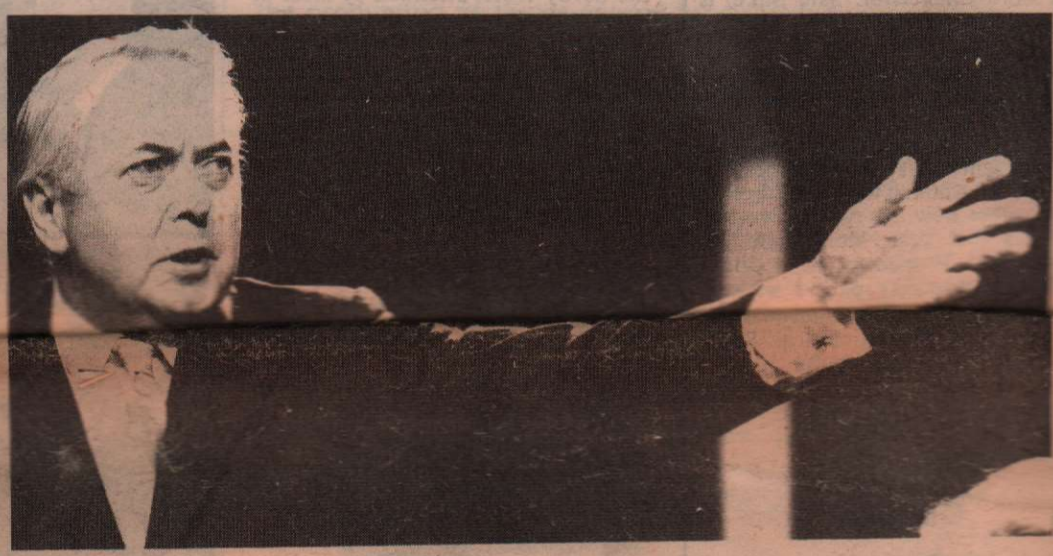
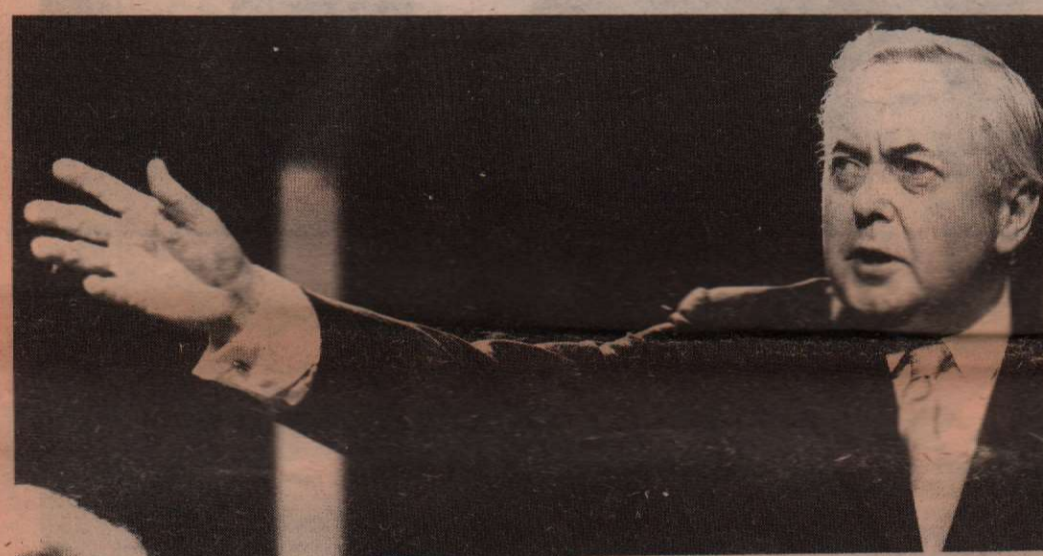


# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Coming soon: The biggest raid since the Great Train Robbery...

# THE WILSON WAGES SNATCH



'The central issue in the present election—and we will not allow Mr Heath to escape from it—is prices. More than anything else, he cheated our people on prices.'

'One man's price increase is the same man's wage cut. The bigger the price increase, the bigger the wage demand.'

'The first priority of the incoming Labour government must be to get prices under control.'

HAROLD WILSON, speaking at an election meeting in Kirkby, Lancashire, 15 February.

'For two years prices have been the key. We now face a further danger based on a simple proposition: one month's price increase is the next month's wage increase. When prices rise, then wages sooner or later will exercise a causal influence on our price structure . . .

'The Conservatives intended threshold payments as an insurance, not, as they have proved, a built-in twist in the wage-price spiral.'

HAROLD WILSON, speaking to the leaders of the Socialist International, 30 June.

THE official policy of the Labour Government is to cut your wages.

That's the message spelt out by Harold Wilson in his speech last Sunday. Only four months after climbing into office he has ditched his main election pledge: to control prices.

All his fine words defending trade unionists who used their industrial strength to 'protect their interests' have been thrown overboard. Instead

of the 'ruthless' price control Wilson promised last February, we are back with the same old Tory wage restraint. Even the threshold payments—the Tories' window dressing for their wage-cut policies—are attacked by Wilson as inflationary.

Harold Wilson has been through all this before. He was Prime Minister in a Labour government from 1964 to 1970—when the crisis of capitalism was much less serious than it is now.

Even then, his 'fair incomes policy' turned rapidly into a total wage freeze. Even then, his 'planned growth of incomes' turned into proposals for laws to shackle the trade unions.

Wilson is no naive idealist. He is a skilful operator who knows all about power in a capitalist society.

He knows that prices *cannot* be controlled in capitalist society unless the right of capitalists to control the price of the goods we produce is challenged. He has—and had—no intention of making such a challenge.

His promises at election time, his smooth talk at trade union conferences, are all part of a sales campaign to sell wage restraint to the workers.

### REMEDY

The words and techniques of the politicians may be different. But the result on wage packets is exactly the same. Whether the wages are stopped by Tory laws or by agreement of trade union leaders hoodwinked by talk of 'social contract', *their value still goes down.*

The remedy is the same too. As the crisis deepens, that remedy has to be applied with stronger purpose. Wilson's wage cuts will have to be fought with stronger organisation and stronger industrial action—stronger even than the action that booted out Heath and the Tories.

## Labour sends Vietnamese refugees to prison island

THERE are 118 extra prisoners rotting on South Vietnam's notorious Con Son prison island this month thanks to the British authorities in Hong Kong and the British Labour government.

The group, mainly men with some women and children, escaped from South Vietnam by junk. They were desperate to get away from America's war under General Thieu. They risked everything and sailed to Hong Kong where they thought they would receive sympathetic treatment.

But the British authorities and the Foreign Office in London were only concerned about one thing—staying

in sweet with dictator Thieu and his American employers. Amnesty International intervened on the behalf of the refugees, and tried to prevent them being extradited.

They approached the Foreign Office. But Jim Callaghan and his boys refused to do anything. So 118 South Vietnamese political refugees went back to South Vietnam, and to imprisonment in a vile concentration camp.

They have been back in Con Son for one month now—those who are still alive that is. You know Labour government works.

## POLICE MOVE AGAIN -WE NEED YOUR HELP

SOCIALIST WORKER Printers and Publishers had another visit from the police last Friday. This time it wasn't about the naming of the rich Messrs X and Y in the Janie Jones case.

Inspector Hawley of Scotland Yard interviewed Jim Nichol, the publisher of Socialist Worker, 'in connection with the publication of a poster and the Socialist Worker of 22 June.'

The poster and our front page lead in that issue stated that the police had murdered Kevin Gately on the demonstration in Red Lion Square. This, Inspector Hawley suggested, was a criminal libel. He then cautioned Jim Nichol—which indicates that the police investigation could well lead to charges against Socialist Worker.

The police have now finished their inquiries and passed the papers to the Director of Public Prosecutions. He and his department operate under the direct control of the government.

Criminal libel is an old weapon in the hands of those with authority, wealth and power. Last century it was one of the main ways of keeping radicals and reformers down and stifling any criticism and dissent.

That wasn't just theory either. The radical publisher Richard Carlile was jailed for stating in a letter that the

1819 Peterloo Massacre was murder. In 1820 the proprietor of the Manchester Observer got one year for calling the King's troops 'ruffians'.

Now the police are trying to get these kind of prosecutions revived.

They don't want an individual officer to bring a civil libel action. A criminal libel is much more difficult for us to defend. So it's a much better way of silencing those papers which look beyond the rhetoric of the men of law and order.

The only guarantee against such a development is your protest and your assistance. If you raise the matter in your union branch or district, your shop stewards committee, the government can be forced not to sanction such a prosecution.

Either way Socialist Worker needs money. We need it to conduct the best defence possible in the Janie Jones and criminal libel case.

Last week's response to our appeal was very fine. It took the form of CDSs, with contributions from many workers of the labour movement.

But we still need more. We have to ensure that the £2000 July target is burst sky high.

All contributions to Jim Nichol, IS National Treasurer, 8 Cartons, Gardens, London E2.

## Labour acts - to junk juries and justice

THE Labour government is preparing this week to introduce an Act which will legalise imprisonment without trial, abolish trial by jury, give the army and police unlimited powers of search and arrest and make defendants guilty until proven innocent.

It will be called the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act. It will renew the old Act of the same name, introduced by the Tories last year.

This despite the fact that when it was first introduced Labour, while not opposing it outright, objected strongly to many of the Act's provisions. Among those who spoke passionately against the abolition of trial-by-jury, for example, were Sam Silkin, Elwyn Jones and Stan Orme.

'This path... could lead to the destruction of the system of justice as we know it, not only in Northern Ireland but throughout the United Kingdom,' said Silkin. Silkin, Jones and Orme are now in the government. Orme, indeed, who like to be known as a 'left-winger', is Under-Secretary for Northern Ireland. Sir Elwyn Jones is Lord Chancellor. Sam Silkin is Attorney-General.

Yet there is every reason to believe that all three will now vote to give the Act a year's extra lease of life.

In a detailed memorandum being sent to MPs of all parties, the National Council for Civil Liberties describes how the Act has worked in its first year. More than 600 men and 30 women are in prison for an indefinite period without any trial at all. Those juryless trials which have taken place under the Act have been farcical. Statements incriminating the accused can be read—without the person who makes the accusation having to be produced for cross-examination.

### Control

A defendant applying for bail has to prove that, if released, he will not commit any crime. Those charged with having firearms or explosives must prove they had no knowledge of any guns or bombs found in their homes—or in a place they 'habitually frequent'.

British socialists would do well to consider the implications. In the past five years Northern Ireland has been used as a testing ground for techniques of crowd control, methods of interrogation and intelligence gathering, anti-riot gases and so on. It is now being used as a legal testing ground for laws to deal with dissidents.

Can anyone doubt that, as the economic crisis gathers towards a new climax, there are those in the political and military establishments who are observing closely how these laws work in Northern Ireland—with a view to perfecting them for possible use in Britain?

By voting for the renewal of the Act the Labour Party will be conceding the principle that trial by jury, the normally accepted rules of evidence and so on, need not apply to those accused of political crimes.

In pushing through this hateful Act Orme, Silkin, Jones and all will undoubtedly try to divert the Labour rank and file with much talk of 'terrorism'. That is not the point. The point is that the 'liberty of the subject', the 'rights of the individual—all those things which make British liberals glow with pride—are being destroyed, with the complicity of the leaders of the Labour Party.

Every Labour MP should be bombarded with protest and every trade union branch invited to take a stand—quickly.

**EAMONN McCANN**

# HEATH IN COURT LINE SCANDAL

ALL THE shipping interests of Court Line, the biggest holidays company, have been taken over by the government—except one company which, by strange coincidence, has as a director the closest friend and political confidante of Edward Heath, leader of the Opposition.

The company is A and P Appledore, a shipping consultancy company. One of the directors is Sir Tim Kitson, Tory MP for Richmond, Yorkshire, and Parliamentary Private Secretary to Heath during the Tory government. When Heath was evicted from Downing Street, he went to live in Tim Kitson's flat.

Kitson joined the board of A and P Appledore while he was serving Heath in Downing Street—in 1972.

A year later, he was at a lunch at the Savoy Hotel attended by most of the world's shipping millionaires. The purpose of the lunch was to sell the wares of A and P Appledore. The millionaires were most impressed by the guest of honour at the lunch—the Rt Hon Edward Heath, Prime Minister.

### EXCUSE

During the election campaign, Edward Heath flew around the country in Court Line jets.

A and P Appledore have made handsome profits by 'advising' on shipping on behalf of Court Line. The company was ripe for nationalisation under Tony Wedgwood Benn's proposals. But for some reason it has been left alone.

The company's formal excuse for this curious exception is that only 40 per cent of the consultancy company is owned by Court Line.

This is false. Another 20 per cent of the shares are held by Shipbuilding Services, a mysterious company which has on the board Sir Timothy

Kitson and seven other main board Court Line directors.

While the interests of Heath's friends are left well alone, Wedgwood Benn continues with his plan to spend £16 million on baling out the incompetent and greedy directors of Court Line.

In all the hullabaloo about this 'nationalisation', one sentence stands out from Benn's statement: 'Management will remain the same.'

The shipyards will be run as a 'commercial operation'—by capitalists for capitalists. They'll be a public corporation, not a private corporation. The workers will keep their jobs—but their wages, conditions and skills will still be subject to the arbitrary decisions of a handful of capitalists.



KITSON: Directorship



HEATH: Lunch at Savoy



Court Line managing director John Young (with bow tie and inane expression befitting a high flying businessman) and friends. Some would say this photograph was taken in happier times. It was 1972 and Young was celebrating the purchase of two Lockheed Tristar jets for the Court Line fleet. Now his outfit is on the rocks. But spare your tears. The Labour government has stepped in, bought up all the bankrupt bits and kept on the management. For John Young the champers is still flowing.

## It was the IMI, not the IRA

THE cutting on the right is from the Birmingham Evening Mail for 15 November last year. The report demonstrated to the careful reader that the explosion at IMI Witton was caused by saboteurs, almost certainly for political motives.

'Home Office experts were today inquiring into the possibility that the Witton explosion which killed six people and injured another 30 was the work of saboteurs...'

'Sir St John Elstob, chairman and managing director of Imperial Metal Industries Ltd, said that although there was no evidence to suggest sabotage, it must be considered a "possibility".'

'He added: "The explosion is so difficult to explain by any other

## Witton: sabotage probe by experts

The inquiry that followed found the 'saboteurs' were the management. Six men died as a result.

The report also quoted an IMI official who said: 'This process is used all over the world and it is in use by other manufacturers.'

The article ended with some dark hints: 'Although they may not figure as evidence in an official inquiry two

strange coincidences are being freely discussed by Kynoch employees today. The first is that the explosion happened at 11.27am, just as Princess Anne was arriving at Westminster Abbey for her wedding.

'The second is that at midnight on 16 September a bomb exploded outside a factory in Holdford Road, Witton, only a short way from the IMI works. So one of the questions local people are asking today is—was that bomb really intended for IMI?'

Six workers—four of them women—were killed in that explosion at IMI, so there had to be an inquest. Last week the inquest discovered that the explosion happened because of 'simple lack of care' by the management. They had allowed a man to use an electric drill within spark range of some highly explosive substances.

Criminal negligence, in other words. Criminal negligence which led to death. Naturally the Factory Inspectorate prosecuted. The magistrates found IMI guilty under an Act passed 99 years ago. The firm was fined the maximum possible—£10. That's £1.66 per dead worker.

## TWO SILKINS MILKIN'

JOHN SILKIN, member of the left-wing Tribune group and left-wing Minister of Town and Country Planning, is, according to a statement he put out on Sunday 'terribly proud'.

The reason for his pride is that a company of which he was a director, and of which his father—another left-wing Labour Minister of Town and Country Planning—was the driving spirit, had bought some land in Wales in 1960 for £25,650 and sold it over the next 13 years for £357,000.

The difference wasn't all profit. According to Silkin, the net profit after tax and development costs was £52,000.

'£52,000 in 13 years cannot be considered excessive,' said the smooth-tongued Silkin.

Silkin is elected to represent the interests of workers in South East London, most of whom do not earn half as much as Silkin's company got each year for nothing from one piece of property speculation.

Other directors of the Silkin property company, Wayfeggs—which may, for all we know, be up to a lot of other deals in South Wales—were Sam Silkin, who is in charge of law and order throughout the country as Attorney General, and several little Silkins whose ambition is to grow up like their dads and granddads and become left-wing Labour MPs and rich property speculators.

## MAO'S SOLIDARITY -WITH THE GENERALS

THE PEOPLE'S Republic of China, ever eager to pronounce its leadership in the glorious world struggle against various imperialist running dogs, lackeys and hyenas, is planning to increase its trade with... Chile.

It aims to show its solidarity with those workers spared from the Junta's slaughter by buying more of their goods, which are cheaper now they are produced at gunpoint. It seems Chairman Mao is already buying copper, nitrates, solid paraffin and other mineral products from the Junta and supplying it with soya beans, food products and capital goods. The Junta, which is also preparing a deal with Rumania, is said to be 'delighted'.

Also in line for Mao's favours is the military dictatorship in Brazil, another regime not noted for its pro-working class philosophy. An official Chinese trade delegation is to be sent to Brasilia, the capital, next month. The chances are that it will be rather more courteously treated than its predecessor in 1964.

Then, during the military coup, members of the mission were detained and tortured before being thrown out of the country.

## Swear — and you'll be arrested



by members of the Heathrow Airport IS branch

HEATHROW AIRPORT, London, has been surrounded this week by troops with armoured cars and sub-machine guns and by armed police. Airport workers on their way to work were pulled up at gun-point and had their cars searched. Because of this increased attention to security the Metropolitan Police have taken over the policing of the airport from the old-style British Airport Police.

