lies and rumours being spread that I have misused or stolen money collected for the General Election fund.

These rumours, being spread by God knows whos, that the £1,250 collected by the Midland branches has gone astray and that the money had ended up in my pocket.

Let it be known that I will take anybody that is connected with this vile campaign to court. Meanwhile the Chairman urges branches to take the strongest disciplinary measures against anybody found giving currency to the above lies

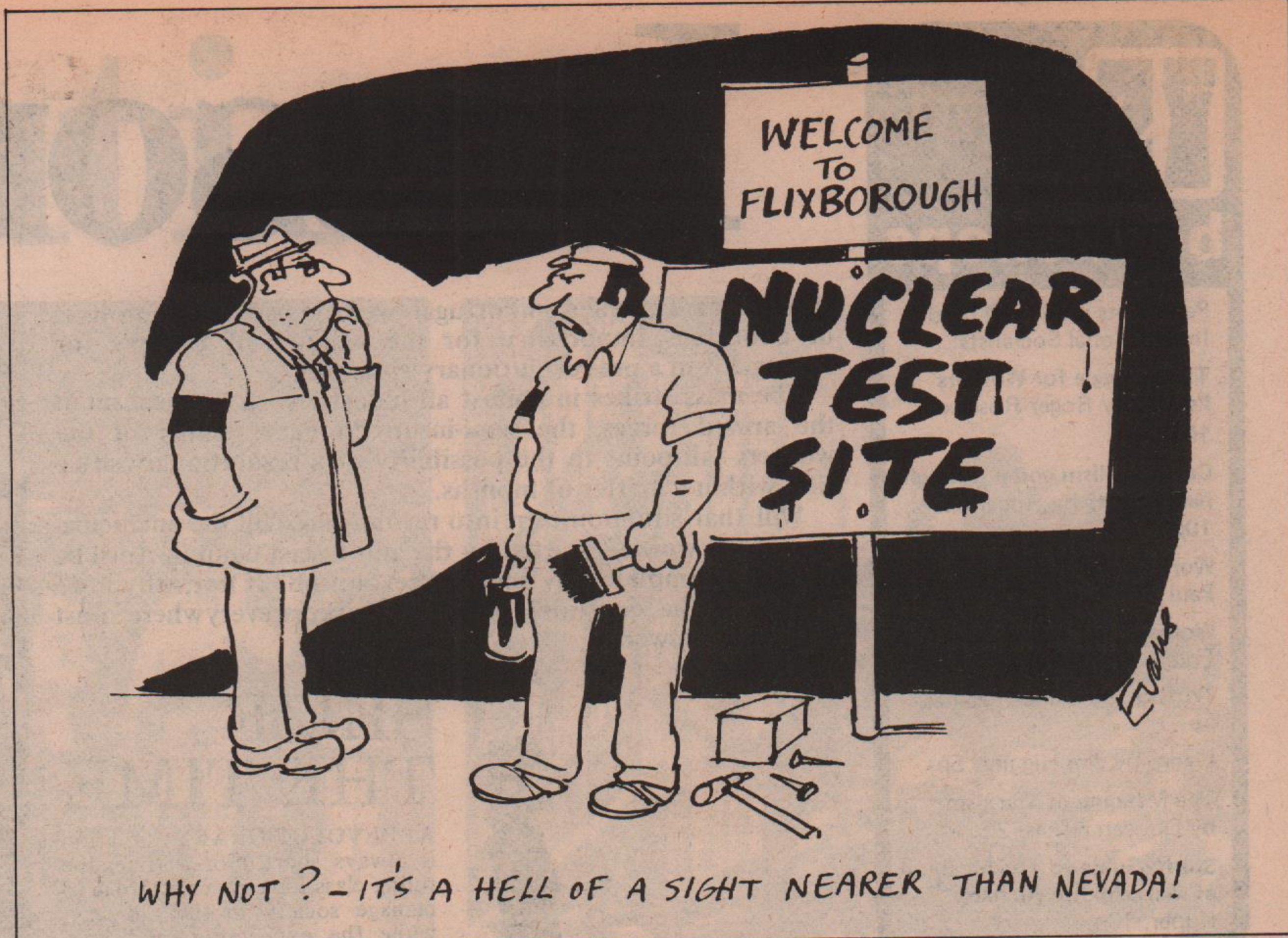
It has come to the notice of Party Head Quarters that some Populist elements within the Party are bent on a change of policy for the sake of votes. They are blaming Party H.Q. and myself for the apparent lack of success in the General Election.

This is precisely what 'they' want. One word for this sort of vice is compromise, a better word is sabotage. We should not try our skills to Populist demands. Who needs the middle ground? The problem of immigration is of race, not of numbers. We are completely against the Common Market. No compromise. Any compromise and we will be committing sabotage to our own cause.

This sort of personal attack on me and on the Head Quarters is repudiated by the Chairman and myself. This can only give aid to our enemies. The newer members of our party do not realise the extent of their power and their ruthless determination to destroy us by any means.

signed: *Martin Webster*
Martin Webster

Webster's circular on the missing money. We have ways of making you talk...



WHY NOT? - IT'S A HELL OF A SIGHT NEARER THAN NEVADA!

AN INTERNAL dispute is raging in the National Front. A recent circular, signed by Martin Webster, the national affairs organiser, and sent out to all Front branches, tells its own story.

All those assurances that it's the numbers of black people in this country that cause the trouble, not the colour, are finally exposed.

Webster will not rest until all black people are thrown out of the country—not to mention, if he is logical, all people whose racial origin affects what Webster regards as the purity of the British race.

While on the subject of what the National Front really stands for, I hope everyone has been following the strange story of the pamphlet entitled Historical Fact Number One.

It is about the mass murder of Jews by the Nazis. Its main argument is that the figure of Jews slaughtered in concentration camps has been exaggerated. The Nuremberg tribunal, which tried Hitler's henchmen after the war, accepted a figure of six million.

The pamphlet argues that this figure is Left-wing propaganda. 'Only 300,000 Jews were murdered it says. Most of the concentration camps never existed!

The pamphlet is published by the Historical Review Press, 23 Ellerker Gardens, Richmond, Surrey, which is a forwarding address for the home of Robin Beauclair, a particularly vicious Fascist who has been hanging around the British Far Right for many years. He is now a member of the National Front.



The hypocrisy of the Daily Mail

THE DAILY MAIL is running a campaign to ensure that the names of victims in rape cases are not given to the public. Every day, the paper carries another quotation from another prominent person praising the Daily Mail for its courage and integrity in trying to protect from embarrassing publicity young women who allege rape.

The Daily Mail campaign follows a case which I mentioned last week of a dancer in Norfolk who told a court she had been raped by a police officer. The allegation was proved and the policeman was sent down for seven years.

Throughout the case the unfortunate young woman was paraded in the Press in a series of photographs which were, in one way or another, designed to humiliate the dancer.

No paper indulged in this operation more greedily than the Daily Mail. On 11 June, for instance, the paper led page 17 with the headline:

Blonde dancer 'raped at gunpoint by village PC'

On the right of the page was an enormous picture of the girl who was named more than 20 times in the article. On 12 June, the Mail took up the story again, with another headline.

On 14 June, another headline with a suggestive picture of the dancer's 'chalet at Burndall'.

Rape case PC got home 'pale and tired'

And on 15 June, there was another, similar headline and picture. Each article named the dancer again and again. These are just a few examples of the way in which the Mail won new readers by unscrupulous humiliation of a rape victim. When the case was over, however the Daily Mail started its campaign for a law to ban the naming of rape victims.

Almost any law banning the naming of adults in all rape cases or in all blackmail cases is regressive. It's easy to think of examples where rape or blackmail charges will be trumped up so the people who trump them up can be anonymous.

A new law is not the way to deal with these problems. The responsibility for naming the wrong names and not naming the right ones should be laid squarely where it belongs—with the newspaper proprietors.

They meekly accept the suggestions of judges not to name people who should be named. And they blazon the name of an innocent young woman, who was viciously raped, all over their pages.

Then they clamour for a change in the law further to limit Press freedom.

Rio-Tinto Stink

Extremist

The pamphlet, it is now admitted, was written by a member of the National Front, who is trying to remain anonymous.

While on the subject of the National Front, I was interested to see that they are making overtures to the extremist Orange groups in Northern Ireland, and even plan to march with British Orange groups in London on 13 July.

Interested, because, as so often with the National Front, the line on the Orange Order seems to have changed. In an interview with New Society, for instance, on 3 April 1969, Martin Webster ascribed most of Britain's economic ills to the advent of William of Orange.

The case was taken up by the Front's then economic correspondent, Clare Macdonald in a Front pamphlet entitled—The Money Manufacturers.

'In England', she wrote, 'it was William II who brought the Dutch bankers with him when he ascended the throne and the establishment of the Bank of England followed soon afterwards... This act, she wrote, 'marked the end of freedom and the beginning of the fraudulent system'.

I understand that the pamphlet is not included in the Front's reading lists for Northern Ireland.

FLICKING through the Daily Mirror recently, I came across a complete page taken up by Sir Val Duncan, Chairman of the Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation. Wondering how much it must cost to take over one page of the Mirror for a day, I thought I would do Sir Val the honour, and read his page.

I found that, except for telling us that RTZ profits were going to be in excess of last year's, the page was taken up with a load of waffle, telling us of the outlook for Britain and how we should protect free enterprise and not rock the capitalist boat—according to the industrial bard Sir Val.

Being a nosey sod, and wondering why Sir Val would go to all this trouble to tell us how marvellous the free enterprise system is, I acquired a copy of his full speech and Annual Report '73 for his lovely company RTZ.

And I found out—it is a lovely company; for Sir Val and his shareholders. One of the biggest multi-national companies, dealing in mining, industrial chemicals and with interests in almost every major metal and fuel, it has assets of £855 million.

In 1973 RTZ had made an operating profit of £237 million, 130 per cent up on 1972, profit retained £60 million, £236 up on 1972!! Did I hear someone say the 'unacceptable face of capitalism'? These colossal profits have mostly been attained by the huge increases in world prices for metals, notably copper and gold.

So you see, Sir Val doesn't want us rocking the boat, he likes life the way it is, he wants 'a society which is less feather-bedded' for the

By Mike Brightman, AUEW

rest of us. Sir Val gets £69,000 a year! His hypocrisy knows no bounds.

In his speech he states 'We must practice a more unified effort by the nation as a whole, as opposed to the divisiveness, and I might even say self-centredness of some sections of the community at the expense of the rest'.

Sir Val personally owns over 100,000 shares in RTZ, his directors own more than 400,000 and rake in fees in excess of £310,000 per year. This is his idea of 'unified effort', we do all the work for low wages and he and his cronies get all the profits.

This industrial whizz-kid then says that 'during the last 10 years the profits of private enterprise in the UK have amounted to around £28,000 million' and goes on to state 'anyone would think from the utterances of a small but vociferous and articulate section of the community, that private enterprise was positively anti-social'.

He adds: 'There is an increasing tendency towards intervention by governments throughout the world which compounds the uncertainties that face international companies'. He worries about 'further rigid controls on large companies' and the state 'redistributing the existing wealth'.

His Corporation doesn't seem to have done too badly with most governments it has had dealings with over the last few years. In 1970,

7.7 per cent of RTZ assets were located in South Africa but 24 per cent of the group's profits came from there.

In Namibia, which is controlled by South Africa and exploited for uranium ore, the black miners get £10 a month! The Rhodesian mine workers for RTZ are the second lowest paid in any sector. Bougainville, a territory of Papua-New Guinea, accounted for the largest increase in profits for RTZ in 1973. £93 million, which is 450 per cent up on 1972. Most of the increase was because of the inflated prices of gold and copper. But the subsistence level wages RTZ pay the black miners helped a little too...

All over the world, wherever RTZ settles, the creeping disease of profiteering and exploitation spreads; even in Britain at Avonmouth in the west country there was extreme pollution from 1969-71 from the huge lead and zinc smelting plant.

These are just a few of the sick utterances of Sir Val Duncan, and a few facts about the obscene company he chairs. Make of them what you will. There are so many more that I could write a book about RTZ. In fact books are being written, read them, get to know about one of the real enemies of the peoples of the world, Rio Tinto-Zinc.

So when the government says you can only have a seven per cent rise, and politicians tell us we have to tighten our belts, and you can't afford a cut of meat from the butcher, remember RTZ and companies like it, remember what to do about it when the time comes comrades.



bookshops

Pamphlets published by the International Socialists:

The Struggle for Workers' Power, by Roger Rosewell, 10p

Can Socialism come through parliament? by Roger Kline, 10p

Workers against racism, by Paul Foot, 10p

Women fight back, by Kath Ennis, 10p

Trotsky, by Duncan Hallas, 5p

Lenin, by Jim Higgins, 5p

The Meaning of Marxism, by Duncan Hallas, 25p

Study Guide to The Meaning of Marxism, by Richard Kuper, 10p

Isaac Babel's COLLECTED STORIES is one of the great works of socialist fiction. Babel was first a member of the Tsarist army, then joined the Bolsheviks, fighting with a revolutionary Cossack brigade. These are brilliant and colourful stories of the period when the workers and peasants of Russia were fighting to save the revolution 45p.

HOT DOGS—poems by the children of a multi-racial North London school, published by themselves. 10p.

UPROOTING A NATION by Alan Baldwin. A pamphlet from the Africa Publications Trust, studying the barbarous mass removals policy in South Africa. It gives the facts about 'separate development' and the 'homelands'. 50p.

Little is heard about Britain's war in the Gulf. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman and the Arab Gulf is fighting a war of liberation against a feudal ruler's army, trained and staffed by British troops. The Gulf Committee publish a regular **GULF BULLETIN** with reports and analyses. Number 7 now available. 15p.

THE TOLPUDDLE MARTYRS by Joyce Marlow. A detailed history of the Tolpuddle case of 1834, which saw six farm labourers convicted and deported for organising as trade unionists. The parallels with the Shrewsbury pickets case are obvious, and this interesting account shows how little the ways of the British state's 'justice' have changed over 140 years. (75p)

DIRECT FROM:
IS Books, 265, Seven Sisters Road, London, N4; 64 Queen Street, Glasgow, C1; 224, Derwent High Street, Birmingham; 14 Grange Road, Middlesbrough; the Socialist and Trade Union Centre, 65 Queen Victoria Road, Coventry; and Angle Books, 4 Roseangle, Dundee.

MAIL ORDER FROM:
IS Books, 265, Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. Please add 4p for postage on pamphlets, 7p on books.

Lessons for the

WHAT has happened in Portugal over the past two months is of enormous importance for the workers of Europe, for Portugal is in a pre-revolutionary situation.

The mass strikes in almost all industries, the radicalism of the armed forces, the semi-insurrectionary temper of the workers—all point to the possibility of a revolutionary situation within a matter of months.

Will that situation turn into revolution? Will the emancipation of the workers started by the anti-fascist coup in April be properly completed by socialist revolution? If not, why not? These are the questions to which workers everywhere must know the answers.

SEIZE THE TIME

A REVOLUTIONARY situation is always short. For a time, the ruling class loses its confidence to manage society in the old way, while the expectation and militancy of the workers rises to unprecedented heights.

Fear of the revolution paralyses the ruling class—but only for a moment. As the social crisis deepens, they are forced into recovering their confidence. As they bounce back, they resort to still more extreme and brutal methods.

The action of the workers to achieve victory in these situations cannot be postponed. Marx said that revolution was the midwife of a new society.

Midwives cannot postpone the moment of birth. They have to act when the moment comes, or the results can be fatal.

That's why in September and October 1917 Lenin was adamant that there should be an immediate insurrection. During those two months Lenin implored, castigated, bullied the Bolshevik leaders to name the day of the uprising. 'The success of both the Russian and the world revolution depends on two or three days fighting,' he wrote.

WIN THE ARMY

NO RULING CLASS will ever give up its privileges and wealth without using all the force it can muster.



LESSONS IN CYNICISM: The multinational ITT has been making big profits selling plastic red carnations



EXTEND THE MASS STRIKES! The political and economic struggles are complementary—

The capitalists of our time have much more wealth and privilege to defend than any ruling class in the past.

Their most powerful force is the army. Trotsky wrote about the army: 'It is a copy of society, and suffers from all its diseases, usually at a higher temperature.' The hierarchy of command in capitalist society is reflected in a more extreme form in its armed forces. The officer castes keep in close touch with the capitalists.

How did the Socialist and Communist Parties in Portugal solve the problem of the generals?

By marriage. They joined the generals in a new Portuguese government. It is a marriage of convenience. The Portuguese President, General Spínola, who fought for the fascists in Spain and in Russia, has no love for the socialists or communists, but he wants to marry them for their dowry. That dowry is the popular support of both parties—which has been handed on a plate to the junta.

TONY CLIFF WRITES

The generals need that support for the moment, because the big business corporations which control the Portuguese economy want class peace while they consolidate their position. The situation has some interesting side effects. One of the largest and most unscrupulous companies in Portugal—ITT—has been mass-producing the red carnations which are the symbol of the Portuguese revolution! The carnations are making ITT a whacking profit.

SICK

But a fight is needed to win the troops to the workers' cause, not a union with the generals at the top. That means constant efforts to win the rank and file soldiers to the revolution. This means propaganda and organisation, of course, but it also needs

the will to fight sections of the army. Wrote Lenin: '... be miserable pedants that at a time of must also be a for the troops.'

In Portugal, and file soldiers' revolutionary struggle in cult. After ten years wars in Africa v soldiers' lives, the majority of the Portuguese are sick to death sick to death of the

So it is extremely statement by the of the Portuguese Party attacking deserters from the offered to rejoin have to fight in the Communist Party state deserters to rejoin

One day you might meet these g

THE NEXT annual report by Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Robery Marx should make interesting reading. It will certainly mention the Special Petrol Group, though it may say nothing about the death of Kevin Gately.

After all, Kevin Gately did nothing the police could say provoked them into batoning him. He wasn't even carrying a toy pistol—the 'reason' given by the police for the Special Petrol Group killing of two young Pakistani boys at India House in London last autumn.

The report praises these killings: 'Two constables of the SPG displayed exceptional bravery in tackling the three armed terrorists, enabling the hostages to be rescued safely,' writes Mark.

His other chief concern is that the SPG has been 'misunderstood'. Indeed he and his press staff at Scotland Yard have been working overtime trying to get people to believe that the use of the SPG is in no way sinister or significant.

A press briefing on the outfit has been sent to all newspapers; 'explaining' the situation. And Mark himself has done his bit by insisting that one of the SPG's main functions is to deal with unlicensed traders in London's Oxford Street.

This is like comparing the Gestapo to the Woodcraft Folk.

The SPG was founded in 1965 under the Labour government. It was a 110-strong detachment of specially trained, 'go anywhere, any time' police. Little attention was paid to them until summer 1972, when they burst into action against London dockers and printworkers, but there is little doubt that they were formed under the influence of American police thinking and with a distinct political purpose in mind.

Trained

Since their first outings against the working-class movement in July and August 1972, the SPG in London has doubled to an admitted strength of 220. Parallel developments have been going on outside London. The Sunday Times reported in January that in Yorkshire alone there was a special squad of 800 trained police ready to go anywhere at any time during the miners' strike.

'A special unit kept watch on known extremists in such areas as Stainforth, near the Hatfield Main Colliery, and Cadeby, near Mexborough. Gregory [the chief constable] says that he has identified pos-

sible trouble areas and a plan of action has been worked out.'

Then the four years of the last Tory government saw the trend to integrate police and army operations speeded up.

Brigadier Brian Watkins, of the Army's high command, the General Staff, said just after 1972: 'The whole period of the miners' strike has made us realise that the present size of the police force is too small. It is based on the fundamental philosophy that we are a law-abiding country. But things have now got to the state where there are not enough resources to deal with the increasing numbers who are not prepared to respect the law.'