The superb efficiency of the Metropolitan Police at preventing terrorist outrages was demonstrated recently when a worker from London Airport Central Area swore during an argument with a traffic warden.

He was put in handcuffs and dragged off to the local police station—swearing is prohibited under an airport bye-law.

Socialists are well aware that the successive occupations of the airport have much more to do with the future roll of the army and police in quelling 'civil disturbances' than with airport security.

However, many airport workers are apprehensive at the possibility of bombings and raids by guerrillas, and for the time being at least are unwilling to object to the presence of military and para-military security forces.

# Kissinger's 'peace in our time'

A GROUP of Barnsley glass workers wrote to Socialist Worker earlier this month. They criticised the International Socialists' support for the Palestinian guerrillas: 'We feel that the International Socialists should dissociate themselves entirely from these groups of murdering scum.'

Shortly afterwards the national press and television acclaimed a new triumph for peace in the Middle East. Nixon's wonder-boy Kissinger, they said, had done it again. Now the fighting could not stop.

But it has not stopped. Guerrilla raids continue, Israeli revenge is more brutal than ever. Why does Palestinian 'murder' continue? And why has Kissinger failed to make a peace?

Israel was created after the Second World War with the help and encouragement of the Western powers. It has been used as one of the ring of armed states which surround Russia, to keep the 'red threat' at bay. It has

by Phil Marfleet

also served as bully-boy against the Arab regimes, and as a bridgehead for US big business interests in Africa and Asia.

But Israel was not created in an empty desert. The Palestinians owned or were settled on 94 per cent of all the land that was stolen by Israel and made up more than two-thirds of the population. Today these figures are virtually reversed, with the Israelis in control. Israel is now a racist state like South Africa. Here it is the Palestinians who are victims of a kind of apartheid.

More than a million Palestinians were driven out of their homes by terror tactics and left to rot in refugee camps around the borders of Israel. The 'theory' which 'justified' this mass expulsion was called Zionism. It

proclaimed that Israel was a Jewish state, and that a Jewish majority must be preserved in Israel at any cost.

Zionism was supported to the hilt by the American government. By 1969 Israel had received more than a tenth of American aid to the underdeveloped countries. Yet Israel has a smaller population than Wales.

America still needs Israel, but now also needs the support of Arab governments. That's why Nixon has offered Egypt 2000 million dollars of American investment. Syria will get 100 million dollars—that's just for starters.

### Future

America will get the oil it desperately needs, and the chance to make more huge profits. And when Egypt reopens the Suez Canal America will know it has friends in control.

The Arab leaders cannot be trusted. They will continue the exploitation of Arab workers and crush resistance where necessary. The workers' only hope for the future is to struggle against these leaders, as well as against the Zionists.

But the biggest obstacle to progress is Israel. The Palestinians are alone in their struggle. They have no massive forces armed by rich friends, as the Zionists are by America. They feel forgotten and have now adopted the tactics of desperation.

These tactics cannot win back Palestine. What the Palestinians need is a mass movement with the organised power of workers and peasants. But at present they have few choices. They are dispersed, cruelly oppressed and almost powerless. The guerrilla raids bring publicity but also Israeli reprisal raids. We hear little of these, though more than 300 refugees were killed after the Maalot incident.

We cannot recommend terrorist tactics. But we must remember Palestine and the wretched life of its people. We must support their struggle and be prepared to explain why they come to be fighting in their own land.

Meanwhile Kissinger has made 'peace'. And Nixon, on holiday from Watergate, is feted in the streets of Cairo.

## STRIKES DOUBLE AFRICAN WAGES

THE new-found freedom of the workers in Portugal has now reached the working class of the Portuguese colonies. Both Mozambique and Angola have been paralysed by a wave of massive strikes.

In Mozambique, in East Africa, almost every industry has been stopped. Transport workers, 7000 dockers, newspaper workers, hotels and most factories have been out. At the giant Cabora Bassa dam, which is being built by international capitalism to provide power for South Africa, 2000 black workers went on strike demanding the removal of white racists from the site and sizeable wage increases.

Six white South Africans were immediately removed from management.

In the same area, the main coal mine at Moatize was halted by two strikes of miners demanding higher pay.

Almost all these strikes brought wage increases of 100 per cent and more.

A similar strike wave swept Angola, on the west coast of Africa. Dockers,

railway workers and seamen were joined on strike by bank clerks, hospital workers and airline staffs. The strikers link their wage demands with solidarity with the freedom fighters in both countries, who are still fighting Portuguese troops. The Trade Union Confederation in Angola recently expelled its secretary general on the grounds that he was collaborating with the former secret police and 'betraying the liberation movements.'

### EXTEND

The authorities are hoping to buy off the workers with wage awards and maintain their iron grip on the territories. Last week 600 miners returning to Mozambique from South African slave-mines tested out their new-found freedom by refusing to be searched by soldiers at the border. Seven were shot dead and six injured.

As in Portugal, the workers will need to extend their mass strikes if they are to remove the racist dictatorship which has governed them for so long.

# Socialist Worker

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WHAT WE THINK

## There is a way out

IS BRITAIN really broke? What will happen to people like us? Are we bankrupt? Is this the end of democracy? How much will we have to cut our standard of living? Will things ever be the same again?

Press and television hysteria rises to such a pitch that the real questions are not even heard.

Is there less wealth in this country (or any other) now than say, ten years ago? No, there is more wealth around. There are more factories, more machinery, more workers. More food can be produced in this country than ever before. Technology is more advanced.

If the decisions about what to do with all that wealth, about what to produce, when and where to produce it, were taken by the workers who produce the wealth, then it would grow faster and everyone would benefit from it. More and better machinery would mean fewer hours at work. Wasted resources could be saved.

But it doesn't happen like that. More and better machinery means sackings and a social security pittance for workers. Waste industries and armaments production are kept up while the production of things needed by every family in the land is cut.

When industry expands fast, as it did last year, there are not enough raw materials to feed the boom. Prices shoot up, investment stops, production is cut back.

Why? Because the decisions are taken by a small class which owns and controls the wealth. They make their decisions out of class interest.



Tuesday's Daily Mirror—meanwhile the Daily Telegraph announced the same day that a Bristol man left £258,000, a Sunderland man £185,000 and a Bournemouth woman £149,000.

They do not ask: 'Will this decision benefit the majority of the people?' They ask: 'Will this bring in more in dividends or interest for us? Will it extend OUR privilege, OUR wealth, OUR control?'

That's why we have more empty office blocks and fewer council houses, why the Concorde is not cancelled but food factories are cutting back on the production line, why the oil companies are allowed to keep illegal profits of £45 million and the nurses are refused wage increases costing £40 million, why the economy lurches from shorter booms to longer recessions.

The 'crisis' is not brought about by the rise in oil prices. The shortage of oil was foreseen by 'experts' long ago. If society was properly planned, we could have reduced our dependence on oil and at the same time developed a more prosperous, less polluted society.

But because the oil companies and their friends in the British Road Federation are the most powerful lobby in society, and because their only aim is short-term profit, society was forced to depend on the mass consumption of oil. Workers are expected to cut their standard of living when this lunatic policy reaches its lunatic conclusion.

Workers must not be fooled by the newspapers' and politicians' hysterical patriotism. The economic chaos is the responsibility of the class which holds economic and political power. It is the inevitable result of running society for profit.

This is not a time for us to make sacrifices so that the people who have got us into this mess can profit still more from it. It's a time for fighting. Not just fighting for more money on the threshold, more money in the wage packet to cope with the rises in prices. But fighting to get rid of the profiteers who run society.

The answer to all the Doomtalk is simple.

The bosses can't run the society without crisis, cut-backs, unemployment, violence and repression. The workers can.

# LETTERS

## How he keeps them down on the farm

SLAVES are usually thought of as people working for little or no reward, and few or no rights. Having worked for most of my life on the land, I've found that most farmworkers fall into this category. The reason is that employers use intimidation to control their employees.

The classic example is the case of the employees of Mr John Edwards. Mr Edwards, whom I had the experience of working for in 1972, owns a total of 12 farms (the smallest is 350 acres), a frozen food company and (in partnership with his wife's family) a bakery empire which includes the Mr Kipling cake company.

In view of this it will surprise you to know that Mr Edwards paid his workers £8.56 below the minimum agricultural wage set by the Agricultural Wage Board. Perhaps you will also be surprised that Mr Edwards expects his employees to do at least 70 hours a week work.

After reading the last few sentences I don't think you'll be astonished to learn that Mr Edwards won't employ members of a trade union, and threatens to sack and stop disobedient employees from getting a job in the district as well as the traditional eviction from the tied cottage.

Although the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers has fought against such slavery, it can't beat the tyranny experienced by employers like Edwards on its own.

So we have to organise in agriculture to beat the likes of Edwards and employers like him, and to give the workers the opportunity to join the fight for a fair and just society. After all, miners, factory workers, dockers etc have been organised to defend themselves, so there is no reason why farmworkers can't be organised into a strong force again.

Let's rekindle the spirit that led Wat Tyler to lead workers in the Peasants Revolt, the Tolpuddle Martyrs to stand up for themselves and Joseph Arch to form the NUAAW so that their struggle will not have been in vain; and that no agricultural worker will have to live in fear of employers like John Edwards. **PETE SHELLEY, Bamsley.**

## Warming up for next winter

IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS the question of fighting redundancies and how to conduct this fight is going to be raised continually. Already the employers are on the move.

Last Friday, only hours after reading the article (29 June) on British Leyland sackings, I was 'suspended' by management in my factory for 'intimidating' non-union labour.

I work for Huntfield Engineering Ltd, a firm that produces exhaust systems for British Leyland and other major motor companies. The managing director called a meeting and whilst in the process of explaining my suspension announced that a redundancy programme would be starting in October.

All union members walked out over my suspension and I expect to be back at work without any strings. But then the real fight starts.

What is intimidation? Me telling

some dirty scab to join the union or clear off—or the managing director telling the blokes they're about to be thrown on to the dole for the winter? Who's intimidating who? Why should workers have to suffer to cure the sick and miserable system that capitalism is?

We must take up the fight against redundancies now if we're to prevent dire hardship for hundreds of thousands of workers during the winter and demoralisation in the movement. There should be a series of articles in Socialist Worker on how to fight redundancies and emphasising the need for factory occupations. The occupation raises the

question of *who* really has the power and *who* is the real boss in the factory.

In the present economic and political situation defensive occupations to defend jobs have greater implications and pose greater opportunities for a real advance in the level of struggle than did the last series of 'right to work' actions around Upper Clyde, Fisher Bendix etc.

Then the bosses had room to manoeuvre, today they don't. We must use the paper to raise and debate the issues concerning the fight against redundancies and the importance of occupations. **-PAT QUINN, Manchester, M22.**

## Students: there are only 600,000

WE MUST protest about the very poor coverage given to student struggles. Quite a few events—like the 12 May victimisation demonstration—are just reported factually, with no political comment.

The fact was that this demonstration was politically a waste of time, based on the 'stage army' and protest politics of the Communist Party. It only served to wind down the campaign, not boost it.

Even more important is the scanty coverage given to the antifascist and anti-racist campaign in the National Union of Students.

The original motion, denying a platform to racists by any means 'possible', passed at the Easter NUS conference, was of the utmost political significance as far as revolutionary socialist students are concerned.

Yet the following actions by students at Oxford, Hatfield, Portsmouth, etc weren't even mentioned in the paper!

We feel that these events (covered in the usual distorted manner by the millionaire press) were of importance not just for students, but for the whole of the socialist



On the march. Student union president John Randall with Jack Collins of the Miners executive and Rusty Davis of Essex University at the NUS Essex University solidarity demonstration. PICTURE: Peter Harrap (Report)

and working class movement in its fight against racism and fascism.

There are 600,000 students in Britain. There are over 600 in the International Socialists. Students do play a role, if only a small one in the struggle for socialism.

## Schools: fight for comprehensives!

WE ARE MEMBERS of the London Schools Campaign representing parents from 100 London secondary schools who are fighting for a better education for all our children.

It is unfair to respond to the problems in our schools by defending selective schools which cater for only 12 per cent of our children while ignoring the schooling of the other 85 per cent in the state sector.

The cry to preserve standards should be for all our children and it is imperative that full time, qualified, stable and experienced teaching is available in every school.

Not until all our academic and motivated children and their parents are involved in the schools to which the vast majority of our children now go will we begin to find solutions to our problems.

Only by everybody working together, teachers, administrators, edu-

cators, councillors, parents, governors, managers and the children themselves can we secure the education best suited to the needs of each child and ultimately the community. **-SHEILA ROSENBERG (Chairman), MARINA ADAMS (Secretary), ROS CULLINAN (Information).**

## Schools: fight for comprehensives!

This role should be recognised in Socialist Worker and not dismissed or treated as irrelevant. Such an approach is 'workerism' in its crudest form, not revolutionary socialism. **-Portsmouth Polytechnic IS Society.**

## COAL? WAIT 6 MONTHS

MINERS ARE entitled, following the Pay Board enquiry into the wage claim, to concessionary coal as part of their wages. So why the delay in house coal deliveries in South Wales.

At Cwm Colliery we had the ridiculous position of a man not having a delivery of coal for six months. Persistent pressure by the lodge had no effect, then the Cwm NUM committee decided that the only way out was a stoppage.

Behold, within 24 hours all the men in the Pontypridd area had a ton of coal! We're still in the position that even within a half mile of the colliery a nine week delay is normal—which means that South Wales NUM members are nine weeks behind with their wages. **-ARTHUR DAVIES, NUM Cwm Colliery Lodge Committee, Pontypridd.**

## Palestine —advertised and then ignored

THE REMEMBER PALESTINE demonstration on 19 May was advertised in the paper, but not reported on. No mention was made of the bombing of the refugee camps in South Lebanon by the Israeli Zionists who in fact, murdered the teenagers (not children) at the Ma'alot settlement.

Dayan was called a murderer by the parents of the teenagers.

Our rally was held to commemorate 26 years of exile for one and a half million Palestinians driven from their homeland by European Zionist colonists. They live in refugee camps in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.

Our demonstration was attacked as we marched past Speakers Corner. Zionist racist thugs viciously attacked Palestinian students who carried the flag. An elderly British woman marching with us was savagely kicked by a Zionist thug who stated he would 'get her later.'

I am disappointed that no member of the International Socialists was on our rally. And how about an article on British involvement in the Arabian Gulf—Dhofar? **-SAMIRA El-Ibrahim, London, SW7.**

## Ireland

MOST OF the letters in Socialist Worker on the IRA completely miss the point. The central feature of the situation is the struggle between the Irish people and the forces of British Imperialism.

Because of this, it is important for socialists in Britain to emphasise which side they are on. The IRA are the oppressed, against the oppressor. The constantly negative criticisms of the IRA's violence can easily become an excuse for socialists not to face up to the strongly rooted anti-Irish sentiments in the working class.

These ideas are not a product of the IRA's methods so much as the history of British Imperialism which has successfully conned the British working class into supporting all its wars against people revolting in the colonies.

Further James Tait is wrong (29 June) in the paper to describe the IRA campaign as terrorist. That violence was based on the active support of large sections of the Catholic population.

Now if that is terrorist then so is every anti-imperialist war in living memory. Again, the Provos' campaign has been the only force which seriously challenged sectarianism in the Six Counties, in that it brought down Stormont and fractured the alliance between Orange workers and bosses.

Our criticisms of the Provisionals is that they have not got the socialist, class politics to take advantage of the situation. **-PADDY PRENDIVILLE, London N6.**

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# Postal Points

## Our banner's gone, -but we haven't...

BRADFORD TRADES COUNCIL have unanimously passed a resolution deploring the death of Kevin Gately at the London anti-fascist demo and supporting the National Union of Students' demand for an independent public enquiry.

A second motion, overwhelmingly carried, condemned the level of police violence at Red Lion Square and called on the Labour and trade union movement to mobilise against racialism and the fascist threat. The original proposal to call on the Home Secretary to impose a ban on fascist demonstrations was thrown out by only three votes in favour.

All the speeches showed a clear realisation that it is useless to rely on the capitalist state to fight fascism, and that only independent working class action can win.

The Trades Council has already suffered from the fascists. A few weeks ago the Council banner was being carried to an open air meeting following an anti-racialism march in the city centre when it was grabbed by 30 young yobs from the National Democratic Freedom Movement—a local fascist group who have left the National Front because they think it is too soft.

They tore the banner to shreds, pissed on it and tried to set it on fire. Needless to say, there weren't any boys in blue there to see this though they soon appeared when it looked as if some of the marchers were going to carry out rough justice on the attackers.

The significance of the banner with its slogan 'Labour Conquers ALL' obviously wasn't lost on these fascists. For over 80 years it has been carried at every major national or local demonstration of the labour movement, including the Jarrow march. Don't let's kid ourselves. The fascists aren't just against blacks, they're out to get the whole of the labour movement. And it is only the organised working class that can defeat them.—NANCY HALL, (Bradford Trades Council Executive)

## Marchers get thanks from jail cell

WHAT FOLLOWS is part of a letter from Cecil Sampson (see interview with his wife on Page 10) to a member of the North London International Socialists.

I WAS deeply moved by the demonstration for my release on 1 June. Unity as a class is most important.

I feel very bitter about the entire affair. I could have been a dead man in my own home because of persons who used their authority to express their racialism in a most animalistic manner.

In a country where Christianity is the religion they swore on that good book and lied their heads off. The lies were so obvious—they varied from one to the other.