The election of a Labour government has made no difference to the 'rationalisation' going on in both police and army. They are getting themselves ready to deal with 'dissent' on a bigger and bigger scale. Many more policemen are following John Gerrard, founder of the SPG, to the classrooms of the American Military Police School in Atlanta, Georgia, where they learn the tactics they used in Red Lion Square when Kevin Gately was killed.

The SPG is the trial run for a third force, the paramilitary police. We will get that too unless the trade union and labour movement really takes up the fight.



Charlie Alexander, a London dockers' picket, being held back by a Group during the 1972 docks strike.

...the revolution



...both are against capitalism and its state

...ES ON PORTUGAL

...the reactionary
...my.
...We shall prove to
...ants if we forget
...f uprising there
...physical struggle

...fight in Africa and 'to obey the
...law' which was laid down by the
...former fascist President Salazar.

EXTEND THE MASS STRIKES

...ONE essential of a revolutionary
...situation is that workers' expecta-
...tions rise very high indeed. No
...wonder that in Portugal, after 48
...years of fascist rule, expectations
...are soaring. That members of the
...Socialist and Communist Parties
...have joined the government
...naturally gives a boost to these.

...Rampant inflation—more than
...30 per cent a year—raises workers'
...demands even further. That Por-
...tuguese workers' wages are half
...those of their British brothers

...and sisters makes them even more
...militant.

...How natural, under such condi-
...tions, that practically all strikes
...in Portugal at present are mass
...strikes that take the form of
...factory occupations.

...At a time of revolution or in a
...pre-revolutionary situation, you
...cannot separate the political
...struggle and the economic strikes.

...Long ago Rosa Luxemburg
...pointed out: 'The movement does
...not go only in one direction, from
...an economic to a political struggle,
...but also in the opposite direction.
...Every important political mass
...action, after reaching its peak,
...results in a series of economic mass
...strikes.'

...'Every fresh attack and victory
...of the political struggle has a
...powerful impact on the economic
...struggle, in that at the same time
...as it widens the scope for the
...workers to improve their condi-
...tions and strengthens their impulse
...to do so, it enhances their fighting
...spirit...'

...'And the reverse also applies.
...The workers' constant economic
...struggle against capital sustains
...them at every pause in the political
...battle...'

...In Portugal, however, the
...leaders of the Communist Party
...have taken precisely the opposite
...point of view. They have worked
...against the mass strike movement,
...using all their power to break the
...strikes. They have pretended that
...by playing down the economic
...struggle, the workers will heighten
...the political struggle. But on the
...contrary, both struggles are
...weakened, to the delight of generals
...and businessmen all over Europe.

CRUCIAL

...There are plenty of examples
...in history where the workers have
...moved towards a revolutionary
...situation, but have not seized
...the time, have not smashed the
...state or won the army and have
...not extended their mass strike
...movement. In all these instances,
...the working class was broken to
...pieces.

...In France in May-June 1936,
...soon after the election of a Popular
...Front government, a general strike
...broke out spontaneously. The
...strikes were followed by mass
...occupations of the factories. The
...terrified employers offered no
...resistance. For a crucial moment,
...they lost confidence.

...The leaders of the Socialist
...and Communist Parties sold the
...strike movement for concessions
...within the system. They accepted
...a 40-hour week and a wage rise
...across industry of 11 per cent.

...The ruling class regained its
...confidence. Its army was intact.



CUNHAL: General Secretary of the Portuguese Communist Party

...It threw everything into the
...counter-attack. Prices rose so fast
...that the wage rise of 11 per cent
...was quickly wiped out.

...Less than two years later the
...Popular Front government was
...defeated in a wave of reaction.
...The new Conservative government
...swiftly put an end to the 40-hour
...week, raising it to 48 hours. Soon
...the new government was loving
...up to Hitler's fascist regime in
...Germany.

...In September 1939 it banned
...and persecuted the Communist
...Party. The prime minister of that
...government, Daladier, had had the
...specific support of the Communist
...Party in 1936. The Party was
...bitten by the mouth it had so
...earnestly fed.

...Even more dramatic were the
...occupations of factories in
...Northern Italy in 1920. The en-
...tire industrial power of Italy was

WIN THE ARMY! This is vital—which is why protest in the press against the wars in Africa is being gagged.

...paralysed by the workers' move-
...ment. But state power was not
...seized by the workers, the army
...was not won, the mass strikes
...were not extended.

...The capitalists, who had been
...so shaken that some were pre-
...pared to hand over their factories
...and flee the country, regained
...their confidence. They put their
...faith in a new fascist movement
...which promised the annihilation
...of workers' organisation. In 1922,
...Mussolini marched on Rome to
...topple the old parliamentary
...government. His march was sup-
...ported by the army all the way.

...Once power had been seized,
...the Italian working class was
...smashed for more than 20 years.

...How can we ensure that in
...situations like that in Portugal
...today the workers seize the time
...and go all the way for victory?
...There is only one way. We need

...in the roots of the working-class
...movement a revolutionary socialist
...party.

...Such a party forms a bridge
...between the experiences of the
...past and the action that must be
...taken into the future. In situations
...such as in Portugal today it raises
...the question of state power first
...and foremost. It demands and
...leads the extension of mass strikes
...and occupations as a necessary
...prelude to revolution.

...The Communist and Socialist
...Parties in Portugal have shown
...that they cannot fulfil the tasks
...of such a party. They have gone
...in the opposite direction, and
...unless an alternative emerges they,
...like the Communist Parties in
...France in 1939 and in Chile in
...1973, will be murdered by the
...generals with whom they sought
...co-operation.

...gentlemen



...reated gently by members of the Special Patrol.

Junta brings out the gag

...THE Portuguese government moved this week to
...curb the freedom of the press in commenting and
...reporting on the army and on industrial action. The
...penalties for breaking the new rules include in-
...definite detention and the 60-day suspension of
...newspapers and magazines.

...Since the coup in April journalists and printers at
...many newspapers and broadcasting stations have
...thrown out reactionary editors and management
...and taken over. Political comment has been free as
...never before with the removal of the official censor-
...ship of the Caetano regime and left-wing papers
...have flourished.

...The new law applies not only as an 'Official
...Secrets Act' but includes penalties for criticism of
...military laws and regulations—including conscrip-
...tion, or against the wars in Africa. 'Incitement to
...strike' is also on the list—which would immediately
...outlaw the main article on this page.

...Many in Portugal see this as a prelude to a law
...curbing the right to join trade unions, to strike and
...take industrial action. The Guardian commented on
...Monday: 'Although some of these restrictions might
...also obtain in other democratic countries, the new
...Portuguese law includes some features disturbingly
...similar to those enforced by the Caetano regime.'

...'Among these are vaguely defined "ideological
...aggressions" which might run against the programme
...of the armed forces movement, or the publication
...of non-specified "false news" designed to incite
...criminal acts.'

...Saldanha Sanches, editor of the revolutionary
...paper Luta Continua, was recently detained for
...publishing a series of appeals for soldiers to lay
...down their arms and refuse to fight. Because of a
...gap in the law the government was unable to stop
...the paper continuing publication. Now that gap is
...plugged.

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.

GIVE BLOOD to the wounded in struggling areas in Africa—Guinea-Bissau, Angola and Mozambique. Phone 01-734 9541 for appointment.

URGENTLY REQUIRED—Unfurnished house/flat in the Merseyside area for young couple with baby who are cheesed-off visiting the housing department and small-time property speculation companies that dwell in this corrupt city. Please write to Stephen Collier, 13 Shotwick Street, Edge Lane, Liverpool 7.

SOCIALIST GAY GROUP has speakers throughout the country on the gay question and sexism. Inquiries from IS branches specially welcomed. Details from 18 Brisbane Rd, Smethwick, Warley, Worcs.

PERMANENT REVOLUTION: No 2 now out. Articles on Chile, the Workers' Government; Rosa Luxemburg on the Belgian General Strike (first time in English); discussion; reviews. 20p plus 5p postage from 98 Gifford Street, London, N1.

GROUP OF SOCIALISTS with children would like to meet others (with or without children) who are interested in escaping from or avoiding the nuclear family, and in living together as a commune or collective. Phone Droitwich (Worc'shire) 3730 or 01-348 3475.

RELIABLE IS comrade wanted to share N7 flat from 23 June. £7.50 pw. Ring Shaun Doherty 607-8067.

DOUBLE-ROOM available in Streatham flat from 1 July, £10 a week. Kitchen, garden, bathroom, telephone. Ring David Whiteley 01-672 5982 (school).

WORKERS' FIGHT FORUM. John Cunningham on Communism and Social Democracy. 7.30pm Sunday 7 July, Golden Lion, Kings Cross Road/Britannia Street. This is the second in a series of forums on basic questions of Marxist politics. More details from 98 Gifford Street, N1 ODF.

RED MINI, November '67, de luxe, very good condition. £250. Noel, 15 Sherriff Road, NW6.

TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT weekend school on Ireland: Sunday 7 July, 10am-6pm, Nuffo Hall, Jockey's Fields, London WC1. Credentials 20p from T.O.M., 23 Harvist Road, London NW6.

NORAH CARLIN and Ian Birchall announce the birth of Martin Andrew, an addition to the ranks of the youth vanguard.

ROOM in a flat, London NW3, own bathroom, phone, garden. £47 per month for couple. £40 per month for single. Phone 01-794 9368, ask for Albert, Noon-3pm.

NALGO ACTION GROUP: Lobby employers and negotiators on London Weighting Claim. Monday 1 July, 12 Noon, 41 Belgrave Square, London SW1. All out for the £400 increase.

WOULD-BE actors or actresses needed to help theatre group. Ring CAST. 01-402 6087

NALGO ACTION SUMMER SOCIAL
Friday 5 July, 7.30-11pm. Students Union Bar, North London Poly, Holloway Road, N7. Nearest tube Holloway Road (Piccadilly Line). Music by Convoy. Disco, drinks. 50p. Students 35p.

COMMUNICATIONS BREAKS! Don't miss the latest UNDERCURRENTS (No 7), the magazine of radical science and people's technology:
Switched-on radio hams—low energy, low cost radio and TV link decentralised communities.
Community radio techniques—AM, FM, mains intercom, modulated light.
Phone phreaking—telephones are fun, but is the Post Office fair game?
Privacy—is your phone tapped, is your mail opened? Who does it, and how.
Cable TV—community control or re-cycled soap operas?
Beneath the city streets—the revolution-proof government communications network.
Above the city streets—are the TV cameras for traffic control or riot control?
PLUS News, Reviews, Science Fiction, Alternative Technology and much more. Just 35p postpaid from UNDERCURRENTS, Department E, 275 Finchley Road, London NW3 (01-794 2750). A subscription is £2 for six issues.

Just out: The Road to Revolution in Britain. A pamphlet analysing the present crisis, the response of various workers groups and the revolutionary alternative. The pamphlet consists of articles reprinted from The Torch, newspaper of the Revolutionary Socialist League USA, recently split from the International Socialists US. Introduction by Sy Landy, 15p. British or international cheques. To: RSL, 13755 Woodward, Highland Park, Michigan 48203, USA.

THE STRIKE AT IMPERIAL TYPEWRITERS: The full story European workers in the catering industry. Struggles at Fidelity Radio, Ford's and Yorkshire Carpets. Strikes in India and Dominica. Capital in South Africa. Power-packed July issue out now. 15p from all IS bookshops or direct from Race Today, 184 Kings Cross Road, London WC1.

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 racism, all war. Write for Specimen socialist literature to 'One World' (SW), The Socialist Party of Great Britain, 52 Clapham High Street, London SW4.

The monsters

WOMEN, TORTURE AND THE JUNTA BRITAIN SUPPORTS

MURDER, torture, brutality, fear and military might are the stock in trade of the military junta in Chile.

No form of behaviour is too bestial for them in their battle to 'clean up' the country, that is to put down working class organisations and destroy opposition and dissent.

The details of the barbarity perpetrated by Chile's merchants of law and order and supported by their counterparts in this country get little attention.

The United States Committee for Justice to Latin American Political Prisoners has just published a briefing on an almost unknown aspect of the junta's brutality—the torture of women political prisoners.

CAMPS

USLA compiled their brief on the basis of information smuggled out of Chile and authenticated by an Amnesty International Team.

This shows that in the women's jail El Buen Pastor (The Good Shepherd) more than 90 women are being held as political prisoners.

The report states: 'There are three or four young women who were brought in from the Tejas Verdes prison, now renowned as one of the most renowned torture camps.

The prisoners are so badly treated there that the sadists have a recuperation camp where the prisoners



A woman waits for news of her jailed husband. But the women prisoners suffer the most in Chile...

are taken if they are to be handed over to a more permanent and therefore more public jail, or be brought back to be tortured afresh.

'These young women have horrible vaginal infections. At least three are pregnant, naturally not knowing by whom, having been raped innumerable times during their stay at Tejas Verdes.

'They have asked desperately to be allowed to have an abortion.

When they asked for a doctor they brought them an ear specialist. He told them that they "should be proud of what they bore in their bellies."

BURNT

'These women and girls arrive at El Buen Pastor from other camps where they have been subjected to the most monstrous torture. Several have had live mice introduced into their vaginas.

'In Tejas Verdes... one girl reported having been thrown at the young conscripts to be raped whether they, the soldiers, were willing or not.

'In a place near Chena they were blindfolded and mass tortured, so they didn't know what was happening... Girls finally came to jail from

these places with their hair pulled off in handfuls, their nipples blown off or burnt, their genitals destroyed by electricity.

'There are more than 200 such torture and detention camps all over the country. From exact reports regarding refinement in the methods... it seems that Tejas Verdes is one of the worst.

'There are hundreds of personal reports. They all agree that in Tejas Verdes there are Brazilian, Argentinian and Uruguayan "instructors" in torture.

'We have to name places of human sacrifice such as the Isla Quiriquina, Putrabaquedano... where you can be taken on an all round visit without seeing what monstrosities are being committed there.'

CONTROL

In their press release on the reports, USLA stresses that women victims of the junta are not subjected to 'standard' tortures

Their bodies are subjected to crude and maniacal sexual assaults to gratify the junta's military personnel.

Among these named as internees at El Buen Pastor are writers such as Lucy Lorsch and Ines Figueroa teachers such as Viola Munoz and Monica Hermosilla, Elsa Rudolphi, an actress, Amanda Altamirano, the trade union leader and Chilean senator.

But only the more 'famous' names are known. The others are ordinary women, some workers, some peasants.

At the USLA press conference, Rose Stylin, an American journalist and member of the board of Amnesty International, explained that the junta takes particular care to control women in Chile by threatening their children.

She explained that there have been innumerable cases of children being taken from school during the day or from the working class neighbourhoods at night.

Then they are severely frightened or given psychological and sometimes physical torture, and returned to their families.

This is just one of the junta's many ways of intimidating women into silence and inaction.

This is the real face of the 'new order' in Chile which Tory politicians support and the Labour Government supplies with frigates.

The Minister for Prices -and higher profits

SHIRLEY WILLIAMS, Minister for Prices, has decided to abandon all the promises made by Labour to tackle the enormous profits made by shop owners. In a deal with the owners of supermarkets and shops all over the country she has agreed not to intervene in the prices fixed in the shops—in return for a pledge that there will be no price increases which are not justified by manufacturers' rises.

The same day Mrs Williams gave up the fight against the big supermarket chains, Sainsburys, one of the best-known of all, declared their financial results for 1973-74.

In the small print of the report were the details of the fantastic personal fortune made by the Sainsbury family. Timothy Sainsbury, for instance, Conservative MP for Hove, has 8,959,677 shares. Even at today's very low share prices these are valued at about £12 million.

Squeezed

He had more. During the past year he has sold 2.4 million shares at 145p each. While working families all over the country were being squeezed by ever-increasing prices in shops and supermarkets, Shop King Sainsbury makes a neat £3½ million in one share deal.

He also collected dividends of 4p on every share he owns—a bonus £300,000.

His small children, none old enough to have done a stroke of work, own nearly seven million shares between them. Each year they are piling up hundreds of thousands of pounds of personal wealth out of the high prices paid in Sainsbury supermarkets.

They and their father will have been greatly encouraged by the refusal of Mrs Williams and her government to use her powers to hold down prices in the shops.

WOMENS VOICE

LATEST ISSUE NOW OUT

Articles on: Two women fighting the threat of exile under the immigration laws, the nurses, child care on the cheap, shopworkers, and a strike by women on behalf of men.

5p (plus 3p postage)/50p for the next six issues (postage included) from
WOMEN'S VOICE 61 Tylney Croft, Harlow, Essex.

WHAT HAPPENED to Kevin Gately a fortnight ago has happened before—many times. One of those times was in November 1887 when the police, acting under the authority of the hated Commissioner of the Police Sir Charles Warren, attacked an unemployed demonstration in Trafalgar Square.

The police killed Alfred Linnell, a solicitor's clerk as they charged into the crowd. The demonstration was one of several which had taken place in Trafalgar Square that winter.

It was not the first where violence had been used. But on this demonstration where organisation of the marchers was weak, the police went berserk.

Linnell's funeral march went from Soho to Mile End. In Justice the paper of the Social Democratic Federation H M Hyndman wrote:

'It was indeed, a great concourse called together against the mean despotism that had cost the humble Linnell his life . . . I calculate that from the top of that tram car I looked down upon 300,000 men at least.'

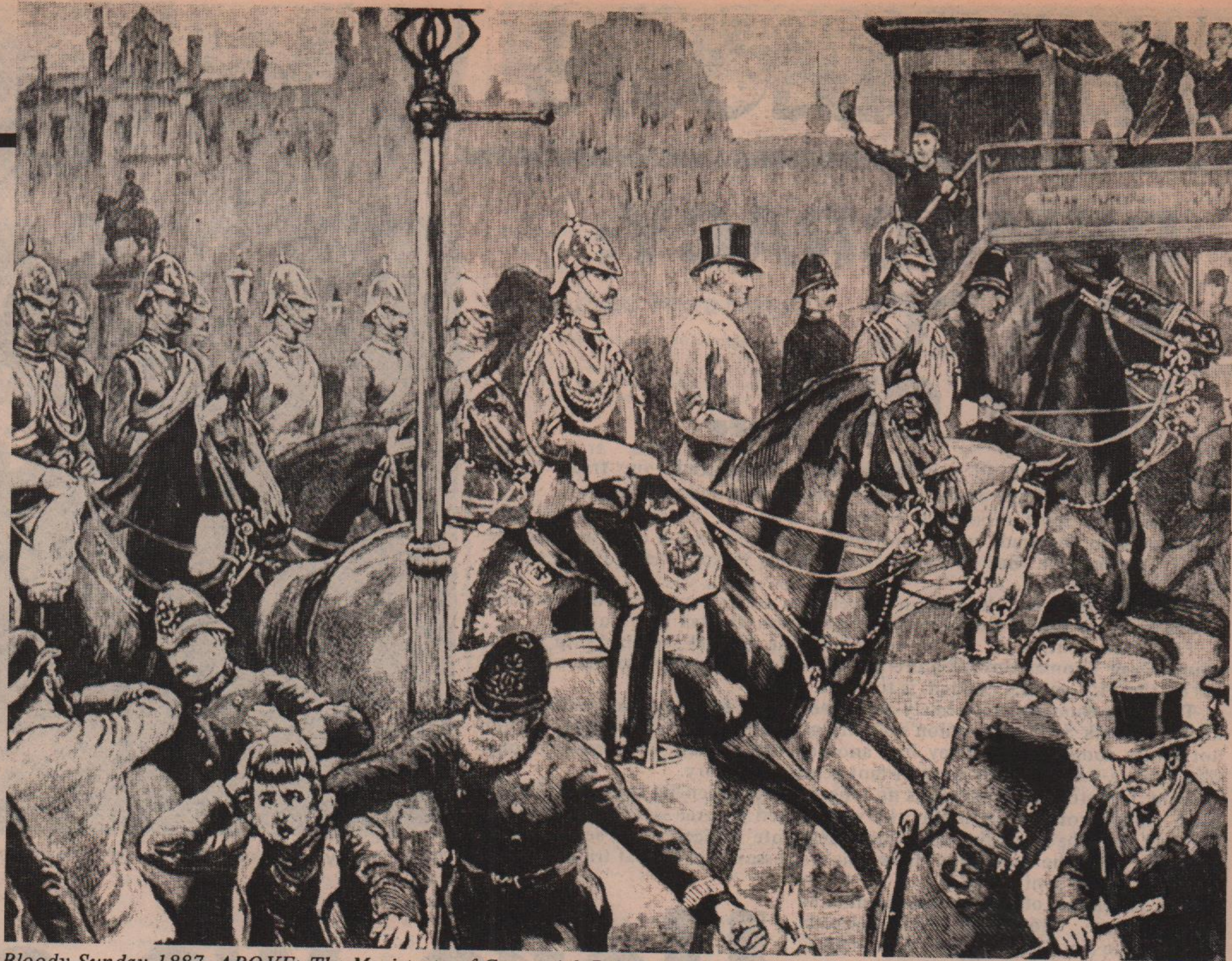
The Commonwealth, the paper of the Socialist League, reported Mr Tims of the Battersea Liberal and Radical Federation as saying at the graveside that 'he entered his most indignant protest against the scandalous brutality and astounding cruelty of the police.'