Justice, in a system that's almost as corrupt as the USA, is to people of my origin like drinking a bottle of 100 per cent proof alcohol. It is the dream of the poor, but the reality of the rich.

All that I'm asking is that the A10 division of Scotland Yard investigate the corruption and criminal actions on my family on the afternoon of 7 July 1973. If they have nothing to hide they shouldn't be afraid to carry out such an investigation which would rid Tottenham of some unformed thugs and restore unbiased application of the law to all its citizens.

## Not 15 feet—five!

THE ARTICLE (22 June) on the tragic deaths of two building workers show clearly how firms neglect safety precautions for the sake of getting the job done quickly and keeping profits high.

I was interested in the District Factory Inspector's statement to the court that trench supports should be used at 15 feet deep at least. As a gravedigger I would say that supports are needed from four or five feet deep. Only by workers' pressure through the unions can we be sure that safety is kept up and that death caused by the bosses' neglect and greed is eliminated.—JIM SHEARING, Leicester.



A banner that's no more. Bradford trades council banner, destroyed by fascists.

## Some toddler power?

WE NURSERY nurses are deeply concerned at the appalling conditions of local authority day care for children under five.

Poor facilities and staff shortages, resulting from inadequate sums being set aside for this crucial time in a child's life, can have lasting detrimental effects on both the physical and mental development of toddlers.

The lack of good facilities could be simply righted. The staff shortage is more difficult to solve: long hours and abysmal pay are to blame. For example, after two years' training in child care a girl of 10 goes home about £13 for a 45-hour week, looking after perhaps 30 children.

Since nursery nurses are widely scattered throughout the country, it is difficult for us to unite into the sort of pressure group which can influence the government. Nevertheless, while supporting the case for pay increases for nurses and teachers, we would like our own small, but urgent, cry for help to be heard. The children we look after belong to social workers, nurses and teachers. What would happen if we went on strike for better conditions.—CHERYL RICH, London N10.

In the final analysis I had no illusions as to the outcome of the trial. I had exposed the real criminals for what they were. This is a gross effrontery in a system where one is expected to be another congenital idiot of foreign origin.

It seems to be another way of implementing the Immigration Act. No identity cards—but a whole lot of fraudulent apprehension and all its by-products. There are some, who, for their own personal and material interests, seek to create a division and to separate us from the rest of

the community. While they pretend to be friends and guardians to both groups of people.

I want to thank all those in the community for the support they've given my family. Let them know I will not give up my struggle, even from wit in these four walls, until the truth is established, and those contemplating promotion for the 'great cover-up' are brought before the court where they must answer for their crimes.—CECIL SAMPSON, Wormwood Scrubs Prison, London W12.

## STRIKE WHILE THE ALUMINIUM IS HOT?

WE ARE workers in a Swedish company called Granges-Aluminium. This company has a factory in Sundsvall in which aluminium is produced in an electrolysis process.

Some months ago the managing director was in England studying aluminium industries there. Some of the English managing directors had told him that they thought it was good having aluminium factories in Sweden because of the calm working-class here. This makes us suppose

the English bosses have had problems with strikes or something like that.

We would be very happy if you could help us find out if there have been strikes in English aluminium factories, in which way these strikes were organised and how the management managed the 12 hours without operators. After that the pots will get destroyed and it will cost a lot of repairing them, even so much that the factory cannot start again. We don't believe in this.

If the workers in Granges-Aluminium strike to get better pay or something like that, we are sure the management of the factory is going to use the argument that the workers destroy the factory and lose their jobs if they don't go back working again.

That's the reason why we are interested in how they manage similar factories in England.—Some workers in Granges-Aluminium belonging to the revolutionary organisation Forbundet Kommunist.

## THE ANTI-NATIONAL FRONT DEMONSTRATION THE KEVIN GATELY DEMONSTRATION, AND THE FASCISTS...

I WAS THERE... It has been suggested the International Socialists should be brought to task for printing the poster accusing the police of Kevin Gately's murder. I was at Red Lion Square. What I saw was a premeditated and obviously pre-planned attack, by the police... As such, since someone died, it was murder. On the March of 22 June to Hyde Park, I was amazed to see the disciplined way the IS contingent behaved. The wide gaps between each row would have made it unhealthy for the police to behave like they did at Red Lion Square. Once again let me congratulate the members of IS for their discipline.—P H CLARKE, Member UCATT BG 260 Branch.

WE EXPLAINED WHY LAST WEEK... We protest strongly at the carrying of placards by International Socialist comrades at the 22 June demonstration against Kevin Gately's death... We agree with calling for the disbandment of the police Special Patrol Group but this could have been done in other ways. Through the paper, leaflets or on the 13 July counter demonstration against the National Front... In the face of a growing fascist movement there is an urgent need for left-wing solidarity and an end to sectarianism. The march was intended as a silent demonstration... The bad publicity given to IS by the mass media will help enemies and disillusion friends.—PAM SHAW, MARK PERKINS, Brighton.

WE WERE DISGUSTED by the decision of the IS contingent to carry banners... the revolutionary left as a whole could only be harmed by this. Whether or not the decision not to carry banners was correct is immaterial, once made it should have been adhered to by all participants. We should however add that the most shameful observation of the past 10 days was the pitifully small Communist Party contingent on the 15 June who were content to hold a meeting while everyone else was being run off the street. Thanks for your paper which remains consistently the best of the weeklies.—KEITH HACKETT, IAN FORD, Manchester University Libertarians.

CLEAR THE CONFUSION... An encouraging IS turnout for the 22 June demonstration, solid and well disciplined... But let us not forget that ignorance and confusion abound. While the police cover their tracks from the Gately outrage the press in the main discredit us by petty criticism and misleading information. We should stamp out these attempts to make IS the bogymen and scape-goats for the misdeeds of others. Let us have a wider publication of our political aims and attitudes to such things as strikes, demonstrations together with demanding a proper enquiry into the reasons for Kevin Gately's death.—GARY BATES, Loughborough.

NOT ENOUGH IN THE FIRST PLACE... We were appalled at the lack of support the IS gave the anti-fascist march on 15 June, where Kevin Gately was killed... The police were able to wipe the floor with the left-wingers... You seem capable of attracting large followings to rallies condemning fascism in other countries, but when it comes to fighting fascism in this country your enthusiasm to get your members out on the streets to fight was on this occasion conspicuously absent.—KEN NORRISH, K GOLDSWORTHY, MARTIN PAGE, SUSAN PANTER, London NW1.

WHAT THE POLICE ARE... What's absent from the paper is any attempt to explain why the police acted like they did... They were acting as an instrument of state power. The state is an agent of repression for the ruling class—particularly as capitalism enters crisis. That's why the police attacked. The murder of Kevin Gately wasn't an isolated mistake but the beginning of violence against anyone de-

monstrating against a system kept going by violent means... The working class must be mobilised on a mass basis led by a highly organised revolutionary socialist party.—D RITCHARDSON, T RICHARDS, M PEARSON, J WILLIAMS, Cardiff.

UNPLEASANT SIGHTS OF LONDON... I recently worked in London and was surprised how well the National Front was organised there... All left parties and groups should join in a campaign devoted solely to their destruction, by distributing 10 leaflets to their one, holding larger marches, breaking up all their meetings and exposing them for the excrement they are.—B BRYANT, Lowestoft.

WRONG?... It's wrong for IS not to support the demand on the Labour government to ban the 13 July National Front/Orange Order march. Fascism's growth can't be separated from the capitalist crisis and Labour reformism's bankruptcy. To refuse to engage Labour politically is to abandon revolutionary politics for radical phrase-mongering. We must say to Labour: 'Fascism is a cancer on the labour movement you claim to lead. If you claim to fight for our interests then ban this march! We for our part will organise to enforce a ban whether you co-operate or not.—C WHITSTON, Manchester.

'TOLERATION'... We are asked to 'tolerate' the fascists and racists in uniform and the killing of people objecting to them. Yet we're expected to stand by while people are prosecuted for showing solidarity for fallen friends. How long are the people of the world going to stand for this? In struggle has learnt—the hard way.—FRANK LOGAN, Manchester.

## MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE...

BAD CIRCULATION? TRY... Small circulation magazines like Oz and non-sexist gay papers have been hit by recent increases in printing and distribution costs, some closing... I'm collecting information on these papers with circulations of 10,000-15,000 and how they will survive. What are the distribution problems? Have they failed or succeeded? When the problem is understood we can work out a solution for ourselves, a more effective means of distribution is essential to save the smaller papers. Any information may help.—JOHN GUY, 58 Cross Rd, Bushey, Watford, Herts.

FALLING RATE OF PROPHECY (Part One)... There is a mistake in the article Profits of Doom (15 June) by Duncan Hallas. He writes of the 'rapid population growth' of India and China. This is completely false. The population growth of China since 1960 has been fantastically low ie 700,000,000 then compared to 750,000,000 now. One of the reasons is they marry old in China.—JOHN BIRKS, Hillingdon.

AND PART TWO... While I agree that the root cause of the world's present problems is political it is blatant mis- leading to suggest that we should sit back and forget the ecological disasters that exist. The capitalist governments refuse to deal with this question realising that any move to solve the problem will result in the inevitable slowing down or complete demise of their 'be all and end all'... GROWTH. Far from sweeping it under the carpet as Duncan Hallas suggests we socialists should pursue the fight for the changes that must take place if we are to survive. Changes that can only be achieved by revolution and international socialism.—K J PRINGLE, London EC4.

THANKS A MILLION... Your support for the IRA is just as bloody silly as is your vendetta against the Scottish National Party, the Communist Party and Jim Reid.—JM, Laing, Scotland.

## TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM



'THE modern state, whatever its form, is an essentially capitalist machine; it is the state of the capitalists, the ideal collective body of all capitalists.'

'The more productive forces it takes over, the more it becomes the real collective body of all the capitalists, the more citizens it exploits. The workers remain wage-earners, proletarians.'

That is Frederick Engels, writing about nationalisation. You might think from this passage that he was opposed to it. As a matter of fact he was not, at any rate as a general rule. But he was concerned to attack what he called 'a certain spurious socialism' which argued that state ownership equalled socialism.

And still does. The Labour Party, for example, always argued in this way until it stopped talking about socialism, altogether. Most of the Labour 'left-wingers' still think in these terms. For them, the nationalisation of industry by Acts of parliament is the road to socialism. When all key industries are nationalised, they believe, then you have socialism.

Why was this rejected by Marx and Engels? For two reasons, the first the nature of capitalism, the second the nature of the state.

Take the second one first. The 'official' view of the state, the one taught in schools and colleges and plugged by press and TV, is that it is 'neutral'. Civil servants, policemen and soldiers are 'outside politics'. They do whatever the government tells them to do.

The state machine is like a motor car. It can be turned to the left or the right, just as the driver pleases. The driver is the government which 'represents the people.'

Now this is clearly wrong. The 'people' are divided into classes which have opposing interests.

### Pretence

A government can no more 'represent' them all than ex-Alderman Andrew Cunningham could 'represent' the airport workers in his union in negotiations with the airport authority of which he was chairman. He pretended to, of course, just as governments pretend to. But it is, and can be, nothing more than a pretence.

All right, say the more sophisticated defenders of the system, it is true that there are conflicts of interest. But the government stands above them. Its job is to strike a balance between the various 'sectional' interests and to take into account the 'national interest' which is common to everyone.

This will not do either. Even leaving aside the silly assumption that the men who make up governments are somehow above the struggle, in other words, outside society, any government operates a system of laws and institutions. These reflect and uphold a particular kind of society.

In Britain today these laws and institutions uphold the right of the rich to live off the labour of others, and to live very well off it. They uphold the right of the employers to hire and fire. They uphold the right of a handful of millionaires to con-

## The bosses' state

trol the press. In short they uphold the requirements of capitalist society.

A 'left-wing' government, no less than a Tory one, has either to operate within this framework, in other words to defend capitalism, or to attempt to sweep it away.

Suppose, for the sake of argument, that a 'Left' Labour government came to power with the serious intention of destroying the power and privileges of the rich and establishing a new society based on equality and production for social need.

### Obvious

Would the 'motor car', the senior civil servants, the generals, the police commissioners and so on, obediently 'turn left' and carry out the orders of such a government? There may be some innocent people who think so. There are certainly a lot of hypocritical people who pretend to think so.

But this is to ignore the obvious. The top civil servants, the senior officers of the forces, the judges, the police chief are part of the privileged classes. They enjoy high salaries and big pensions.

Their friends and relations sit on the boards of banks, insurance companies, engineering firms and so on. Some of them can hope to do the same when they leave the state service.

They have a vital personal interest in the capitalist system. They can no more stand 'outside politics' than a man can jump over his own head.

We know from a wealth of experience how the professional defenders of law and order behave towards a government which they believe to threaten their fundamental interests. First sabotage and threats. If these fail, then armed rebellion.

Chile is only one of a long line of such experiences. The marxist view that the modern state is 'the state of the capitalists' has been proved in practice again and again.

Duncan Hallas

# FREEDOM FOR GRIGORENKO

PETER GRIGORENKO, the Russian revolutionary socialist and dissident, was freed last week after more than five years in a mental hospital.

Grigorenko, aged 67, was dismissed from the army in 1964 for campaigning for the rights of dispossessed nations such as the Crimean Tartars. Millions of people were shipped from their homelands to Siberia in the 1930s. Officially they have 'disappeared' but they are still fighting to be returned.

In 1968 Grigorenko protested against the invasion of Czechoslovakia by Russian troops. For this he was declared insane.

At first he was imprisoned in a special 'hospital', at Chernakhovsk, near the Baltic, run by the KGB. Last year he was moved to a real hospital but was kept in a ward with 50 genuinely ill mental patients.

Surprisingly, he appears well but tired after his ordeal. His release is being explained as a gesture to Nixon on his visit to Moscow. But this is not the real reason.

Grigorenko is a revolutionary. He

stands for the re-establishment of genuine workers' democracy and the overthrow of the Russian bureaucrats. Nixon has about as much concern for his health as he has about the Vietnamese workers and peasants. Grigorenko was released because of the world-wide campaign waged by socialists on his behalf and the constant efforts of other Russian oppositionists. His case became too embarrassing to a regime that likes to pose as 'progressive' and 'socialist'.

His release will give confidence to the dissident movement. It is a small but real step towards spreading genuine socialist and marxist ideas in the Russian working class.

The task now is to keep up the pressure to release all the political prisoners. Many are still locked away, including some 'young socialists' arrested with Grigorenko. As Grigorenko said last week: 'Just because you can get out, it does not mean you cannot get in again.'

Arnie Prout



Grigorenko: Five years in a mental hospital for being a socialist

# Want to hoodwink your workers?

MOST employers know that the best way to keep good 'industrial relations'—good from their point of view that is, keeping up production and profits—is by a bit of subtle trickery. Hoodwink the workers into thinking their interests and yours run parallel, trick them into believing that what's good for the capitalist is good for the wage slave.

If any employer runs short of ideas on how to do this—unlikely though that may seem—he should take a leaf out of the book of past and present directors of Joseph Lucas, the electrical combine. They know it all.

In fairness to the rest of their class, the rulers of Lucas should publish their plans. A good title would be 'Political Instability—and How to create it'. Here is a short description of their methods.

Let's take joint committees of employers' and workers' representative—to me, the most important point. From the company's point of view their purpose is to indoctrinate in Lucas ways, the workers representatives. When shop stewards sit around a table and discuss comparatively unimportant issues they can become—if they don't watch it—little more than company spokesmen, their real purpose nullified.

by a Lucas toolmaker

Unfortunately we've got to struggle against the short-sightedness of some union officials to bring some organisation and political consciousness among workers so they can see ahead the way to socialism.

But the Lucas workers' Share Bank, the Suggestion Scheme, sports days, the company magazine, sports sections and interdepartmental competition all combine to keep workers divided. Cliques are formed and petty jealousies created, leaving the firm to sit back and enjoy the more obvious benefits of suggestion schemes and such like.

Obviously the leisure facilities are there to be taken advantage of, but the workers must be careful not to end up spending more and more time on company property, becoming more and more dependent, until he

## TAKE A LESSON FROM JOSEPH LUCAS

himself becomes company property, his loyalty bought.

Maybe I am too cynical, perhaps even in danger of becoming bitter, but I have tried to point out why employers go in for these things.

The name of the game is indoctrination and the great ulterior motive is profit. For them, not us. Against this manufactured atmosphere to political ignorance socialists who work at Lucas and other big companies must unite in order to achieve anything worth while.

### Encourage

For on their backcloth of confusion and diversion the men from the boardroom can paint a most effective picture of anything they choose. They can sow on this landscape of apathy and misplaced loyalty, their seeds of reaction. Put out a few rumours of bankruptcy before you want to make big redundancies and union negotiating committees too readily accept company excuses.