'Let us never rest until we have got these men under our control instead of allowing them to control the people'.

William Morris, socialist revolutionary, writer, artist was reported as saying that 'their brother lay there—let them remember for all time this man as their brother and their friend.'

'If the police knocked them about and treated them ill it was to an extent their own fault, because they had given the management of their affairs to other classes.'

At the end the choir sang A Death Song, written by Morris and printed below . . .



Bloody Sunday 1887. ABOVE: The Magistrate of Greenwich Police Court arrives with an escort of Her Majesty's Life Guards while, BELOW, the police attack a contingent of unemployed men in St Martin's Lane. It could only have happened in the 'bad old days' . . .

We've seen it all before...

What cometh here from west to east awending?
And who are these, the marchers stern and slow?
We bear the message that the rich are sending
A back to those who bade them wake and know.
Not one, not one, nor thousands must they slay,
But one and all if they would dusk the day.

We asked them for a life of toilsome earning,
They bade us bide their leisure for our bread;
We craved to speak to tell our woeful learning:
We come back speechless, bearing back our dead.
Not one, not one, nor thousands must they slay,
But one and all if they would dusk the day.

They will not learn; they have no ears to hearken.
They turn their faces from the eyes of fate;
Their gay-lit halls shut out the skies that darken.
But, lo! this dead man knocking at the gate.
Not one, not one, nor thousands must they slay,
But one and all if they would dusk the day.

Here lies the sign that we shall break our prison;
Amidst the storm he won a prisoner's rest;
But in the cloudy dawn the sun arisen
Brings us our day of work to win the best.
Not one, not one, nor thousands must they slay,
But one and all if they would dusk the day.



AN INVESTIGATION OF MURDER (General release)

IN THE 1930s alongside the Western the gangster films rose to prominence in Hollywood. The hero was the villain, and was played by people like James Cagney. It was explained in one way or another how he had been brought up wrong, bad home, slums, no money. As a result he turned into a ruthless killer.

This had the advantage of giving the audience an alibi for rooting for him when he went about his work of killing people. At the end of course, perhaps on the steps of

some convenient cathedral, he was shot.

Times changed. It became impossible to pretend that the cops were virtuous when common knowledge was that they were all (as is the case in New York) accepting

bribes.

It became impossible to pretend that gangsters were always the guys who came out of slums to make money to impress their poor parents from Italy/Poland/Ireland. They might have done, but were now indistinguishable from other businessmen.

And it became impossible to pretend that America was the 'good' in a world of Commie/Nazi villains.

The 1960s was a time to set the record straight—or rather crooked. The new style were films like Dirty Harry with Clint Eastwood.

Eastwood was a thug, sadist, murderer. He was also the policeman—and also the hero. A string of Dirty Harry style films have followed.

The latest well-made but unpleasant example is INVESTIGATION OF A MURDER starring Walter Matthau and Bruce Dern. 'Good' and 'evil' have disappeared.

The two cops pursue the murderer because it is their job, because

Matthau admired his previous assistant—killed by the murderer. His home life consists of a two hour visit to his home once every day or so. He is relieved to see that 'nothing has changed back home'.

Later he sees his teenage son at a dirty movie while he is beating up the proprietor.

He is driven on in the case through affection for his ex-assistant—killed by the murderer. Then he discovers that the assistant had pursued the case because of an obsession with sex-murderers.

His new assistant, Bruce Dern, is motivated it seems by enjoying casual bullying of 'street people'.

The location is a San Francisco made up of strip clubs, dirty movie houses, homosexual strip clubs, crazed Vietnam veterans blasting off at riot police.

Every tie binding people together has broken down. Routine keeps things going.

Matthau's marriage is a joke.

There is just one exception to the rule. The relationship between Matthau and Dern which develops as the film goes on. They wind up 'buddies'.

Which is also a new regular feature of Hollywood. Law, justice, marriage, truth, crime are all hopelessly discredited. So in the end all you've got left is your buddy. The dynamic duo idea has popped up in many films recently. MASH, Butch Cassidy, Busting, The Sting. At least there's some bloke you can have a beer with, share the fun of shooting someone else with.

It is the biggest joke of the lot. Lying in the gutter the directors manage to give a hideous but often accurate picture of the society. But like many a drunk they reflect nostalgically on days of propping up the bar with their hard drinking womanising mates.

But in this world the mates have lost the women. Who've found better company elsewhere. So they are left going through a routine of being manly, and have no-one to do it with save their drinking partner. It's like two fighter pilots putting on their flying gear and then flying off on a bicycle.

It don't work of course—why even Nixon's buddies have taken to testifying against him . . .

BUDDY, CAN YOU SHARE A CRIME?

ON THE BOX

○ FRIDAY: ITV (London area only) 10.40pm. Stanley Kubrick's H-Bomb comedy Dr STRANGELOVE.

○ SATURDAY: BBC-1, 10.25pm. THE PRESIDENT'S LAST TAPE is a play on a president of the USA and a 'far-reaching scandal' . . .

○ MONDAY: BBC-1, 8.10pm. The new Israeli prime minister is interviewed in PANORAMA.

○ TUESDAY: ITV, 10.30pm. A LIFE UNDERGROUND is a documentary study of the mining community of Dawdon in County

Durham, which is not, it is claimed, the usual cloth cap, 'ba gum lad', beer swilling picture . . . It is preceded (ITV) by PIANO SMASHERS OF THE GOLDEN SUN, a play by Willis Hall about—piano smashers.

○ FRIDAY: BBC-2, 8.10pm. THE MONEY PROGRAMME examines the economic outlook this summer. At 9pm (BBC-2) is THE JACKAL OF NAJUELTORO first in a season of South American films which should be worth seeing. It was made in pre-coup Chile and is about a peasant murderer.

THE UNIONS



1972: The flying pickets who brought the victory for the miners. Will the social contract stop them this year?

DEMOCRACY: THE EC WAY OUT...

THE main plank of all millionaire press propaganda on trade union militants is that they are undemocratic manipulators and manoeuvrers.

In fact, the most superficial examination of the antics of the so-called 'moderates' in the trade union movement would reveal a quite unbeatable facility for intrigue. But the press, for obvious reasons, has nothing to say on the subject.

This explains why there hasn't been one single report on the amazing goings-on in the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, the tax men's union.

The affair centres on the succession to the general secretaryship of the union. Cyril Thomas Howe Plant OBE, the indomitable right-winger who also sits on the TUC general council, is to retire.

The man thought most likely to succeed was former Communist Party member Frank Swift, the union's deputy general secretary. This prospect did not please some people. They had another man in view, right-winger Tony Christopher, until recently the assistant general secretary.

Tony Christopher, however, is no longer assistant general secretary. At the IRSF annual conference in May, he was elected general secretary designate. The fact that the executive went for a 'designate' indicates how seriously the executive took the succession. How this was assured is a great tribute to the chairman of the conference.

The executive of the union, dominated by so-called 'moderates', had already rejected one simple and democratic method of selecting the new secretary.

DEFEATED

They decided against a ballot of the membership, preferring to determine the issue through the conference.

After some debate, a call was made for a card vote by Christopher's supporters. Under rule, one third of the delegates present had to support the call for it to be accepted.

Since there were 119 delegates this would have meant 40 votes. Only 36 delegates showed and the call was defeated.

After the card vote fell, a show of hands for and against Christopher had to be taken. In this he was defeated, 57 against, 47 for.

The chairman, Leslie Thomas, amid uproar, then suggested that another request for a card vote would be accepted. He declined to be bound by the show of hands.

ALLOWED

The rules on this are quite clear. Under Rule 3 Standing Orders, 'Delegates shall vote by show of hands unless a card vote is demanded by one third of the delegates present.'

Clearly the show of hands should have stood. Certainly the second call for a card vote should never have been allowed or accepted.

The chairman, however, ignored the protests and went ahead. 43 delegates showed for a card vote this time and the vote went 319 for Christopher and 302 against.

The 'election' of Mr A M G Christopher was successfully concluded. Protests understandably are starting to come in.

Here we go again!

by Dick Hall, NUM, Warsop Main
DELEGATES will meet at Llandudno next week for the National Union of Mineworkers' annual national conference in a spirit of triumph. It is only four months since the miners smashed through Phase 3 and destroyed the Tory Government.