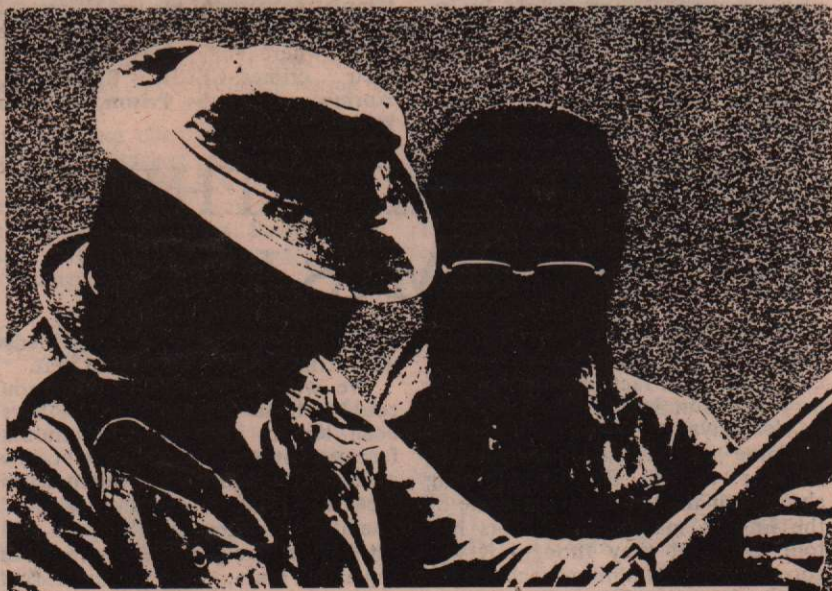
The only way to fight, and defeat this monopoly of thought, the one way to encourage more political awareness, is by constant discussion and argument. On the shop floor, in the canteen, in the pub and through the pages of a regular and genuine workers' paper.

Perhaps the attitude of employers of the Lucas type is best summed up by a short verse about the 'Lucas Festival of Arts', their latest scheme. It is a grandiose carnival of culture at Birmingham Rep Theatre and has been advertised in Lucas factories almost to saturation point. The verse is taken from one of the posters produced by the company's propaganda department.

Overture and beginners please!  
No time remains to plan.

What ere is said or shown this week  
Reveals the LUCAS MAN.

The capital letters are theirs, not mine, and to me at least it does reveal all.



## INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM Mid-June issue on Ireland

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IS Journal, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

Last year Lucas made £26 million profit before tax, an increase of £5 million on the year before. They gave £12,000 to the Tory Party and their directors took a 20 per cent pay rise. Meanwhile, they sacked more than 1000 workers by closing their C&V factory at Fazackerley, Liverpool.

SO  
SO HANDS  
SC  
S ACROSS  
S THE SEA

IN THE SUMMER of 1920 the workers of Britain, led by the London dockers, stopped a war. They used their industrial strength to stop their Government's war against revolutionary Russia.

The Russian revolution of 1917 was greeted with rejoicing by socialist workers throughout Europe, including Britain. These workers watched in dismay as Russia was attacked on all sides by armies led by the generals of the old Tsarist Russian army, and supported to the hilt by the capitalist regimes in Europe.

Gradually, under the inspired leadership of Leon Trotsky, the Red Army beat off the attackers. Early in 1920, the Red Army advanced into Poland, calling on the workers of Poland and Germany to overthrow their governments.

On 28 April 1920, the Polish Marshal Pilsudski gathered around him an army of Polish 'patriots' and counter-attacked. The Red Army was thrown back.

In Britain, the Ministers of the Liberal-Tory Government, while they could not contain their pleasure at Pilsudski's victory, pretended that they were not intervening in the war.

The socialists among the London dockers knew these Ministers were lying. For several months, the Hands Off Russia movement had been gaining ground in London's East End. Hundreds of thousands of Lenin's pamphlet—Appeal to the Toiling Masses—had been illegally distributed among dockers and other workers in the East End.

Attached to the pamphlet were appeals to the workers not to handle munitions for the anti-Soviet war effort.

# Two fingers up to Churchill

On 10 May, the dockers in the East India dock were preparing to load one of the steamers on the Walford line, the SS Jolly George. Down came the cargo—all of it labelled 'OHMS Munitions for Poland'.

(That very day, Bonar Law, a Tory Minister, was denying in the House of Commons that there 'was the slightest British involvement in the Polish war'.)

## Shaken

The dockers held a meeting. Almost without a vote against, they voted not to work, and to send a deputation to the Transport and General Workers' Union to seek official support. The deputation came back with promises of support for all strike action on munition ships carrying arms for use against Russia.

The Jolly George never sailed with its cargo. The Government's policy was shaken

to its foundations.

In a top-secret conversation with the Tsarist General Golovin, the British War Minister—Winston Churchill—said: 'It has been exceedingly difficult to get the military support which has been requested for General Kolchak (another Tsarist Russian general) because of the opposition of the British working class to any armed intervention.'

Still, however, the Government persisted with their policy. As the Red Army recovered their strength and beat Pilsudski's army back to the gates of Warsaw, the British Government became hysterical.

Lord Curzon, the British Foreign Secretary, warned the Russian Government that Britain would go to war on the side of the Poles if Russia did not withdraw.

He got an answer five days later—from the workers of Britain. On 12 August 1920, more than 1000 delegates met in Central Hall,

Westminster. Called by the Trade Union Congress and the Labour Party, the meeting was probably the most representative ever in the British working class movement. The conference passed a resolution stating: 'The whole industrial power of the organised workers will be used to defeat this war.'

The returning delegates set up councils of action against the war all over the country. More than 350 were set up, and they set to work to agitate in workplaces against the war.

The Government's policy collapsed. No more arms were sent to Poland. The Russian revolution survived.

The violent and reactionary rampage which Churchill, Curzon and Lloyd George had hoped for was stopped—because dockers and other workers in Britain understood the importance of international class solidarity, and used their industrial strength to demonstrate it.

## An eye for the Mahon chance

I'M GLAD to hear that Mr R K Jones, former chairman of Bootle, Lancs, planning committee, is back in public life after the long illness caused, apparently, by an article I wrote some time back pointing out his connections with Wimpey's, the builders.

I am sorry to hear, though, that a resolution from Sefton Ward to the Bootle Labour Party's general management committee was not taken at the GMC's last meeting 'because of lack of time'.

The resolution called for local MP Simon Mahon to 'speak up in Parliament' in protest against British companies which invested in Fascist countries, particularly in Spain.

## Visits

The resolution was not reached, partly at least because of the long-winded interventions on other matters from Joseph Barton, JP, KSC (Knights of St Colomba, a secret Roman Catholic organisation, membership of which is almost mandatory for senior members of the Bootle Labour Party).

Mr Barton is Mr Mahon's election agent, and is also personnel manager for Furness Withy, the shipping company, in which capacity he makes frequent business visits to Spain.

But it's not just Mr Barton whose



## A will of his own

I SEE the doctors are jumping on the nurses' bandwagon and demanding more pay. The British Medical Association, which pretends to be the doctors' trade union, is almost entirely controlled by senior consultants and other dignitaries.

I saw in last Saturday's papers just how badly these gentlemen do for life. Professor J Morley, late professor emeritus of surgery at Manchester University and consultant at Manchester Royal Infirmary, left £263,675 in his will.

I remember standing on a picket line outside the Manchester Royal Infirmary last year during the ancillary workers' dispute.

The cleaning women on the picket line would have had to work for about 300 years before they had earned as much as the Professor left to his family.

Still, at least the Professor had to pay about 40 per cent of his vast fortune in estate duty. He obviously hadn't studied the tax laws as carefully as another gentleman whose will was published on the same day.

Mr W J Cale, described as 'an estate agent and auctioneer' from Pinley Green, Warwickshire, left £296,884 but managed to pay less than a fifth of it in duty—£59,259.



interest in Spain extends beyond the Costa Brava. The Bootle Times for 13 December last has, on page three, a picture of Mr Mahon and some directors of the big Bootle building company of Norwest, Holst (profits last year £1.5m, the year before £720,000).

Mr Mahon had kindly arranged a magnificent lunch at the House of

Commons for six directors of Norwest (and their wives). Mr Hugh Delargy, Labour MP for Thurrock and once a firebrand on the Left of the Party, also attended the dinner and even gave an introductory speech in French.

On another page of the Bootle Times is an item about Norwest's latest overseas business venture—in Spain.

A senior director of Norwest Espanola, a Mr A F Thomson, had been appointed following the decision of the company to set up an office in the Spanish steel town, Oviedo, and to embark almost at once on a highly profitable office-and-shop development.

## Worried

I understand that Norwest has bought about 14,000 acres of development land in Spain and plans to make enormous profits out of them—and that Mr Simon Mahon, is not at all worried at the prospect.

THE INFLUENCE of Norwest in the Merseyside area cannot be understated. It spreads even as high as the Prime Minister, who, let it not be forgotten, is the MP for Huyton.

When Mr Wilson opened the Kirkby Sports Centre on 29 March, he went off in the evening to a plush dinner in the Holiday Inn, Liverpool.

Present were all the members of Kirkby Urban District Council, which was being dissolved under local government re-organisation. The Kirkby UDC had granted the £300,000 contract for the Sports Centre to the North West Construction Company (a subsidiary of Norwest), and two directors and a site agent of the company were the only people at the dinner who were not members of the Labour Party.

Indeed the whole idea of the dinner was Norwest's. They thought it a fine way of saying goodbye and thankyou to the Council (and, of course, to express their respect to the Prime Minister).

So they contacted the deputy town clerk, David Love, who duly booked the dinner in the name of Norwest. In the end, however, the council paid several hundred pounds for the dinner, which the Norwest directors enjoyed very much indeed.

FINALLY, I understand an interest-

ing circular has been sent to all members of the Sefton District Council which includes Bootle. It is from a group of public-spirited farmers near Crosby who are pleading for planning permission for development on the land.

They want to build a lot of things which, they explain, are 'needed in the area'—like surgeries and health centres and youth centres and houses and, oh by the way, offices.

## Director

Their interest, they explain, is entirely to help the community. Commercial considerations could not be further from their mind.

The last-named signatory is that of Brian Labone, former Everton and England centre half, who is now a director of J and B Labone Ltd.

J and B Labone Ltd is a subsidiary of Norwest.

## Quote of the week

'THE BEAUTY of the hollow-nosed bullet is that they flatten out in the body and have a greater knock-down power, whereas conventional bullets often go through a body.'

Mr Cleveland Sussenich, state police commissioner in Connecticut, USA, announcing the decision of his force to equip themselves with dum dum bullets, which are banned by the Geneva Convention against use in warfare.



Brian Labone: the former international soccer star with a new goal—profit

# Us poor folks haven't

KENTUCKY'S main gift to Britain so far is Colonel Saunder's finger lickin' chicken. But down in Harlan County, a mountainous area rich in coal, there's another kind of cooking going on:

*'Take a scab and kill it,  
And put it in the skillet  
Fry it up golden brown,  
That's union cooking and it's mighty fine.*

For 11 months 180 miners and their families have been on strike over the right to organise in the union of their choice, the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA); Brookside, the centre of the strike, is a small mine in a part of the American South where horses still drag ploughs scratching across dry fields, chickens picking the dust and the jukebox plays sold, sad country music.

It's also a part of the world where votes can still be bought for a five-dollar bill, where the bootleggers have bigger houses than the preachers and where blacks keep themselves to themselves.

But it's here at Brookside that members of a union which has only just begun to untangle itself from 20 years of rusting and twisting of its democracy, face up to Duke Power, a giant North Carolina-based electricity supply corporation, the sixth biggest public utility in America, declaring this year profits of £26 million.

It's a battle with a history. For generations companies like Duke have come into the Kentucky mountains looking for wealth. They have taken the mountain people's coal and timber, their health and sometimes their lives too.

Those who owned the coal have controlled the police, the legal system and the schools.

## Fight

They are passionately anti-union and don't care a damn if miners go home battered and broken. For them mining is non-union or not at all. And when they fight the unions they do not use the velvet glove or the aristocratic embrace.

In the 1930s the wife of a union organiser wrote a famous song on the back of a calendar when the sheriff, J H Blair, ransacked her home. It's called 'Which side are you on?'

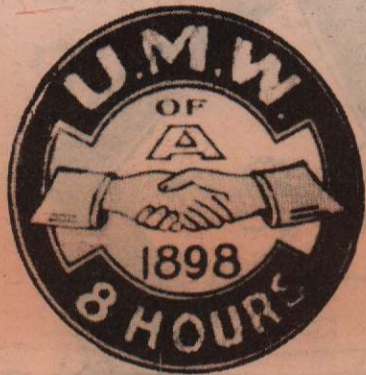
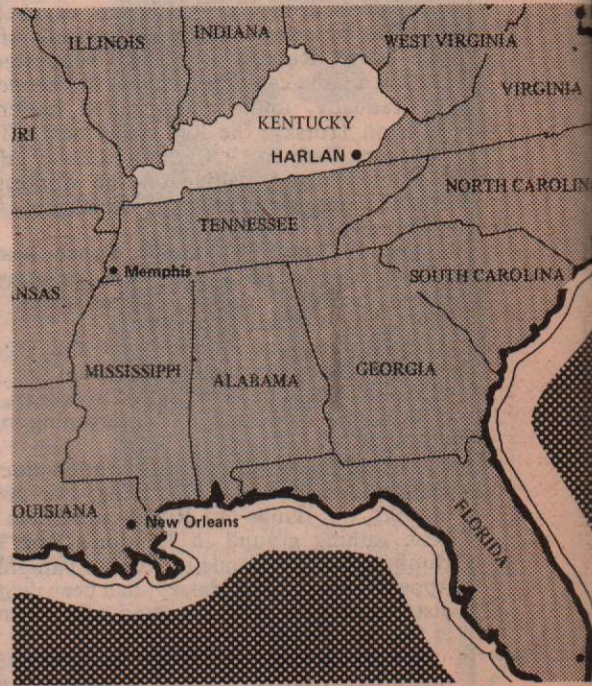
*'They say in Harlan County  
There are no neutrals here;  
You'll either be a bosses' man  
Or a thug with J H Blair.  
Don't scab for the bosses.  
Don't listen to their lies.  
Us poor folks haven't got a chance  
Unless we organise.'*

(Which side are you on', Florence Rees)

Today the UMWA bumper stickers simply carry the question, 'Which side are you on?'

# a chance, Unless we organise...

From DAVE WIDGERY in Harlan, Kentucky



THE STRIKE is not about a wage increase. The contract put forward by the UMWA is more straightforward. It is about power, about the miners having some control of their union, their work and their lives.

Above all the strikers want a decent health programme which would provide good care for the family and modest but reliable pensions for retired miners, especially those injured by dust and accidents. They want a proper procedure for grievances and promotions. They want payment from the time they go underground not the time they start cutting.

Scarcely extreme demands. But in Harlan, where corrupt company unionism and police violence has kept the miners on their knees for a generation, this would mean a small social revolution.

Take safety for example. First there are simply no decent local hospitals or doctors or public services. The old and not so old who come down with pneumoconiosis, 'Black Lung' the disease caused by coal dust, are left to fend for themselves without a guaranteed pension from either company or union. Even after an organised campaign over Black Lung which did much to revive

the miners union in the 1960s, only one in three of the Kentucky miners who apply have obtained a federal pension.

*'Somebody said that's a strange tattoo  
You have on the back of your head.  
I said that's a blueprint left by the coal,  
Just a little more and I'd be dead'*

(Coal Tattoo', Billy Ed Wheeler).

Accidents are notorious in this area and the owners are proud of their indifference. A few years ago 38 men were buried at nearby Hyden and a federal investigation found that the explosion that killed them was caused by illegal mining practices which the company knew were unsafe.

Brookside is said to be so dangerous that even the rats stay away. Limbless men and crutches are common in these parts, although you never know whether its the mines or Vietnam. There's an artificial limb shop on Main Street, Harlan.

Safety inspections are a farce and enforcement worse. Violations remain outstanding for years. A miner told me he knew the very hour and the very day when the mines inspectors were coming: 'The boss would say: "Let's make it look pretty now."'

Among the pretty sights recently recorded by the miners at Brookside were missing fire alarms, missing brakes on the coal locomotives, areas of flooding which prevented inspection altogether, fire sprinklers that don't work and missing roof bolts.

But effective safety means effective organisation and that means a continual challenge to management's absolute rights. Norman Yardborough, the mine

boss, understands this well: 'I'm not going to abdicate the right to any final say on safety because I'm the responsible party. Ultimately, it has got to be a management decision', he says.

*'There's no such animal as a safe coal mine. It just doesn't exist.'*

The miners don't agree. 'I don't want my son to go into the mines. But I firmly believe that by the time my sons are old enough to go to work, this mine could be organised so that it's as safe as any factory', says Jerry Rainey.

*'There's a man in a big house way up on the hill,  
Far from the shacks where the poor miners live.  
He's got plenty of money, Lord everything's fine,  
And he has forgotten the Mannington mine'*

(Disaster at the Mannington Mine', Hazel Dickens)

## 'PEOPLE STIRRING'

THE UNION would not be just something inside the mines. It is needed to change the whole way the miners and their families live. Houston Elmore, the union organiser, says: 'We have to start to make the union work for the people of Harlan, people we've let down badly in the past.'

'But it's not just about coal. The education system, the housing, the courts and the political system have got to change if the miners are to get justice.'

'The judge here, now he's a scab coal operator. So how can he be impartial? The teachers in the local schools, they are the sons and daughters of the owners because they are the only people

who can get to college. It's sort of like a feudal system.'

Brookside is laid out like a cross between a company town and a medieval village. Norman Yardborough's mansion looks out over his mine and his miners separated only by a row of pine trees, a two-lane road and a little hill. Just beneath his home huddle the smaller but still luxurious homes of his managers and foremen, arranged according to rank.

The miner's homes are wooden, temporary-looking shacks, in rows along dirt trackways. The wood is unpainted, the faces pinched, the teeth yellow. Their living conditions are a kind of grim joke. They have a colour TV but no lavatory. They have cars but no dentists.

Large families sit on the porch, father in white T-shirt rocking backwards and forward, mother in a beehive hair do and kids bathing in the creek. Behind them the coal gleams and a canopy of fir trees overhang the mine shaft. It all looks quite idyllic from a distance.

Until you look twice and see that underneath the veranda is a heap of shit and toilet paper which is only flushed away when the creek floods once a year. And you find that everyone boils all their tap water because last time the Harlan County Health Department tested the drinking water it was 'highly contaminated' with fecal coliform bacteria (a count of 24, permitted level 4).

*'In the summer time we didn't have shoes to wear,  
But in the winter we'd all get a brand new pair  
From a mail order catalogue.  
Money made from selling a hog.  
Daddy always managed to get the money somewhere'*

(Coalminers Daughter', Loretta Lynn)

The schools are pretty foul too. When one of the strikers' children went to school with a UMWA button, it was torn off him. 'When your father gets involved in the union, makes your brain go bad', drawls another miner who has conducted his own survey to prove militants' children have got mysteriously bad grades at school since the strike.

## Chance

Miners are locked into a whole series of social relationships which keep them down. Jerry Rainey says: 'Now Mr Yardborough ain't no factory dresser. To look at him, he might almost be a miner. But he sure does want to stand over us. He wants to stand over us like a mule master with a whip he does. Well I ain't no mule hauling a plough. Them's just slavery'.

In this situation a union is both last hope and first chance.

NOW THE strike is time. The mine for 11 months. T playing cards in listening to the building a heap cans. At night round camp fires, lins and banjos.

But if the man pull a fast one, summon 150 minutes.

The deadlock are beaten the plants of the No where mining is the owner's black leave.

They also know for coal. Only the president of company union w



Joseph Yablonski, his family when the union's corrupt led

and taped attempt strikers with 140 with a promise of 5000 dollars if men could be 'per work.

Just underneath heat and the waitin is where the own fought trade machine guns. It that miner's union date Yablonski w his bed. So far d the only shooting high velocity bullet of a picket van. T a revolver under briefcase.

*'I can see the through the valley  
I can hear the I go, as I go.  
I can feel the through the valley  
Oh, I'm going bless my soul, bless'*

(Traditional)

To get up s committee has e station wagon w



U.M.W. OF A.  
ON STRIKE  
Brookside

Brookside miners' picket line: They say the mine is so dangerous 'even the rats stay away'



# t got



and this 'booster van' cruises between Evarts, Brookside and Harlan cheering people up and passing on the news and gossip. But it is demurely named Brookside Womens' Club which has been the most successful morale builder.

In September the male union members were prevented by a local court injunction from mounting effective pickets. This itself was a fraud, as a local doctor, himself active in the Black Lung movement snorted: 'I am sick and tired of rule by injunctions, by the big money in this country. Do you ever see an injunction given in favour of a poor person?'

But while the men were banned, the women stopped the scabs. 'At first they thought we were pretty funny, but finally they quit laughing', says Minnie Lunsford.

At first they tried talking but when a scab pulled a gun, all hell let loose. The state police moved in with squad cars and truncheon charges, the women retaliated with two-by-two clubs and hoe handles. One woman shouted at the police: 'You can beat the shit out of me but you can't beat the union out of me'.

Many women and children went to prison for two days. Other women picketed their court hearing.

A woman told the judge: 'You're a coal owner and I resent you trying me. And that clerk beside you, her son photographed union men at Brookside for the blacklist'.

Their defence was clear: 'We had to picket ourselves to prevent the coal-owners from getting round the law. We all know we are doing what is right'.

## 'RUN'EM ALL OUT'

THE STRIKE has awoken new capacities and determinations. 'People listens better than they did before', says one striker. 'We've met people who we didn't know existed on that picket line', says another.

'Sure it's been worth it', says Minnie Lunsford. 'It was just like a school, I've enjoyed every minute of it'. 'Sometimes I wonder if I knew anything before this strike', mused Betty Eldridge.

The strike has shaken the county up. The union idea is spreading. Employees of the Appalachian Hospitals have been out for union recognition. Waitresses in the town, including some of the strikers' daughters, are trying to form an association.

Personal relations have been changed too. Women who have won their husbands' grudging admiration for their courage on the picket line and their insolence in court are not going meekly back to the sink.

*'I ain't got much money, not much of a home.*

*We own our own land but the land's not our own,*

*But if we all got together, we can work it all out,*

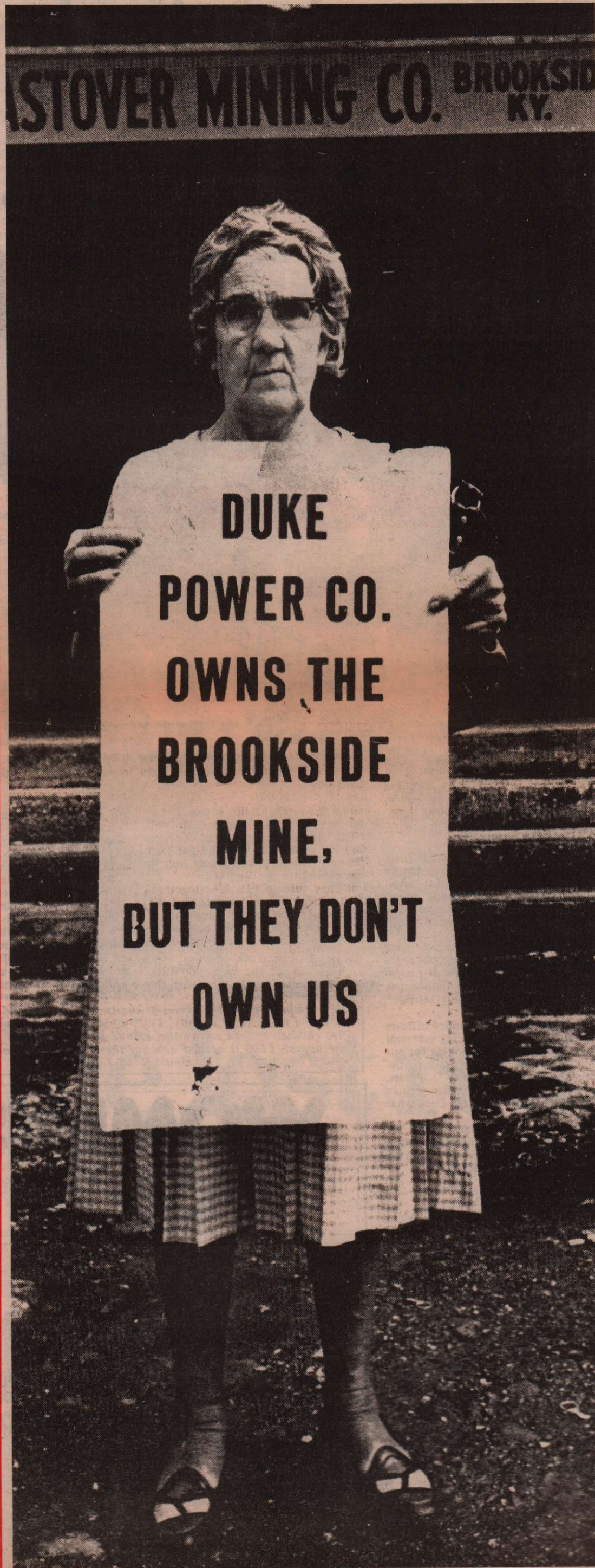
*We'll take over the country and run 'em all out'.*

(*'Black Waters'*, Jean Ritchie)

Newest of all is a sense of power. 'When miners move together, that's really something', one striker said of the British coal strike in 1974.

American miners took a close interest in the British coalfields and are amazed that British miners actually forced a general election.

The Brookside strike may not yet have Duke Power and Richard Nixon on their knees but it does show again that if the working class doesn't change the world, even the world of East Kentucky, then nobody will. 'We got the cat by the tail now, can't go but one way'.



## HOW BLOODY HARLAN GOT ITS NAME

MINNIE LUNSFORD; of the Brookside Women's Club, who have been running the picket lines:

Harlan got called Bloody when they started this union, when they started to organise. The owner then had his gun-thugs—he's pretty much like Norman Yarborough. He'd just get him a good bunch of gun-thugs that weren't scared of anything.

They'd just come up to the organiser. They was wanting to get rid of him. They wasn't having no organising.

Three car-loads of thugs eased across the road and stopped in front of his house. They meant to kill. They just shot up the house. The bullets made big streaks about a foot long. All through the house.

The organiser's wife—they were good Christian people—she didn't realise what it was. She thought it was a drunk. Everything was quiet. She called out for her son whose name was Billy. She got her two daughters to be all calm and to clear up the dishes. She had got a bullet hole right through her wrist.

She called out: 'Billy how are you?' His little brother said: 'He went in the bedroom.' She went in there holding her wrist. He was lying on the trunk with his head shot off.

They tried to get hold of the ambulance and the sheriff, the law you know. And they wouldn't come. They called up Harlan to come and get him. No possibility. People was afraid to go out to that house because the gun-thugs could have come back.

They'd do anything, those gun-thugs. They'd dynamite houses. They'd say: 'Let's go up on the mountains to hear a ball-game on the radio.' Next morning you'd hear on the news, so and so was killed. Shot. On the mountain.

## ENJOY

Women's clubs didn't exist in the thirties. There was nothing. Hard times and starvation almost. We women had to stay in the house or near.

In the thirties, I saw people suffer. I suffered enough. Seeing my children, y'know. They didn't go too hungry but there's lots of things they needed that they didn't get. I suffered in that. And some others suffered more than me.

So now I'll go anywhere to get a contract, get a union, have it all nice and everything. Peaceable. Conditions right and everything. That's what I enjoy. Trying to do something, getting things to rights.

In what you might say is my last days I'm going to do something for others. Somebody said, as old as me, how come you're going to be on the picket line? I said: 'Age and looks don't count one bit. It's what you feel and what you have got in you and what you want other people to have, things that we never had. And what you believe in.'

Me and my husband are up in years. If it hadn't been for the union we'd not be here. We have children and they love us and would have helped, but it's through the union he draws his pension and we've got a good hospital card. And all those things. He's worked and slaved and now he's got this black lung.

So why shouldn't I feel? If I was a 90-year-old, I'd be out there. It's just how I feel about it. There's so many that hasn't got pension and hasn't got those cards yet.

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# 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.

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

**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.

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

**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.

### 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 FREAKS!** 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.

**SOCIALIST GAY GROUP** has speakers throughout the country on the gay question and sexism. Inquiries from 15 branches specially welcomed. Details from 18 Brisbane Rd, Smethwick, Warley, Worcs.

**COMMUNIST MAZDOOR DAL** public meeting. Monday 8 July, 7pm, Conway Hall, Holborn. The political crisis in the Indian sub-continent.

**COMMUNIST MAZDOOR DAL** discussion circle. Saturday 6 July, 6.30pm, Slough Community Centre, Slough, Bucks. Racism and how to fight it.

**End race-sex discrimination** against immigrant women. Demonstrate 7 July, 12 noon, Hyde Park Corner.

**Marcus Garvey bookshop and cultural centre.** Basement, 30 Shakespeare Road, Brixton, London SE24. We bring together the documented experience of black people in Britain and the world over, for the advancement of our cultural life, along with information on our day-to-day experiences. Open 6.30pm-10pm, Mon-Fri. Saturday bookstall outside Desmond's Hip City, Brixton.

**BROCKWELL PARK 3:** Demonstration, Saturday 6 July, in support and solidarity with the appeals of the Brockwell Park 3. Assemble 1.30pm, Brockwell Park Gate, and march to Brixton.

**FREE IRELAND FORUM,** in conjunction with London Troops Out Movement, Friday 5 July 8pm, General Picton pub, Caledonian Road, Kings Cross. Paddy Prendeville on Self-determination and the myth of a loyalist nation in Ireland.

**THE FIGHT AGAINST FASCISM GOES ON.** Public meeting organised by Central London District IS and IMG. Speaker from Warwick University and Gordon Peters (Islington NALGO), Friday 5 July, 8pm, Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road, N4.

**FELLOW BOLSHIE** is desperate for accommodation in city (anywhere). Please write Tony Barrs, 53 New Street, Holt, Norfolk.

**B&ICO FORUM** on Women's Liberation. Also participating members of the editorial board of Red Rag. Monday 15 July, 7.30pm, Conway Hall.

**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 MEANING OF MARXISM

by Duncan Hallas

25p plus 7p postage

from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4

# Wonderful, our police...

...WONDERFUL  
HOW THEY  
GET AWAY  
WITH IT



Cecil and Yvonne Sampson pictured outside their Tottenham, North London home with their son Stafford. They found out about British 'justice' the hard way...

CECIL Sampson is languishing in Wormwood Scrubs prison awaiting his appeal against a two-year prison sentence for grievous bodily harm. These are the words of his wife, Yvonne:

"We came to this country from Guyana 16 years ago—me to do nursing, my husband to study law. After a time Cecil gave it up, saying: "The more lawyers there are, the more criminals." He then went to work at Gestetner's.

"During our time here, we have had no trouble with the police. Of course, I used to hear about people being beaten up by the police but only said, "My God, how terrible" and then forgot it.

"In July 1973, three police officers called. I had been working late and was in bed. Cecil was cooking for our children. After being invited in, the three officers—Inspector Peters, Sergeant Omer and police-woman Johannsen—refused to tell Cecil what they wanted.

"[It was alleged later that the Sampsons were running an abortion racket. This claim was never supported by any charges or evidence.]

### Arrest

"My husband was then ordered into the front room by Peters. Cecil thought things had gone too far and told the officers he had cooking to do and returned to the kitchen. Peters and Omer followed him.

"Omer immediately turned off the gas and said: "There's no fucking cooking going on here, you are under arrest." Cecil was then ordered back into the front room to sit with our son Stafford.

"I was dozing in the bedroom when suddenly Peters and Johannsen burst in. "You're under arrest," said Johannsen. My immediate reaction was to ring a friend and ask her to get help, a solicitor or something.

"While I was speaking, Peters hit me across the face and cut off the call. I fell to the floor and Johannsen kicked me. Peters then put an armlock around my neck."

Stafford takes up the story. "Suddenly we heard a scream and my Mum shouting, "you are a man, you should not do this to me. Help me, oh God, this man hit me."

"Dad jumped up and ran to the hallway. As he got there, Omer came

from the kitchen with a pan of hot oil, saying "where the hell do you think you're going?" and chucked the oil over Dad. Then he got Dad around the neck and kned him in the chest.

"They fell on the floor together. Dad fought free and ran behind the television, terrified. I shouted to Omer to leave Dad alone because he had a bad heart. I tried to telephone but Omer stopped me.

"Get out of the way, you little bastard," he said and hit me with the

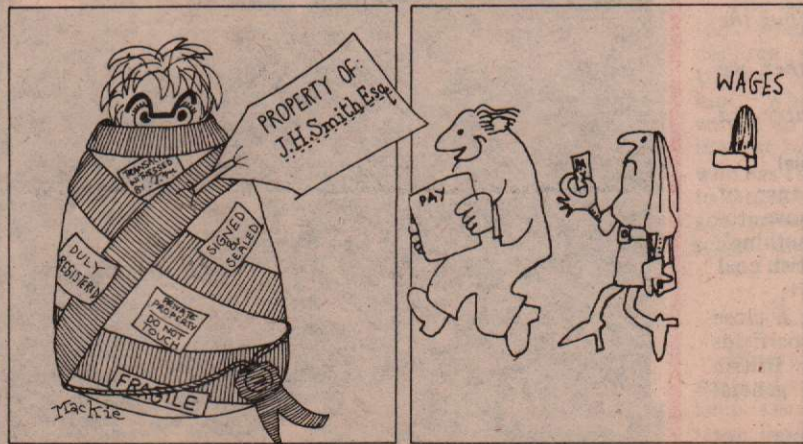
pan. He then went for Dad, shouting "you bastard, you bastard." Dad tried to defend himself with a lampstand, swinging it from side to side, and caught Omer on the head."

Stafford ran to the nearby hospital, where his brother Oliver was a patient. Meanwhile more police had rushed in and eight were carrying Mrs Sampson forcibly down the stairs, two on each limb. They threw her into the back of a police van. Mr Sampson was also arrested.

Oliver rang home and, while talk-

*Mrs Sampson is in dire financial straits. She is trying to manage on £28.75 a week social security, £9.20 of which goes in rent. She's got five children to feed and clothe, bills to pay, and a heavy legal bill for the appeal—£100 is needed now for the transcript of trial. Donations should be sent to 34, Tynemouth Road, London N15.*

# 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 Tynney Croft, Harlow, Essex.

ing to his sister, a voice cut in, saying "get off the phone". He was cut off and rang again. The same voice answered and when Oliver said he was coming home, he was told, "I am Inspector Peters, if you come home you will be arrested with your mother and father."

Mrs Sampson was charged with attempted murder—later dropped—and grievous bodily harm. He was jailed for two years. Mrs Sampson was charged with assaulting Peters and Johannsen. She was cleared of both charges.

The trial taught Mrs Sampson a few more lessons about British justice. "I saw Peters going in and out of court briefing witnesses," she said.

"The judge (Griffiths-Jones) did his best at putting words into people's mouths and insulted our doctor, telling the jury that if they accepted his evidence the police doctor's evidence would be discredited... and he, the police doctor, was qualified, implying our doctor wasn't.

### Obscene

"The judge also told the jury to disregard Stafford's evidence. Things were dragged up from the past that had no bearing on the trial. That Cecil had taken part in an illegal, but peaceful, demonstration in Guyana. That our doctor had a driving offence.

"It was alleged that my husband had spilled the hot oil over himself."

After the trial, Mrs Sampson received obscene telephone calls. Since her number is ex-directory, she is sure they were made by the police.

Meanwhile, Cecil has suffered three serious heart attacks, almost certainly caused by the knee Omer planted in his chest, which ruptured a main heart valve. Mrs Sampson is sure he will not survive two years in jail.