Yet Phase 3 remains on the statute book and the Labour government has reinforced it with their own Phase 4.

A Yorkshire resolution, the most important on the conference agenda, demands wage increases of up to £20 a week, to be paid from 1 November this year. The demand is for coal-face workers' wages to be increased from £45 to £65, other underground workers from £36 to £50 and surface workers from £32 to £45.

Militants had fought to re-establish the principle of

NOW MINERS SCARE LABOUR

a November-to-November agreement since the Wilberforce settlement to the 1972 strike. Our last wage claim was dated from last November and, since the end of the strike, union president Joe Gormley has been instructed by the National Executive majority not to sign any agreement which lasts until March next year, as he has tried to do on more than one occasion.

Yorkshire area president Arthur Scargill is proposing the resolution, which militants are hoping to see passed because it is guaranteed support from the other two most powerful areas, Scotland and South Wales.

It has one weakness. No timetable for action is proposed—and the action to be taken is not specified. It could take the form of an overtime ban and strike as in 1972 and 1974, or it could let the right wing in for

a massive sell-out as in 1973.

Already Tory MPs and some Labour MPs, along with the national press and television, are beginning a hysterical campaign against the miners—even though the resolution has yet to be passed. Many newspapers and television 'experts' are even suggesting that the resolution is coming from Scotland, so that they can tie the name of their favourite red under the bed Michael McGahey to it.

The propaganda and political fight this time will undoubtedly be twice as tough as it was a few months ago. When Tony Benn spoke at the Nottinghamshire Miners' Gala in Mansfield on 8 June he sang the praises of 'wage restraint'. TUC General Secretary Len Murray warned us how little support we can expect from him when he addressed the Yorkshire Miners' Gala on June 15.

If we are to win the claim, if the right wing are to be defeated, if the words of Michael McGahey and Arthur Scargill against the social contract are to mean anything, then they and the other Communist Party and Labour Party left-wingers on the National Executive will have to begin immediately after conference to mobilise rank and file support.

Earlier this year, Joe Gormley tried to get the strike postponed when the election was called. He has admitted that his failure to engineer such a blatant sell-out was because 'the members might walk all over us.'

The government will use infinitely more subtle ways to encourage our leaders to sell us out. Energy Minister Eric Varley will probably announce to the conference a whole package of measures which, he will claim, are designed to boost the coal industry.

The government is giving the Coal Board and the union the go-ahead to negotiate out-of-court settlements to the pneumoconiosis test cases that were due to come up in August. The deal will give more than 40,000 miners with the disease the right to compensation. It is also possible that the government will give way to our demands for a shorter working week and lower retirement age.

If all these fringe benefits, for which we have been fighting for years, are announced and given massive publicity during the period up until November, and then we are faced with an Autumn election, together with all the appeals not to rock the boat, I doubt whether the powerful Communist Party caucus in the union will have the strength or the determination not to compromise.

We have only to look at the way many of them idolize Michael Foot—and the way they failed to insist surface men got the full claim at the last settlement—to realise that.

The concessions would be major gains and the total cost would be huge. But the ruling class would willingly grant them if it gave them a chance to cool down the miners' wage claims for a while.

After all, the miners have led the fight against inflation and rising living costs over the past three years. If the lead they have given to other workers can be smashed, capitalism has a chance of muddling through its present crisis by inflicting even more cruel blows on workers' wages and living standards.

Civil servants wake up

ANOTHER traditionally non-militant section of the trade union movement, the civil servants, are right up against the social contract. In mid-April the Department of Health and Social Security members of the Civil and Public Services Association banned overtime and all work connected with the uprating of social security benefits.

This action was long overdue. For years, staff working in social security offices throughout the country have been inundated with extra work caused

by changes in legislation. Poor pay and lousy conditions have added to the pressure of work to cause a drastic understaffing.

The industrial action condemned in the press should not be looked on as a reactionary attack on pensioners and social security claimants. Workers in local offices have at last woken up to the fact that as long as they accept lousy pay and conditions the service to claimants will be further impaired.

The original claim was for a lump sum payment with fringe benefits (improvements in accommodation, etc) in exchange for co-operation in the uprating exercise.

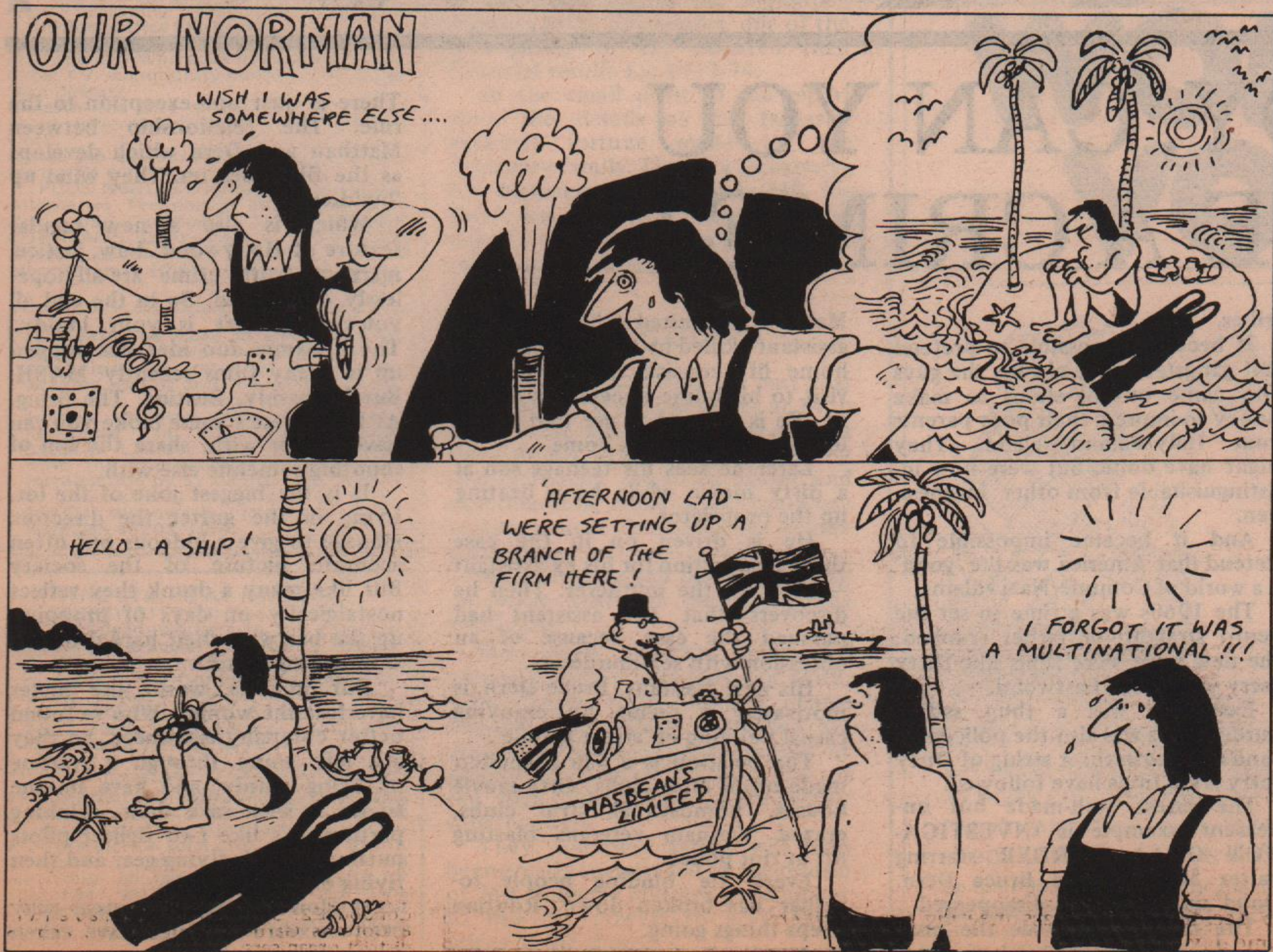
After the CPSA conference, the pressure on the executive committee started to be mounted from the TUC General Council and the Labour Government. Then the inevitable happened. The Section Executive Committee sold out.

On 1 June it decided to accept an offer of a joint union/government inquiry into the feasibility of a departmental allowance. This was to report back by the end of the year.

The membership reacted with astonishment—and complete rejection. The industrial action is continuing in many offices throughout the country and includes a ban on exchanging national insurance cards. This effects government revenue.

Following a meeting of the Redder Tape editorial board (rank and file group of the CPSA) a leaflet was issued to every social security office in the country calling for a recall of section conference to re-elect a new SEC, one that will obey conference mandate, to plan a campaign of industrial action to obtain an immediate departmental allowance and to obtain support of branches of other sections of the CPSA.

As unofficial action is continuing, the likelihood is that the recall conference will be held.



Strachan's: How we were beaten

STATEMENT BY THE FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE, STRACHAN'S

ON Friday 21 June 1974 at 10.30am, the dispute at Strachan's Engineering, Eastleigh came to an end. The reason for this was as follows.

Over the past four weeks, there have been a rank and file blacking on all Giltspur products which has caused Giltspur severe financial problems. Because of this, on Friday 14 June Giltspur offered the pickets at Strachan's the sum of £25,000 to walk away.

The pickets told the full-time officers to take it back to Giltspur and tell them to stuff it. At the same time Southampton Dockers, along with various other docks, agreed to black all Ford Motor Company products from Monday 24 June.

When this was put to the full-time officers of the TGWU, and particularly the regional secretary, he decided that it was time the national officers became involved.

A meeting was arranged between the area officers and the national officers to take place on Thursday 20 June, to discuss between them the Strachan's problem. This they did and, having discussed it, they then meandered down to Mayfair and had a little chinwag with Giltspur representatives.

Accepted

Needless to say, at that time a deal was made, and to all appearances concluded, with no consultation at all with the joint union committee or the picket.

At the meeting on Friday between the full-time officers and the picket a recommendation was put to the picket out of the blue by the national officer present, that as Giltspur had

Four months ago, workers at Strachan's Engineering in Eastleigh, Hampshire were sacked at one and a half hours' notice. The factory, which produced van bodies for Ford's, was immediately occupied by the workers, members of the TGWU, Sheet Metal Workers' Union, AUEW, ASTMS, and EEUPTU.

After the Special Branch had been sent in to spy on them, the workers were evicted—and quickly sought support from other trade unionists. They wanted, and got, blacking of the products of millionaire Maxwell Joseph's Giltspur group, the parent company. This week the dispute ended, as the Strachan's fund-raising committee put it, in a 'sell-out' by full-time union officials.

doubled their offer making it £50,000 and also given assurances that they would never again treat any of their employers in the same way they had treated us over the mass redundancies, then he, on behalf of all the national officers, was making a recommendation to the pickets that they immediately ceased the dispute, accepted the money and went away.

He immediately called for a vote on the issue, and although some of the pickets were absent because understood the meeting was elsewhere, a vote was held. Of the 34 pickets present the voting was 20 to accept, 13 not to accept and the convenor did not vote!

Since then we have discovered that Grenville Hawley, the national officer representing the TGWU, had made it very plain on the Thursday that if a settlement was not made that day he would have no option but to disassociate the TGWU from the dispute.

WE thought that this happened 17 weeks ago!

We also discovered that the dispute was reported as being over in the Morning Star, before the meeting of the pickets took place. It should be apparent to all persons reading

this that here is a classic example of the national officers selling out the working classes!

Surely this MUST qualify some full-time trade union official for an OBE. This may be doing an injustice to some of the full-time officers who have made very positive contributions and given us considerable assistance, namely Pat Farrelly, the AUEW divisional organiser, and Terry Bull, the ASTMS district secretary. To them we would say thank you most sincerely.

So brothers and sisters, wherever you are, and whatever your particular fight, beware of the national officers. They are just extensions of the capitalist system and their god is money.

Finally, may we thank all persons who have contributed both financially and in other ways to this fight. Without you, it would not have been possible. Please do not turn others such as us away, just learn by this and continue the fight.

Yours fraternally,
M Marshall TGWU, M Vass AUEW,
A Nangle TGWU, P Hann TGWU,
E Parker NUSMW, Fund Raising
Committee, Strachan's Engineering.

Striking for safety

BIRMINGHAM: IMI Witton, which is being prosecuted over the deaths of six workers in an explosion, is again in difficulties over health and safety of the workers.

74 TGWU members—the entire labour force in the press section of the Holford Red Mill—have been on strike for more than a week for a 10p an hour abnormal condition allowance and free issue of protective clothing and boots.

In the summer, the heat and obnoxious fumes from adjacent sections and the press make working intolerable.

One steward told Socialist Worker: 'We have been talking about this since last September and procedure has been exhausted. The management has never offered anything on this claim.'

'Without a battle over the last 12 months we wouldn't have any ventilation at all. But even now they still have to remove sections of the roof to allow fumes to escape.'

If IMI concede the claim, the repercussions in the IMI and ICI empire would be enormous.

So it is of the utmost importance that all workers in the empire keep a close eye on this dispute and are prepared to back and financially support the strike.

Messages of support and donations to: John Hayden, 61 Moreton Ave, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 7QR.

GREEN LIGHT FOR ACTION

THE ARTICLE in Socialist Worker two weeks ago about Brighton buses has been well received by militant busmen in the town. Although turnout at the meeting called by rank and file busmen was disappointing we sold 70 copies of Socialist Worker and distributed 1000 leaflets to Brighton busworkers.

This involved us in a lot of discussion with the Corporation busmen and the other trade union branch of Southdown, where we now have good contacts.

Our success is just one encouraging

by George Fuller
(TGWU, Brighton)

sign that busmen are getting up off their knees. Both branches of Southdown are solid in support of the nurses and our branch is prepared to take industrial action in support of their claim.

Busmen were on the march called by the local nurses' action committee and we are inviting a nurse to speak at our own mass meeting. This was called because of anger and frustration at pay and conditions highlighted

in the Socialist Worker article, which has strengthened determination to win our claim for £35 for 35 hours and one-hour paid meal breaks.

The threat of a mass meeting has scared management into calling down top brass to talk about wages. But none of the men and women here have any illusions in such talks and names are already going down for picket duty for a one-day strike when the talks break down. Industrial action to fight for the claim will be decided at the mass meeting the same day.



Not impressed

Flanked by peaceful-looking officers, a judge delivers his verdict from a riot lorry. Obviously an outrageous breach of law and order has been committed.

It had workers on a lightning strike. And 100 of them were staging a demo outside Chrysler's truck plant in Warren, Michigan.

Judge Hunter D Stair scurried from his chambers to threaten their arrest for contempt of court if they didn't disperse. The men weren't impressed. Exit 20 strikers.

Whats on

ENTRIES for this column must be posted to reach Socialist Worker by Monday morning—and remember the 'first class' post takes two days as often as one. Due to pressure of work we cannot take What's On entries over the phone. Entries here are free for IS branches and other IS organisations.

IS public meetings

KENTISH TOWN IS public meeting: What's happening to the public services? Speakers from Housing, Transport, Health, Education and Welfare Services. Tuesday 2 July, 8pm, Enterprise pub, opposite Chalk Farm tube station.

WIGAN IS public meeting: Lenin. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Thursday 27 June, 8pm, The Wheatheaf Hotel, Wallgate, Wigan. All socialists and trade unionists welcome.

HUDDERSFIELD IS public meeting: Why Labour can't bring socialism. Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 4 July, 8pm. Friendly and Trades Club, Northumberland Street. Admission 10p.

EXETER IS public meeting: Threshold payments. Speaker: Duncan Hallas, Thurs 27 June, 8pm, Devonport Inn, Fore St.

DUDLEY TENANTS & RATEPAYERS' ASSOC: & DUDLEY IS jumble sale. Sat 29 June, 2pm, St Andrew's Church Hall, Bilston Street, Sedgley. Admission 2p.

TOTTENHAM IS Jumble Sale: Saturday 29 June, 2pm, Broadwater Farm Junior School, Adams Road, London N17. All kinds of jumble wanted—please ring 808 8553 for collection within reasonable distance. Refreshments. Admission 3p. Proceeds to the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund.

ROCHDALE IS public meeting: Support the nurses. Speaker from Manchester and District Nurses Action Group. Thursday 27 June, 8pm, Brunwick Hotel, Baillie St.

TWICKENHAM IS open meeting: Lenin. Speaker: Peter Smith. Thursday 27 June, 8.45pm, The Red Lion, Heath Road.

LAMBETH IS public meeting: Support the Nurses. Speakers: A nurse from King's College Hospital and John Bell (UCATT). Wednesday 3 July, 8pm, Lambeth Town Hall.

LONDON IS public meeting: The General Strike. Speaker: Harry Wicks. Sunday 30 June, 7pm. The Roebuck, 108a Tottenham Court Road. Organised by the IS History Group.

CHESTERFIELD IS public meeting: The Social Contract and the fight to come. Speaker: John Taylor, Thursday 27 June, 7.45pm, Room 8 Chesterfield Market Hall (entrance facing spire). All welcome.

SCARBOROUGH IS public meeting: Socialism in our time. Speaker: Paul Foot. Wednesday 3 July, 7.30pm. The Art Gallery, The Crescent, Scarborough. All welcome.

DAGENHAM and FORD'S IS branches: March and picket. Picket Barking magistrates court in defence of the four Ford workers arrested on 8 May during the AUEW strike. Assemble 9.15am on Monday 1 July at Barking Park, Longbridge Road for march to court. All London IS members urged to attend.

MID-HERTS IS public meeting: Is your job killing you? Speaker: Pat Kinnerly (author of The Hazards of Work and editor of SOGAT Journal). Wednesday 10 July, 7.30pm, Civic Defence Hall, Chequers Street car park, St Albans. All welcome.

SOCIALIST WORKER PUBLIC MEETING: Social Contract or socialism? Speaker: Tony Cliff (IS Executive) Thursday 18 July, 7.45pm, Wheatstone Hall, Brunswick Road, Gloucester. Organised by Gloucester and Cheltenham IS.

PARTINGTON & SALE IS Public meeting: Flixborough: Could it happen to Partington? Speaker: Pat Kinnerly. Tuesday 2 July, 7.30pm, Partington Community Centre.

TYNESIDE DISTRICT IS Public meeting: The world struggle for socialism. Speaker: Tony Cliff (IS Executive). Friday 5 July, 8pm, Bridge Hotel, Castle Square, Newcastle (end of High Level Bridge).

MANCHESTER DISTRICT IS ramble: Sunday 30 June. Train leaves Piccadilly for Chapel-en-le-Firth at 11.50. Return fare 49p, half-fare for children. Bring sandwiches, afternoon tea provided. Nothing too strenuous. Train back at Piccadilly 17.35.

SUPPORT THE NURSES' DEMONSTRATION. Saturday 29 June, Manor Park, Luton, 2.30pm. March to The Moor for public meeting at 3.30pm. National speakers from nurses unions and local Labour MPs. Organised by Luton Trades Council.

All regional and North London IS branches urged to attend. Assemble outside town hall at 1.30pm. Bring branch banners.

HARROW IS open meeting: Joan Smith on The Origins, History and Political Principles of the International Socialists, Roger Cox on the Present Strategy and Tactics of IS. Discussion to follow. Sunday 30 June, 3pm, 56 Salisbury Road, Harrow, Middx. Anyone requiring lifts ring 863 6299. Creche will be provided.

WEST YORKSHIRE DISTRICT IS AGGREGATE. Tony Cliff (IS Executive) on The Political Traditions of IS, and Building a Workers Leadership. Saturday 29 June, 1.30pm, Textile Hall, Westgate Bradford.

WEST YORKS IS SOCIAL. Saturday 29 June, 7pm onwards, Star Hotel, Westgate, Bradford. All welcome.