A friend on The Guardian who agreed to take up the case, later had to tell her a D-Notice had been slapped on it.

So how do we—and the Mrs Sampsons of this world—fight police violence? Mrs Sampson has a few words to say on the subject:

"I would like to see the people—dozens of people. Don't allow this sort of thing to happen. The police cannot throw everybody into the van, there would be a national incident. Get together—and stop it."

'SHE IS MINE', the man sings as the girl appears, 'she's so different from the crowd...'

And she is, she is. Apart from being radiantly pretty this girl is a nurse, dedicated to the care of others. But wait a minute! apparently she is still not different enough. What else is there to know about this exquisite creature? *She eats Aero chocolate.*

Always my heart sinks when that bar of chocolate appears. It is a double betrayal. Not only is she not a nurse but she is allowing herself to be used to sell something that makes vast profits and rots your teeth. Not a penny of those profits goes on dentistry or dental research.

Most commercials are dishonest, some more than others. Another blatant example is the Castrol advert 'put heart in your car', stirring

music accompanies a slow motion film of an athlete running powerfully which then cuts to a shot of a car on a motorway.

This equates driving a car with athletic prowess and muscular virility. Just about the reverse is true. When you are driving a car you are not only likely to be killing yourself but other people as well.

If you smother yourself with 'Old Spice', after-shave lotion then you are more likely to be seduced by a blonde in a black bikini on a sun-baked beach, or so the commercial implies. This attempt to say that use of a product will increase sexuality, and sex is the commonest theme of the commercials.

TV commercials are cynical and insulting. The people who make them have no interest in the social

by John Prance

need for the product, their only concern is to make it sell, and if it won't sell on its own merits then they'll invent some extra ones.

To serve this end the commercials are quite frequently better produced than the programmes. In America this has become conscious policy so that amid the tasteless rubbish of the cartoon, 'comedy' shows and quizzes the slick, sexy commercials are a break to the tedium. Such a policy assumes an audience of zombies. *It is the policy of capitalists towards workers.*

Under capitalism a worker is doubly exploited. Not only is a profit made from his labour but then

profit is made out of what he buys with his wage.

Advertising stimulates this process by suggesting the false idea that if you buy a new car, have a colour TV and consume certain goods then you will be desirable, important, different.

In fact consumer goods are consumed.

Cars and TVs wear out, chocolate is eaten, and at the end of the day you still have to go out to sell your labour to buy more. But, the owners, directors and shareholders of the companies that make the goods still have their capital, their profits and their power. All of this comes from us, the workers.

Next time you see a TV commercial remember that you are watching the essence of capitalism—the hard sell and the big lie.

## ONE BIG LIE

## Under the influence

It takes a long time to make a socialist, but often just one experience tips the balance—taking part in a strike, reading a book, going to a meeting. What made you a socialist? Write and tell us.

THIS WEEK'S *Under the Influence* is written by Don Roberts, a Luton vehicle production worker and a member of the Transport and General Workers' Union. After a number of jobs—"you name it, I've done it"—he moved from his home town of Barnsley when he was made redundant five years ago. He tells how his father's death in a pit 'accident' helped make him a socialist.

MY FATHER, grandfather and all my uncles were miners and so probably were some of my female forbears.

I was born during the industrial turmoil of post 1918 in a one-up and one-down cottage, opposite the New Connexion Chapel, just up the road from the nail shops, flanked by the Bethel Chapel.

Opposite, green fields, once producing food were covered by a black mountain of shale, torn out underground and dumped there because it was a cheaper method of production.

It was in the middle of the Yorkshire coalfield.

My childhood was little different to any other working class child's. Playing marbles, collecting cigarette cards—the Saturday penny.

The real entertainment was to visit the nail shops and watch the dexterity of the men taking a piece of stout wire and with a series of taps, a quick flick of the wrist, drop it in the hole on the anvil, tap, tap, tap—and a nail was made.

### Clubbed

My first political stint was the 1924 general election. To me, a child of four, the excitement was tremendous. All we working class kids used to tie up bundles of newspaper into a hard parcel at the end of a piece of string. When we met a kid we used to challenge: 'Blue or yellow?'

If he answered to either he was ceremoniously clubbed by our primitive weapons.

On polling day I would run periodically between the polling booth and the Labour committee rooms with a list of numbers taken by the teller at the polling station. I was doing my bit.

We moved to a three bedrooled semi-detached council house in Barnsley. We were lucky people, with electric light, WC, a bath and garden. This was luxury.

Then came the 1926 lockout of the miners by the coal owners in co-operation with the government, followed by the general strike.

May I point out to readers—the lockout of the miners. They didn't go on strike.

I remember at five and a half pulling a trolley made from a Gossage soap box (we used to save the coupons) over the hill from the council estate to a field by Mounts Wood. With a shovel and a make-shift pick we would tear away about 18 inches of soil and fill the bag with coal.

*The face of Britain in the Thirties. A land fit for heroes ... with unemployment, hunger and lives laid waste by capitalism.*



# The lost red book

We needed it. If I managed two trips I'd sell a packet of coal to a neighbour for a shilling and donate this to my parents.

I used to walk a mile and a half with my sister on Saturdays carrying a knife, fork, spoon, enamelled tin plate, and mug to the feeding centre where we had a charity meal.

If we were lucky someone would give us a couple of empty jam jars as an entrance fee to the modern electric cinema (or penny rush).

There we would scream 'he's behind you!' at Douglas Fairbanks (father—not junior) and Lon Chaney (father—not junior), the sweating pianist did his best to produce honky-tonk mood music.

The general strike was broken. Eventually, my father went back to work on the terms forced on the miners. The family grew every two years until there were eight of us. I knew my father worked three consecutive shifts of 18 hours, 15 hours and 18 hours. Though denied education himself he tried to give us a good chance.

He saved coupons from newspapers, signed to take the Daily Herald, The People, Empire News, News Chronicle, John Bull. They offered the cheap encyclopedias, illustrated Home Lawyer, Universal Reference Books, free insurance—the

lot.

The four eldest won scholarships to local secondary schools. The headmistress of my local council school sent specially for my father to meet her—'We had such a good record for miners' children.'

But we couldn't take the best advantage of the education. Homework was almost impossible. I couldn't afford a school blazer—but managed a cap.

### Tears

In August 1935 my father came home from the pit and before having his bath said to my mother, 'Is my hair white Edith?'

'Why?' asked my mother. 'Bloody pit's been on fire' he replied.

On 12 September people were hurrying and scurrying to spread the news that there had been an explosion at North Gawber Colliery. My father was there—there were tears, there were faintings, there were assurances. The day passed with no certain news.

We heard that he had stayed behind to help in the rescue of his comrades. I went out to play, joyful at the thought that my father was alright.

A list of survivors was later pinned

to the notice board outside the local police station. There was no John Thomas Roberts on it.

I returned home in the evening to find relatives and friends trying to console my mother that no news is good news. At about one o'clock in the morning an uncle said 'Come on Donald, we'll find out, we are going to the pit.'

He got on his bike, borrowed one for me and we cycled the four miles. We passed through the waiting crowds to a corrugated iron shed in the coal yard. We were taken to walk through a neat row of stretchers bearing 16 bodies.

The blanket was pulled aside and I looked at the skinless, shining gas-bloated face of my dead father. I recognised him only by the cut of his hair and an old coal dust filled scar on his right leg. That moment was one I shall never forget.

The full realisation of the truth was thrust on me. I was no heroic stalwart who lifted a clenched fist and threatened that someone would pay for this. I just exploded into tears and a shaking body, comforted by a Salvation Army worker.

Soon afterwards the house was besieged by reporters from the national press. Photographs were taken of the family, questions were asked of my mother and we children.

All of it I realised was bloody sob stuff to sell the papers.

Only one man seemed to ask the right questions and make the right statements about the unending quest for profit paid for by the workers. He was Claud Cockburn, from the Daily Worker.

My mother gave evidence—the first woman, I believe, to do so at a pit disaster enquiry.

She told of the little red book in which my father kept details of work done, so he couldn't be twisted by the management, and other details such as the stone dusting immediately prior to a visit by HM Inspector of the Mines. The book was never recovered.

A cousin of mine who gave evidence against the coal owners was immediately sacked alongside two others who joined him.

Within weeks I was standing on half a dozen boards, supported by two trestles addressing workers in the market place on a Sunday evening.

On Saturday I was standing outside Woolworths selling the Daily Worker. I was secretary of the Young Communist League.

I began to learn about Marx, Engels, Lenin—I became a SOCIALIST.

## ON THE BOX

● SUNDAY: ITV, 10.15pm. Shelagh Delaney became famous as the author of the play and film *A Taste of Honey*. The publicity seemed to silence her completely for many years. Her new play *ST MARTIN'S SUMMER* in the *SEVEN FACES OF WOMEN* series is about a woman in a hospital. Most ITV areas are showing an American documentary *KISSINGER—AN ACTION PROFILE* at 11.15 pm on Nixon's travelling salesman.

● TUESDAY: BBC-2, 10.35pm. *THE OLD GREY WHISTLE TEST* features films of the Rolling Stones 1965 American tour.

● WEDNESDAY: BBC-2, 7.35 pm. Good American rock singer Tony Joe White is *IN CONCERT*. At 9pm on BBC-2, the classic English film of working class life in Nottingham in the early 1960s, with Albert Finney, *SATURDAY NIGHT AND SUNDAY MORNING*. On ITV at 10.30pm Nicol Williamson stars as President Nixon in a play taken from the White House presidential transcripts, *I KNOW WHAT I MEANT*.

● FRIDAY: BBC-2, 6.40pm. *THE MONEY PROGRAMME* repeat of *GREAT AMERICAN RAILROADS*, on their decline and fall. Same channel has part one of a documentary on the great Russian film director EISENSTEIN, at 8.10 pm. At 9.50pm BBC-2 has *THE NIGHT OF SAN JUAN*, a Bolivian film on the events leading up to the massacre of a group of villagers, 'protesting about bad pay and working conditions' by the army.

# THE UNIONS

## The 'pleasure' our union can do without



Jack Jones: A run for his money?

A CHANCE to make Britain's biggest union more democratic. That's next week's Transport and General Workers Union rules revision conference in Llandudno.

The T&G is organised within 11 different industries—trade groups—running side by side with 11 regions, from which the union is administered.

The car workers, for instance, are organised within the Vehicle and Automotive Trade Group. It is probably no accident that this basic fact is largely unknown among many members in the industry, as there is no proper democratic structure attached to most trade groups.

### Who says it can't be done?

TRADE union democracy—of the quality International Socialists campaign for—is still a dream in Britain. In Australia, it is fact.

Officials in the New South Wales' Building Labourers' Federation face election every three years and cannot hold office for more than six years without a spell back on the sites.

They are also paid the average wage of their members. When the rank and file are on strike, they get nothing.

But for weak-kneed officials tempted to sell out strikes there's a little handicap. They can be flung out by instant recall—special elections called by a 1,000-name petition.

This elementary democracy has helped change the BLF from a mini-Mafia into the most industrially and politically conscious union in Australia.

Not only has it fought hard on wages and the scandal of labourers being fired at an hour's notice. It has attacked racism in the labour movement and struck against firms who refused to take on women labourers.

It fights to open all jobs in the industry to women and involves the wives of members in branch meetings. One woman has become a temporary union organiser.

### Blacklegs

But the BLF has made its name on conservation. An estimated £2,000 million worth of building projects are currently being blocked by the union's 'green bans'.

When a working-class district in Sydney was threatened by a £300 million scheme for high-rise offices, the BLF occupied sites still being worked by blacklegs... a move which brought a state-wide lockout of BLF members by the employers.

Other green bans brought building work to a halt at two universities after one had discriminated against a homosexual and another had refused to run a course on women's liberation.

The reaction to all this from the official guardians of democracy—the press—will surprise no-one. As one paper, the Sydney Morning Herald, pronounced:

'There is something highly comical in the spectacle of builders' labourers, whose ideas on industrial relations do not rise above strikes, violence, intimidation and the destruction of property, setting themselves up as arbiters of taste and protectors of the national heritage.'

The Socialist Worker four-page leaflet listing the firms trading with Chile and putting the arguments for blacking is still available. Is there a firm trading with Chile in your town? It could be your firm. Copies 2p each (postage 5p for any number of copies) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

by Gerry Jones, TGWU

trade groups are elected or selected at the discretion of the particular regional committee. In the Midland Region, the delegates to the national trade group are elected by ballot organised from the branches.

Active branches take the ballot papers on the shop floor but it is impossible to ensure that all members get the opportunity to vote. The only way to ensure that is to have all elections by postal ballot... with election addresses by each candidate.

### Argued

Paid officers of the union should be elected every three years and be subject to recall—and to ensure they do not become members of a privileged group they should be paid the average wage of the industry.

It will, of course, be argued that

paid officials are appointed by an elected lay executive committee. But this body is no more than a rubber stamp for the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

The EC, which meets only quarterly, is used to endorse the policies of the FGPC, known as the Jack Jones Committee. Powerful general secretaries have always wielded their influence through this committee, which should be abolished and replaced by monthly meetings of the elected lay general executive.

A number of resolutions on this question have been sent up by branches and other bodies of the union in an effort to ensure greater democracy and to reduce Jones' power.

Ironically, the general secretary is the only full-time official elected by the members. From right-wingers like Bevin and Deakin to the 'lefts', Cousins and Jones, every general secretary has wielded tremendous power over the union machine.

They feel safe to do so because they are elected for life. No matter

how divorced they become from the brothers and sisters who elected them, they are elected 'during the pleasure of the union'. This election should take place every five years.

Four amendments call for the general secretary to stand for election for periods of between three and five years. Twelve more call for the election of officials.

### Crisis

Many other amendments to the rule book reflect a growing desire from the members to control our union. The conflicts between the bureaucrats and the rank and file, which are part of the history of our union (because of the bureaucrats' hate of independent action) have sharpened.

The crisis in capitalism has widened the gulf between the interests of the two. The amendments to the rule book mirror a mood of change which if it is matched by organisation, could give Jack Jones a run for his money.

# SWEETHEARTS SAGA

## How APEX is trading principles for members

WHITE-COLLAR trade unionists struggling for recognition against employer-backed staff associations are in for a set-back. A TUC affiliate, the Association of Professional Executive and Computer Staff, APEX, is offering staff associations protection against genuine trade union competition by selling them Bridlington Protection.

It has written to the staff associations suggesting merger on almost any terms the Sweetheart Organisation care to dictate. The first response has come from

by Ian Gibson

SAGA, the staff association of General Accident.

In principle, there is nothing wrong in recruiting members of staff associations into trade unionism. It can lead to fundamental change. But APEX means to change nothing.

For nearly 50 years, the Union of Insurance Staff, now a section of the Association of Scientific Technical and Manual Staffs, ASTMS, fought 'General Accident's anti-trade unionism.

Success for trade unionism seemed possible three years ago when, in a secret ballot, staff rejected SAGA in favour of ASTMS. Management then withdrew its sole recognition of the staff association.

Then the idea of joint negotiations was fostered. ASTMS saw it as a tactic designed to blunt genuine trade union aspirations. And, in any case, to co-operate with staff associations was contrary to TUC policy since SAGA had registered under the Industrial Relations Act.

There were no joint negotiations—so no organisation that represented staffs.

General Accident referred the question to the Commission on Industrial Relations, which criticised SAGA's undemocratic structure and its low rate of contributions and suggested a single negotiating body.

A vigorous campaign by ASTMS led some SAGA members to resign and join ASTMS and many others to argue for a merger.

Their leadership was forced into reluctant discussions. Though prepared to discuss a merger, ASTMS insisted on maintaining trade union principles, new elections immediately the merger took place and a speedy move towards equalising contributions. SAGA subscriptions are half of those of ASTMS or APEX.