Meetings for IS members

IS GEC MEMBERS: Meeting with Industrial Organiser. Sunday 7 July, 2pm, Left Centre, Queen Victoria Road, Coventry.

TRAINING COMMITTEE. Meeting for all Training (education) organisers in Lancs, York, Northumberland and Durham to discuss the future of party training. Saturday 6 July, 11.30am, Leeds Trades Club, Saville Mount, Chapel Town Road, Leeds 7. All branches urged to send a delegate. Enquiries to John Charlton, Leeds 782851.

IS MIDDLE EAST GROUP: All IS members from the Middle East, those interested in the area and those in contact with Middle Eastern workers or political groups in Britain or abroad, please contact Phil Marfleet, IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (phone 01-802 6145).

IS DAY SCHOOL ON IRELAND: John Palmer on Republicanism, Jeff Bell on Orangeism, Mike Heym on Partition, Jimmy Grealy on the loyalist strike and the way forward, Neil Davies on the role of the army, Kevin O'Doherty on the Troops Out Movement. Saturday 6 July, 10.30am to 5.30pm, Room 101a London School of Economics (St Clements Building). Branches should send at least one delegate.

LONDON IS TEACHERS AGGREGATE: Friday 28 June, 5.45pm, Earl Russell pub, Pancras Road (near Kings Cross Station). All London IS teachers expected to attend.

IS notices

PART-TIME ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER: for SW circulation office. Five half days or three full days per week. Clerical experience necessary and typing an advantage. The job will require someone capable of dealing with SW organisers and districts.

SOCIALIST WORKER needs a writing journalist to start full-time at the beginning of September. Qualifications and experience as a journalist welcome but not essential. Lack of either should not deter applicants. Job will entail living in or within commuting distance of London. Apply in writing, giving qualifications and reasons why you want the job—and if you've written anything before send examples of your work. Applications by mid-July at the latest to Editorial Board, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2 9DS.

SOCIALIST WORKER URGENTLY REQUIRES a carpenter/handyman for approximately 4/5 weeks. Good rates of pay. Apply Jim Nichol, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2. 01-739 1870.

LEAFLETS AND POSTERS for IS Troops Out meetings: Master leaflet for reproduction by electro-stencil 25p, posters 50 for £1—with space left for branches to fill in their own details. From John Houston, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2. Speakers' lists available from 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2, and IS district organisers.

Nurses:

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Our fight on 8 July

'ITS THE MOST important day for nurses in all the history of our fight for better pay and conditions' says Pam Denard, chairman of the Nurses Co-ordinating Committee.

'Our whole campaign depends on the maximum organisation of trade unionists inside

and outside the hospitals between now and Monday week'.

Monday week, that's 8 July—the day chosen by the Nurses Co-ordinating Committee for a day of action throughout the trade union movement in support of their claim.

Monday week, that's the day you can do something for the nurses.

Organisation among nurses for 8

July is building up fast. In hospital after hospital, nurses are meeting collecting lists of factories and shop stewards and planning organised approaches to the local trade union movement.

At the CENTRAL MIDDLESEX Hospital in London, for instance, nurses have already organised a 8 July march with Brent Trades Council. In the same way,

Wandsworth Trades Council is supporting a march of nurses from Bolingbroke Hospital, South West London, where every nurse has joined a union.

In TEESSIDE, the North East Advisory Committee have already got pledges of support from workers at Eaton, Yale and Townsend and also from Bakelite workers. The Middlesborough AUEW (TASS) has

also agreed to support the nurses with a call for industrial action.

Meanwhile nurses strike action continues in the area. Last Saturday, Ingham Infirmary in South Shields, struck for two hours. This is the first general hospital to do so.

Ancillary workers in Darlington and Sunderland have agreed to back the total ban on private patients that was imposed. A letter has been sent to all other ancillary workers in the region to get them to do the same.

In MANCHESTER, last Monday a meeting of trade unionists set up a Defend the NHS Committee. More than 60 local trade unionists attended the meeting which had been called at short notice by the Manchester and District Nurses Action Group.

The meeting unconditionally supported the call of the National Nurses Co-ordinating Committee for the day of action.

Petitions, collection sheets, leaflets and posters were to be distributed. Dave Holdsworth from the Intex factory in Ashton emphasised that stewards had to approach local nurses and give their support.

Leaflets have been produced to help prepare for 8 July. The National Nurses Co-ordinating Committee has a leaflet for distribution in the hospitals.

It is obtainable from Andy Heson, 38 Canning Street, Liverpool 8, Lancs.



A mass meeting of strikers at Eston on Monday. PICTURES: John Sturrock (Report)

Great victory on the Tees

by John Whitfield

AUEW Construction Section,
Stockton branch committee

A MAGNIFICENT, outright victory for trade union rights has been won on the biggest construction site in Europe, the British Steel Corporation site at Redcar on Teesside.

After three weeks strike action which stopped almost every building site in the area, eight victimised trade unionists have been reinstated without conditions. The central demand of the strike has been met in full.

The men were sacked by two contractors—William Press and Howden Engineering—after going to a meeting to set up a site committee of all trades and organisations.

Strikes started at once—by members of the Engineering Union's Construction and Engineering Sections, of the Boilermakers' Society, of the Electricians and Plumbers, the Con-



Sacked steward 'Mush' Davison

struction Union. The Clay Lane Reline plant came out. So did my own plant at Whessoe Dock Point, Sim-Chem, BSC Ludgate Lane Laboratories, Flemings at ICI Wilton, Cleveland Bridge, six Redpath

Dorman Long sites, Rohm-Haas and other sites.

The issue is crucial, as the bosses realised. If the workers on this giant site can get a high negotiated rate for all trades, this will affect the militancy of workers throughout the area, which has been picked for massive expansion partly because of the traditionally low wages.

The new mill at Redcar will cost £1000 million. Apart from that, there is another £1000 million at stake in the form of a proposed oil tank farm at Seal Sands, a new oil refinery and a new ethylene cracker at ICI Wilton.

The bosses moved fast to stamp out any effective trade union organisation. That's what the dispute was all about.

The initiative, organisation and impetus in this dispute has all come from the rank and file, particularly in the AUEW Construction Section.

The chairman of the strike com-

mittee told me: 'The men were adamant that there should be no return to work until the eight are reinstated. We want an agreed rate for all contractors at the Redcar complex and for all the whole area as well. This can be achieved.'

'When we started to spread the strike after two weeks, the response was fantastic.'

One of the sacked shop stewards 'Mush' Davison, told me: 'This is the finest thing in this area for years. The area has lacked militancy in the past, now we are united like never before. All the men will be reinstated or we will spread this beyond Teesside.'

Blacklist

'I want to see all the contract shop stewards in the area meeting regularly. We must get an area rate for Teesside.'

'There is only one way to stop blacklisting. Stop the forms we have to fill in. The next thing they'll want is a blood-test.'

'From now on, as far as I'm concerned, men will come here for a job and if they don't get started no one else will.'

Many strikers have expressed dismay at the attitude of Billy Walker, the local full-time official of the AUEW Construction Section who walked out of a mass meeting which was discussing how to spread the strike, and at the national leadership of the union who have given us no support or backing.

It is essential that the rank and file shop stewards' movement which has grown up during the past three weeks continues and builds on this victory. We must establish an area rate for Teesside and an end to the blacklist for ever.

Steps have already been taken for regular shop stewards meetings to take place. Watch your Socialist Worker for details.

PS: I'm sorry some names and details have been left out but any fellow construction and engineering union man will know why I've done that!



AT ITS meeting on Friday, the Executive Committee of the International Socialists issued the following statement on the call by nurses for a national day of action on 8 July:

All IS Branches and members must treat this call as a priority. A massive response from the trade union movement on 8 July is vital if the nurses are to win their full demands. We expect all branches to approach local trade unionists and trade union organisations with a view to getting this response.

The opportunities this dispute offers to every IS branch to win nurses and other hospital workers to revolutionary socialism are tremendous. The Labour Party has been quite ready to shelve its commitments to these lower paid workers.

The so-called 'left-wing' trade union leadership of NUPE has swallowed Barbara Castle's promises and is refusing to back any further action. IS can now win many of those most active in the current dispute to the politics of independent working-class action.

Branches must aim to recruit hospital workers and nurses and where possible to establish new IS hospital branches.

H-bomb? So what, Wilson tells left

APPARENTLY not even the Cabinet knew in advance about the test in Nevada of a new British nuclear warhead. The blast, planned by the last Conservative government, was intended to be kept secret—in the interests of 'Labour Party unity'.

That is, Wilson didn't want 'the left' to know. Rarely has contempt for the party's rank and file, not to mention the public's right to know what new barbarism is being prepared in its name, been so clearly demonstrated.

The improvement of the Polaris missile-system is costing £100 million pounds. At present the defence budget is running at £3,600 million pounds a year. There is no limit, apparently, to the amounts which can be made available for the perfection of devices for maiming and killing—but not a penny, Barbara Castle tells us, which can be put on the table to give the nurses a living wage.

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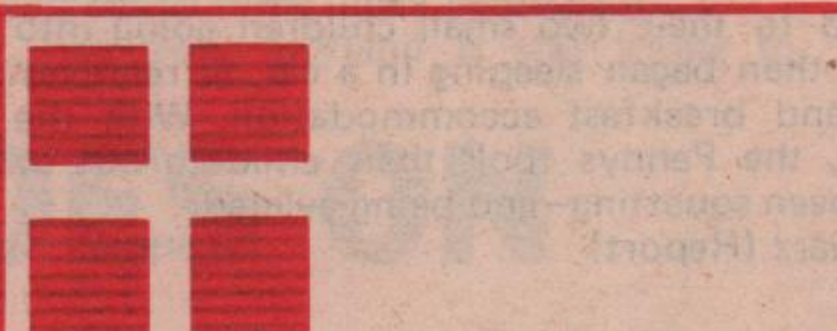
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