### OFFERS

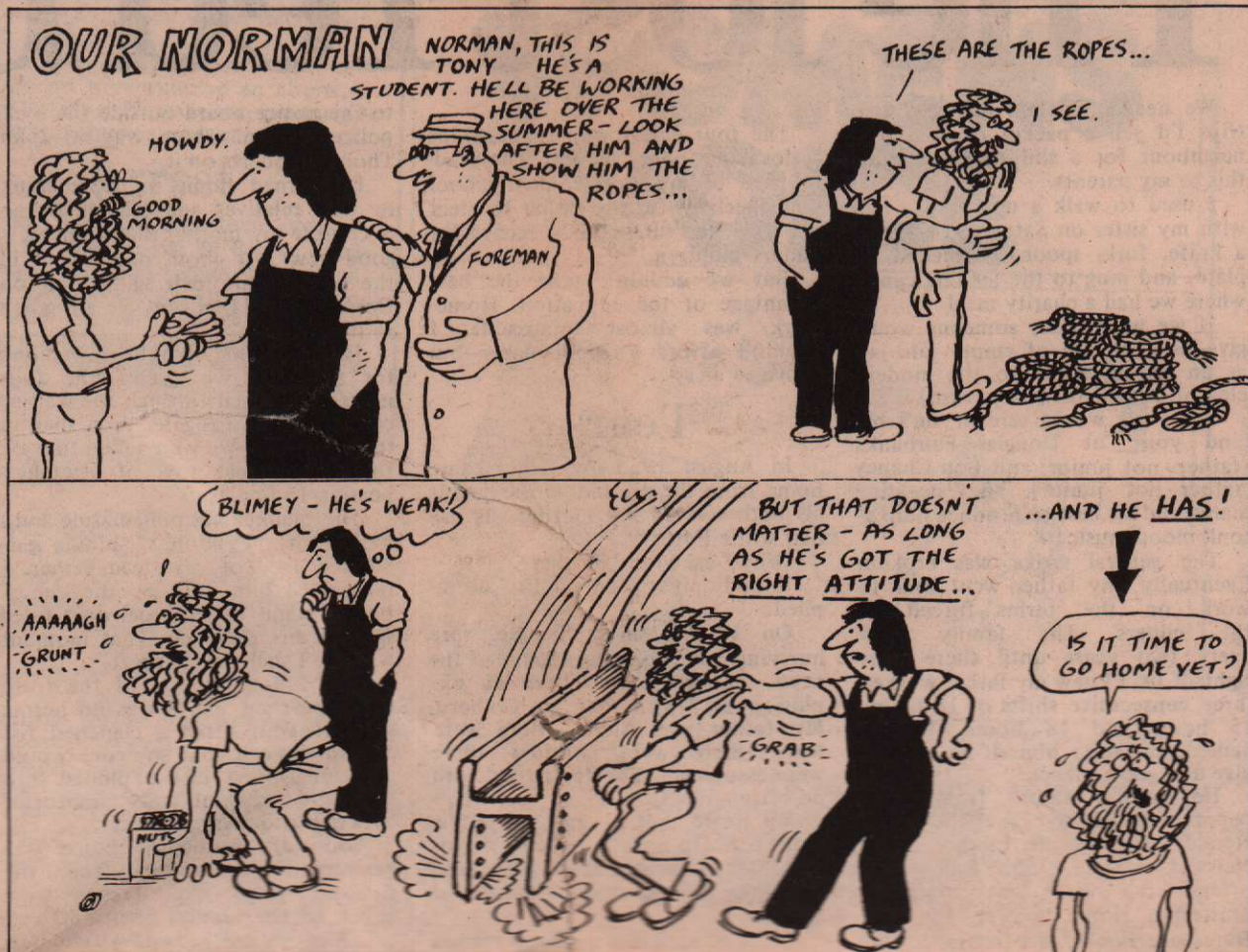
In the middle of these discussions, APEX came to the rescue of the leadership by suggesting they merge with them. APEX, nakedly opportunist, is prepared to phase subscriptions over five years, giving it an obvious advantage over another TUC affiliate.

It agrees to retain the existing undemocratic structure of SAGA and offers to change nothing except to prevent ASTMS from recruiting, offering Bridlington Protection to SAGA and the services of APEX in their affairs.

Rank and file APEX members must be alarmed at this heavy subsidy, particularly since GA staff will be among the best paid of all APEX's members.

APEX, with no members in insurance—ASTMS has 50,000—has made no serious effort to organise outside industry where it has the support of other trade unions or to bring primarily clerical services into the trade union orbit.

ASTMS has complained to the TUC General Council, which now has a chance to show its support for the courageous members of ASTMS who have consistently fought for trade unionism in insurance.



# ENTER STAGE LEFT...

**MEMBERS of Equity, the Actors' union, like other working people, are suffering from the rocketing inflation and economic crisis. But in our trade we get an extra, special helping.**

For more than 70 per cent of our members are unemployed. The threat of closure hangs over London and provincial theatres and film studios. There are cutbacks in spending in the entertainments industry and fewer jobs. Wages, anyway, are pitiful and working conditions often inadequate.

Things will get worse unless committed action is taken. Despite this, only 500 or so members attended the recent two-day AGM of the union. Only about 3000 voted in the council elections out of a membership of more than 20,000.

This apathy is a result of the failure by the right-wing majority on previous councils to protect members' interests in the face of a crisis in the industry. Most of this majority were elected either by right-wing members, members ill-informed as a result of the council's self-interest and members easily impressed by the names of famous actors.

## Majority

But the situation is changing. The results of the recent council elections were declared at the meeting, and for the first time the right-wing 'non-political moderates' have had their monopoly of positions on the governing body shattered. The majority of places are now held by members and sympathisers of the 'Campaign for Reaffiliation and Progress' in Equity, a broad liberal left group committed to de-registration under the Industrial Relations Act and reaffiliation to the TUC, a full pre-entry closed shop—a necessity for Equity given the employment situation, a guaranteed living wage—the present minimum is £18 a week, and a branch and delegate structure for the union.

This is absolutely essential since the annual general meetings are the only regular policy-making forum members have. Without a branch and delegate structure, there can be little democratic decision-making by members over the nature of their working lives.

## Carried

After the general secretary, Peter Plouviez, made a predictable plea for 'moderation' and the avoidance of 'chaos and anarchy'—no doubt to be wrought by the left—the motions were debated. Only 16 of the 49 on the agenda were fitted into the insufficient time allowed.

A now well-publicised motion calling for disciplinary action against Derek Bond and Lord Olivier—if newspaper reports that they intended to form a breakaway union were accurate—was carried. Motions demanding deregistration and reaffiliation to the TUC and an end to all anti-union legislation were carried overwhelmingly.

## UNION BITES UNION

THE BAN on private patients by one nurses' union has been attacked by another. Bernard Dix, press officer of the National Union of Public Employees, has bitterly criticised the Confederation of Health Service Employees, which 'instituted' the ban last week—five weeks after local nurses' action committees, especially in the North East, had banned private patients.

Said Dix: 'It is potty for any one union to take on the private system. Any long-term plan to end this private business which is loathed by the unions must be co-ordinated to be effective. Everybody—laboratory, clerical and ancillary people as well

as nurses—must keep in line.'

Dix ought to know that the private-patients system has been 'loathed by the unions' as long as anyone can remember, but until the nurses' dispute no one did anything about it. The nurses' action committees that have banned private patients have, as Mike Atkinson, NUPE convenor in the North East, put it in Socialist Worker three weeks ago, 'done more to end the system in five days than the unions have done in 25 years.'

Dix's outburst is further proof that the unions are more interested in squabbling among themselves than fighting for the nurses and the Health Service.

**John Gillett  
and Andy Riley  
write on Equity,  
the actors' union**

But important motions opposing state wage control and any surrender on the current provincial wage claim for a £30 minimum were not debated because of time shortage.

A motion for extending links with other entertainment unions such as Association of Cinematograph and Television Technicians, the Television Theatre and Kine Employees, and the Musicians' Union was again carried by a large majority. But a motion pledging solidarity with trade unionists and artists in Chile and explaining the reasons behind their plight was declared 'outside the aims and interests of the association'.

## Stormy

It apparently wasn't against these aims and interests for Marius Goring, one of the right-wing council members, to snatch the microphone from a speaker protesting about redundancies in the Midlands Arts Theatre and Glasgow Citizens Theatre, one of the stormiest points of a stormy meeting.

None of the motions passed are binding on the council and a last minute attempt to make them so failed. Because of the large number of motions left to be debated, for example vital ones on pay claims, relations with other entertainment unions, the branch and delegate structure, nationalisation and working conditions, the AGM is to be recalled within four weeks. This next meeting promises to be even more heated than the first.

The key issue is determined action on nationalisation, pay claims, working conditions and closer relations with other unions—if the entertainments industry and our members' livelihood in it are to be defended.



## NEWS

### Getting it down on paper

FORTY workers from places as far apart as South Wales, Ipswich, Liverpool and Newcastle came to the Socialist Worker writers' school at Coventry last weekend. It was the first national school of its kind, and 40 new writers for Socialist Worker is a measure of success. They included carworkers and members of the engineers', transport workers', electricians', railmen's and shopworkers' unions.

The day started with a general discussion about Socialist Worker, with members of the editorial staff explaining their parts in producing the paper, and showing how reports are treated before they appear in print. The discussion ranged from the paper's coverage of issues facing immigrant workers and women to the IS page, and the non-appearance of some articles! Some districts, including South Wales and Liverpool, now have Socialist Worker Committees which regularly discuss the paper.

The afternoon was given over entirely to writing. The school divided into five groups for practical work and almost everyone had to write a short report, a letter, article, or interview, which was then discussed by the others in the group.

### Activity

The comrades at the school surprised themselves and each other by the speed with which they could write articles. Many of the subjects chosen for articles led to political discussion and the swapping of factory experience.

When the groups came to sum up, opinion was divided as to the value of the activity. Some comrades felt that they had not been given enough of a lead as to how to write. Unhappily, however, there is no way in which people can be taught to write well.

The main purpose of the school was to break the ice: to cut away a lot of the fear and mystery which surrounds writing for newspapers and to show that it is, in the event, easily within the grasp of any worker to write simply and to write fast.

Most groups reported that the school was a striking success, and that it should happen again soon.

A pamphlet on 'Working Class Writers in the Past' has been produced by the IS Historians Group.

A SERIES of Industrial Training Schools are being organised for IS members during the summer. Several leading IS militants, including Jimmy McCallum, Roger Cox and Peter Bain will be speaking. See page 14 for details.

### Mass sale beats ban

MEMBERS who sell Socialist Worker in Guildford, Surrey, have been constantly harassed by the local police and council. A licence is apparently required to sell anything in the High Street, and each application for one has been turned down.

A threat by the local trades council to organise a mass sale prompted the council to organise an informal meeting of interested parties, which included a local Conservative Party member who argued that this was the 'thin edge of the wedge'.

A promise to suggest to the appropriate council committee to make a small area available for selling papers on a Saturday was taken up immediately, and a mass sale was organised. Thirty copies of Socialist Worker were sold last Saturday, along with the Morning Star, Red Weekly, and Rosc Catha.

There was no interference from the police, and the right to sell left-wing papers has hopefully been re-established.

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

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.

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.

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.

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).

WYTHENSHAW IS public meeting. Wages: Why the struggle must go on. Speaker: John Deason. Thursday 11 July, 8pm, Wythenshawe Social Centre, Brownley Road, near Civic Centre.

EXETER IS public meeting. Flixborough: The hazards of work. Thursday 11 July, 8pm, Devonport Inn, Fore Street.

SOUTHWARK IS public meeting: Inflation and the crisis in London's services. Speaker: John Palmer. Monday 8 July, 8pm, The Berkeley Room, Duthy Hall, Great Guildford Street, London SE1 (near Borough High Street tube).

NORTH EAST MANCHESTER IS public meeting: Threshold agreements and inflation. Speaker: Steve Jefferys. Tuesday 9 July, 8pm, The Ancoates, Great Ancoates Street. All welcome.

CROYDON and District IS public meeting: Support the Nurses, Save London's services. Monday 15 July, 8pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Bishopsford Road, St Helier Estate.

TWICKENHAM IS open meeting: The developing economic crisis. Speaker: Ted Crawford. Thursday 11 July, 8.45pm, The Red Lion, Heath Road.

DONCASTER IS public meeting: Troops out of Ireland. Speakers from IS and the Troops Out Movement. Tuesday 9 July, 8pm, Mason's Arms, Doncaster Market.

LAMBETH IS and Womens Liberation (Brixton Women's Place) joint public meeting: Chile. Speaker: A Chilean woman revolutionary. Film and photographs. Wednesday 10 July, 8pm, Brixton Training Centre (opposite Town Hall).

### ACTION WITH THE NURSES

Public meeting in Swansea to plan trade union action, called by MORRISTON HOSPITAL NUPE, MOUNT PLEASANT HOSPITAL NUPE, local branches of the NUM, TGWU, CSU, ASTMS, TASS and SWANSEA and District International Socialists. Monday 8 July, 7.30pm, Dynevor School, Swansea.

PORTSMOUTH IS public meeting: British Troops out of Ireland. Speakers: Neil Davies (ex-army) and Mike Heym (IS Irish Sub-committee). Thursday 11 July, 7.45pm, The Wiltshire Lamb, Hampshire Terrace.

MANCHESTER District IS invite you to a Great Night Out, with music, floor show, rocking disco, bar extension, and COME IN HILDA MUGGINS, an entertainment presented by CAST Theatre Group from London. Friday 12 July, 8pm, Kings Arms, Bloom Street, Salford 3. Tickets 30p single, 50p double. Nurses free! Tickets from Geoff Brown, 465a Bury New Road, Salford 7. Phone 061-792 5780.

### Meetings for IS members

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. Further schools to be held in Manchester and Scotland soon.

TRAINING COMMITTEE. Meeting for all Training (education) organisers in Lancs, Yorks, 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. (NOT Sunday 7 July, as given in branch circular).

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

NATIONAL IS NALGO Fraction meeting: Manchester, Saturday 20 July, 11am. ALL IS members of NALGO to attend. Committee Room 1, Manchester University Students' Union, Oxford Road, Manchester.

LONDON IS BUILDING WORKERS fraction meeting. Thursday 4 July, 7.30 pm, Prince Albert, Wharfedale Road, N1 (near Kings Cross station).

## WHAT'S ON

### 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. Apply Jim Nichol, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

**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.

**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.

### CHILE: TRADE UNIONS AND THE COUP.

This Spokesman pamphlet is a good brief introduction to what happened in Chile and to the part played by the trade unions in Allende's Popular Unity movement. It also points out what we in Britain can do in solidarity with Chilean workers. It should be used alongside the Socialist Worker leaflet *Does Your Firm Trade in Torture?* (2p) which is also obtainable from IS Books. Spokesman pamphlet 10p.

### FOLK CULTURE OF THE SLAVES IN JAMAICA

By Edward Brathwaite. The West Africans who were taken from their homes and transported to work under the brutal oppression of the West Indian plantation owners carried a rich and complicated culture. Conditions changed this into a distinctive West Indian culture. This pamphlet, if somewhat academic, is an interesting account of its development. 30p

### SCIENCE FOR PEOPLE,

'science and technology in society—as it is and as it should be.' This is the bi-monthly magazine of the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science. Issue 26 now available with articles on population control. 15p

### Copies of WORKERS

POWER, the fortnightly paper of the International Socialists in the USA, are available from the London IS Books. Send for a copy of this excellent newspaper (10p) then subscribe, £2.25 for a year.

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# The lump: What is really going on?

FOR A LONG time, the police and inland revenue have held off any moves against the lump. Now, suddenly, the lump is under investigation and attack.

Trade unionists will undoubtedly welcome this development. After all, the Shrewsbury Six were jailed for fighting the lump.

But before we wholeheartedly endorse the sloop we would do well to ask: *Why has it come at this time and just who is being swooped on?*

George Smith, UCATT general secretary, and Len Murray of the TUC would have us believe that trade union pressure has forced the government to act.

But the TUC and the UCATT executive have only paid lip service to the fight against the lump. The only fight has come from the rank and file.

Another explanation put about is that the government is determined to stamp out tax evasion. This might sound convincing were it not for the fact that tax evasion through the lump amounts to only a fraction of what the top income group avoid by

careful 'accounting'.

The real reason for the sloop is a little more involved. It is a part of an agreement between employers, trade union leaders and government to stitch up the militants in the industry.

In 1972, the UCATT Executive was forced into a campaign over wages and the lump. They underestimated the anger and the organising ability of thousands of building workers.

## Cripple

The strike was spread and the flying pickets formed by the initiative of the workers, not the trade union leadership.

Now the union leaders are afraid they can't control the men in another national wage campaign. The employers know that such a campaign in the present crisis would cripple many of the smaller firms.

The state knows that trade unionists and lumpers can earn wages

by Bill Kaye, UCATT

that make a nonsense of calls for wage restraint.

And, the contractors are also beginning to realise the hidden cost of the lump. Except in local authorities and a few big firms, apprenticeship and training have vanished, and it's hard to find skilled tradesmen. On site after site work is being ripped down and redone.

The mobility of lump labour means crisis of labour supply, work schedules collapsing, materials deteriorating in storage.

By making concessions on the lump, the government hopes to win a more moderate approach from union leaders towards this year's wage claim.

In this context George Smith's enthusiasm for the 'police sloop' becomes clear. He condemns the 'brigands'—workers who evade tax. He says nothing about the employers who have fostered the lump, who pay men to risk their lives to avoid the cost of safety, who corrupt and are corrupted by the modern tendering

processes.

He is talking about workers forced on the lump because employers (illegally) won't have them on the cards, or who are blacklisted or who are forced by inflation to make money however they can. Or workers who are Asians here 'illegally', systematically blackmailed to work for worse pay than the men on cards.

Of course, trade unionists don't like 'cowboys'. But we must look for the real cause, the 'Godfathers' of the lump.

The police sloop is a diversion to make us believe that secret negotiations with 'people who matter' are as effective—and easier—than the self-activity of the workers.

We want the industry decasualised but we must remember what that can mean—militants squeezed out and work shifted from organised areas.

Our demands must be to smash the lump by hitting those who employ it. We must support lumpers who try to go straight.

There should be a tax amnesty. We should oppose all attempts to make scapegoats of workers forced on to the lump.

## BUILDERS' UNION GETS OFF LIGHTLY

by John Clifford, UCATT

THE UCATT executive got off lightly at the building workers' union's recent annual conference.

Attacks on their failure to defend the Shrewsbury pickets were overwhelmingly supported—but the executive still do not have to lead an immediate campaign on the crucial issue of picketing rights.

The executive also succeeded in foisting on to the conference a closed session on the Shrewsbury issue.

They said this followed legal advice. Perhaps the advisers were those who, at the beginning of the Shrewsbury trials, wanted the defendants to do a deal with the prosecution and plead guilty.

George Smith, the union's general secretary, made an interesting contribution on wages. He said, the social compact would have to take into account the archaic system of payments in the construction industry—and then added that the position of the minority Labour government would have to be considered.

## Practice

Many delegates took this to mean: don't rock the boat. Brother Robins of Merthyr Branch was quick to reply. He pointed out that in this kind of society a social compact only benefited the employers. Such a compact could be accepted only in a socialist society.

Following a lively debate, the conference decided on a wage of £1.50 an hour for craftsmen and £1.40 an hour for labourers, plus the 35-hour week. That was the conference decision. What matters is putting it into practice and in this the executive are prone to failure.

We must be united in this policy and not be afraid to protect any of our members. We cannot afford to have another Shrewsbury, followed by another ditching of our members.

If we are to combat the lump we have to lead our members away from individual contracts towards a better standard of living. And that means getting the best wages, the best welfare and safety conditions.

We must be able to prove that you not only live better on the books, but you live in safety and in time to retire on a good pension.

# SACKINGS LEYLAND PLOTTED ALL ALONG

BRITISH Leyland laid careful plans for handling the present crisis in the company and using it to get rid of thousands of workers.

As the three-day week was being imposed earlier this year, company boss Donald Stokes sent a confidential memo to all managers in the group, asking them to detail the number of workers they 'could do without if they had to'.

This is why you may, at your plant, have noticed an increasing interest in who's early/late in/out. Other measures carefully schemed include a virtual freeze on all recruitment, even to replace those who leave or retire.

But these measures hardly com-

By A Ferrett, TGWU

pare to the redundancy plans due to be operated throughout British Leyland later this year.

It seems almost certain that British Leyland intend to sack from 12 to 15 per cent of the workforce probably this autumn. This means 20 to 25,000 of the company's 171,000 employees are to be flung on the scrapheap.

These figures reflect calculations made by management 18 months ago. Previous company boss George Turnbull departed last year in what was a carefully covered-up dispute over the plans to reduce the work-force.

Turnbull was known to be very unhappy with the emerging plan to

reduce the work-force devised following studies by Leyland managers and outside consultants. They advised that a work-force of 120,000 to 145,000 would be 'economic'. John Barber was brought in from GEC to replace Turnbull—and help in the slaughter.

Management intend that the redundancies should be over all British Leyland plants. But it appears that the militant plants, Cowley and Longbridge, will get more than their 'fair' share. The company is, of course, determined to use the opportunity to sling out active trade unionists.

It is also likely that white collar workers will be affected much more than ever before in the history of this crisis-ridden company.

Leyland say that it will make the company's position worse if workers pursue threshold deals. This is a phoney argument, too. For in one case management have admitted that the white collar battle for thresholds will make no difference to the number of sackings. The numbers, they said, were decided last year and they would be the same come what may.

The fight against redundancies is a vitally necessary one. And it's not just about 'redundancies' either. If the company is allowed to get away with sackings it is not difficult to envisage what their next moves will be.

Having got rid of many of the most active trade unionists and driven fear into the hearts of those who remain, they will seek to press home their advantage again and again.

They will be out to reduce wages and worsen conditions. As usual, big business doesn't intend to pay the price of its own crisis.

## Imperialist type

LEICESTER:—The strike at Imperial Typewriters, where 300 Asian workers are on strike, is now more than two months old, and there's little sign of the end of the dispute. Last week talks between company, union, strikers and a conciliation officer from the Department of Employment broke down when the company insisted on the victimisation of members of the strike committee.

Meanwhile the results of a Transport Workers Union inquiry is not to be published for another two weeks. It looks like the union would like to see the dispute settled first, making the report irrelevant and saving the union further embarrassment.

## Library pickets win vital support

LONDON:—More than 20 ASTMS members of the library staff at the British National Bibliography are out on strike for union recognition.

The librarians have been seeking recognition for over a year. But their patience began to wear thin in recent months. In

April, a ballot was held to determine the bargaining agency for library staff. ASTMS won, but since then A J Wells, the director of the BNB, has continued the delaying, stalling, and postponing tactics which he—like all employers—has mastered.

He has told ASTMS members he agrees 'in principle' to trade union representation and has agreed to abide by the ballot decision. But he continues to withhold recognition—provoking ASTMS into industrial action.

## Spirited

Crispin Jewitt, one of the strikers said: 'We aren't interested in Wells' agreement 'in principle'. We are solid, and we are prepared to stay out until they give official recognition to ASTMS as the bargaining agent for library staff, as they agreed to do before the ballot was held.'

Two staff members refused to cross the ASTMS picket line, and proceeded to join both ASTMS and the strike. Post Office workers are also respecting the small but spirited picket line but mail is not being delivered.

Several National Graphical Association members on the BNB also want to show the ASTMS members their support. They have recommended to their union that they 'black' non-ASTMS office work—which would effectively slow down the process of book cataloguing.

Donations and messages of support to: Jean McCartney, 2 Alexander St, London W7.

## Civil servants answer union leader's threats

by Harry Goldstein,  
Society of Civil Servants

LONDON:—30 Post Office members of SCS and CPSA met last week to discuss the possibility of promoting rank and file organisation to fight for a more militant policy and greater democracy within the two unions.

The meeting, sponsored by Kensington Computer Centre Branch of CPSA and Data Processing Service sub branch of SCS, came after selective strike action in pursuit of a special catching-up pay award had been called off by the leaders of the two unions. This was the second time action has been called off without any firm commitments by the Post Office having been obtained.

CPSA leaders had denied a ballot result announced two days earlier. Unofficial strikes began as a result at Kensington and Edinburgh computer centres. The magnificent response of the rank and file in raising money for the strikers contrasted sharply with that of group secretary Alistair Graham. He threatened to withhold strike pay owed to Kensington for the official strike if unofficial action continued.

Mike Healy, editor of Redder Tape, the rank and file paper of civil servants, urged the meeting to link their movement with the paper. This aroused a lot of sympathy but the issue was left open for the time being.

A call for a break away union for the computer workers, who had borne the brunt of the selective action, was opposed by the majority who pointed out that such moves would play into the hands of the Post Office management by dividing the membership. What was needed was a rank

and file movement to campaign within the existing union for a change of policy.

The meeting decided to elect a committee to get such a movement off the ground and to campaign against any proposed pay settlement which fell short of the needs of the membership.

Post Office members of the two unions who are interested in becoming involved in such a movement should contact the secretary, Geoff Barker, 11 Glamorgan Road, Hampton Wick, Kingston, Surrey.



## INDUSTRIAL WEEKEND SCHOOLS

FIVE weekend schools are to be held next month for members of the International Socialists in industry. Each will include sessions on Incomes Policy, Working as a revolutionary on the shop floor, IS and the Rank and File Movement, and Ireland, plus two other sessions of special interest.

ENGINEERS: Saturday-Monday 27-29 July  
Saturday-Monday 24-26 August  
(Special sessions: The Broad Left, History of the Struggle in Engineering.)

WHITE-COLLAR: Saturday-Monday 3-5 August  
(Special sessions: The Emergence of White-Collar Trade Unionism, The Role of White-collar workers in the Revolutionary Party)

GENERAL SCHOOL: Saturday-Monday 10-12 August  
(Special sessions: Fascism and the Working Class, Councils of Action)

CARWORKERS: Saturday-Monday 17-19 August  
(Special sessions: The Multinationals, The Fight against Redundancies)

These will be held in London, with accommodation arranged. Members who have joined IS in the past year are particularly urged to attend. Details and enrolment forms from IS branch secretaries or direct from IS Industrial Dept, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. Phone 01-739 6273.

## Toolroom action at Chrysler

COVENTRY:-Toolroom workers at Chrysler's Stoke and Ryton plants are in the second week of their overtime ban and work to rule in a bid to restore their differentials.

Two years ago the toolroom workers, members of the Engineers Union, were the first group in Chrysler to get a staff status agreement. But last year Chrysler electricians staged a bitter strike for a similar agreement.

Now the toolroom men are complaining that their differential has been eroded and are using this narrow basis to push a claim for an extra increase.

This sectional approach has cut away sympathy in the plants. But the work to rule and overtime ban tactics threaten to turn lack of sympathy into outright hostility. They minimise the cost to the toolroom men while laying off other workers. Chrysler doesn't pay lay-off money for 'internal disputes', so the men will have no wages at all unless they are able to force the company to pay.

The toolroom dispute has come just as the annual pay claim was being settled in Ryton. The day shift voted 3-1 on Monday to accept £3.23 under Phase Three plus fringe benefits and a promise of more after restrictions end. The company also agreed to pay a threshold package of £1.20 a week every three months in a lump sum. The company say this is due to 'cash flow' problems.

Management is now threatening discipline if the toolroom men don't return. They have refused and are fighting on. They would win more support if they pushed an across the board claim and sought a different form of industrial action.

## Foremen on strike

by Ian Macdonald (NALGO) and George Kelly (EPTU)

GLASGOW:-27 foremen plumbers employed by the corporation have been on strike for a week. The corporation's plumbers have refused to accept jobs from anyone other than their foremen, so have been locked out by management.

The foremen are demanding to be transferred from salary to wage rate and a bonus of 33 per cent. After receiving no lay-off pay, 600 plumbers marched on the City Chambers in support of their foremen and demanding their week's wages.

The plumbers' representatives and the corporation's establishment committee agreed that negotiations should start the following Monday with the building department general manager. At that meeting the plumbers were snubbed by the general manager, so the strike is likely to continue.

Meanwhile NALGO members in the housing department were instructed by management to issue the plumbers' work to outside contractors. A meeting of housing department staff addressed by John Gaffney, the plumbers' shop steward, agreed overwhelmingly to support the strike by refusing to do this.

## Second time around

MERSEYSIDE:-1200 workers at the former Fisher Bendix factory in Kirby received redundancy notices. International Property Development, who took over after a sit-in defeated an earlier bid to close the factory, threatened to close down the works after the firm had been refused a £1 million grant by the government. Jack Spriggs, IPD convenor, said they would occupy the factory if necessary.

On Monday the notices were withdrawn as a result of union pressure and were replaced by a temporary lay-off. The workers are now waiting for a government report on the firm.

# London is still waiting

THE PAY BOARD'S report on London weighting has been greeted by consternation and anger by militant local government workers and teachers.

The report says that the London cost of living allowance should only be increased to £400 a year for those who work within four miles of Charing Cross. But the vast majority of teachers and local government workers in London don't come within this idea of 'Inner London' and will only get an £82 a year increase or around £1 a week after tax.

Beth Stone one of the militant teachers' Rank and File Group members on the National Union of Teachers executive told Socialist Worker:

'The Pay Board report is a disgrace. There is no basis for the four mile line. The cost of living doesn't suddenly get lower when you get more than four miles away from Charing Cross.

'It splits associations. Some teachers in Hackney qualify for the £400 allowance. Others don't. If you take it to its logical conclusion some teachers in a school

# The threshold fight goes on

CHORLEY:-160 men and women at Chorley motorway service station, near Coventry, have been on strike for two weeks demanding a threshold agreement.

On Monday, despite recommendations by Transport Union organiser Bob Harrison, the strikers voted heavily to remain out until the company, Trust House Forte, makes a firm offer.

Some of the workers were getting only £11 for a 40-hour week before they joined the union a year ago. Even now the take-home pay for many is around £17 or £18. There are no shift allowances.

The only vague offer by the company is an increase on the 50p 'bonus' for working a full-shift 40-hour week.

The strikers are determined to win. Management claim the strike is having no effect, but is obviously worried.

The strikers are getting support from local miners—for many are miners' wives. They are also trying to contact workers at other motorway service stations.

Any motorway workers should write—and donations to the strike fund should be sent—to Mrs McShane, 331 Newtown Road, Bedworth, Warwickshire.

## DOWN TOOLS

SHEFFIELD:-600 members of the Transport Union came out on strike at Easterbrook and Allcards small tools factory last Friday.

## REPORTS FROM COVENTRY, SHEFFIELD AND LEWISHAM

Sylvia Greenwood, chairman of the factory's joint shop stewards committee, told Socialist Worker:

'After we put in for the threshold agreements we are entitled to under Phase Three, management offered 70p for women and labourers, which we rejected. They then offered 70p across the board. We rejected this too. Management then paid out £1.20 backdated to 1 June to office and supervisory staff.

'After two hours of discussion management came back with an offer of £1, not back-dated. The full-time officials said it would have to go to the members. So we called a shop stewards' meeting and decided we'd take it to the membership but without any recommendation from us.

'The mass meeting proposed a strike or a sit-in, then voted to strike.

'We went back to management and told them we wanted the £1.20 back-dated plus 80p payable from last week. They refused, claiming it was illegal.

Finally the management told us they would only speak to the joint shop stewards committee if the full-time officials were present. When I reported back to the membership, their responses was "well is that's his answer, the fight is on".

## GEC STRIKES ON

COVENTRY:-The threshold strike at GEC Telecommunications is still solid.

A mass meeting was to be called later in the week to discuss a new company offer of £2.80. Holidays are approaching and since the strike has been passive with only small pickets, many stewards are hoping that the meeting will vote to return to work. If this happens it will be a considerable set-back for the strikers as GEC will only have offered an extra 80p.

## 900 GO BACK

COVENTRY:-900 white-collar workers at Standard Triumph have returned to work. The only concession British Leyland have made is a promise of talks.

## TASS MEN MARCH

SOUTH LONDON:-When management at GEC-Elliot, Lewisham refused any threshold increases, members of TASS, the white-collar section of the Engineers Union, marched in protest round the site awakening areas of previously little militancy. TASS test engineers came out.

As a result management said: No threshold unless you accept it as part of the annual pay increase. To ram home the idea that the threshold was an example of company generosity they tried to use it as blackmail to get round negotiations on the general increase. To rub salt into the wounds the union's divisional organiser was evicted from the company car park.

This has only hardened the men's determination to get what they are entitled to. The company must be forced to engage in proper negotiations.



The World Cup the TV cameras never showed you. Socialists, ringed by hundreds of police, stage one of their soccer stadium demonstrations against the Chilean Junta. They bought up blocks of tickets for all Chile's World Cup matches and made their presence felt by chanting above the Junta's national anthem. By order of the authorities, the TV cameras were carefully kept away from them... and their songs and chants were phased out.

# MONEY CAN'T BUY OUR JOBS

by Andy Nangle (TGWU) Strachans Fund Raising Committee

'£50,000 COMPENSATION' was the headline. That's what it cost Giltspur Investments, the owners of Strachan's of Eastleigh, Hants, to get a sell-out—£1,136.36 a picket.

Seventeen weeks ago Strachan's gave all employees one and a half hours notice. The men rejected the redundancies, occupied the plant and were only kicked out six weeks later with 60 policemen and a high court order. We went on picketing continuously until the dispute finished.

Giltspur produced the £50,000 because the Rank and File Conference backing on their subsidiary companies was biting.

Full time union officials and Giltspur started frantic phone calls. There was a London meeting between national officials and the company on 20 June.

The officials told us there was much arguing before Giltspur doubled their first offer in return for an end to the dispute.

At this time I was in Scotland, fund raising. I was in the Miners Union office in Edinburgh on 21 June, asking for my appeal sheets to be circulated. A copy of the Morning Star was shown me.

It was all there. An hour later the picket line and our committee were told by Sheet Metal Workers Union national committee member George Guy.

He wanted—and got—a vote straight away, with no discussion and won 20 to 13.

We delegates had a fantastic response from Rank and File Conference members throughout the country. With the exception of the Edinburgh District Officer, the Engineering union DOs made an effort.

The dispute could have been settled in six weeks if we'd called for Rank and File blackings from the start—it wouldn't have dragged on for 17. We didn't want the money—but our jobs.

I'd like to thank all Rank and File members I met in Britain—even Dave in Dundee for the soaking I got on his motorbike. And Tony Vanderkuyl for allowing me to watch the Scotland Brazil game on his TV—unfortunately I couldn't hear it because of his shouting.

Without them we wouldn't have got what we did. Many thanks.

## STRIKE ANCHOR

by Stewart Bloomfield

IPSWICH:-The Crown and Anchor Hotel is still being picketed by the 24 workers sacked by Trust Houses Forte after coming out over the victimisation and dismissal of the shop steward. Deliveries are being turned away. So is refuse collection.

But trainee managers from other hotels are using a fleet of hired vans to get rid of refuse and are making deliveries through other hotels.

Last week a group of the strikers lobbied the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions conference at Yarmouth, where they received full support in an emergency resolution. Sympathisers in London will be picketing the Henekey Inn Centre, the firm's West End showpiece, from Tuesday onwards.

The first issue of *Hotel and Catering Worker*, a paper for workers in the industry produced by workers in the industry, has just been produced. Copies can be obtained from 345 Hangleton Road, Hove, Sussex, price 2p each, plus postage.

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could get the higher figure, while others whose classrooms are just that bit further away from Charing Cross would not.

The reasoning behind it is that it restricts the number who'll get the higher figure, which in any case is nowhere near what we need and have been demanding.'

The NUT executive was due to consider the report on Thursday this week. Rank and File was planning to lobby this meeting in a bid to get the executive to take a firm stand.

Reaction in the local government officers union NALGO has been strong too.

## Increase

On Monday the union's negotiators rejected a London weighting offer made by the employers. It was based on the Pay Board recommendation of £400 for Inner London and £200 for Outer London.

The Pay Board figures mean an increase for local government white collar workers of £256 (inner) and £95 (outer). Whereas NALGO is claiming £400 extra across the whole of London.

Geoff Woolfe, of Lewisham NALGO and London secretary of the NALGO Action Group, told Socialist Worker: 'The Pay Board's figures are totally unacceptable. They must have been plucked out of the air.'

'We need £400 extra for everybody. The latest employers' offer is less than the one they made us three months ago and will not solve the problems of living and working in London.'

'Staff shortages are bound to increase. We are holding office meetings this week in my town hall and the local NALGO branch is organising a ballot for further industrial action, but we need unity to win our full claim.'

'I shall be proposing that we get together with local teachers to discuss joint action. We cannot let the government and the employers get away with these derisory offers, especially in Outer London.'

The negotiations in local government will be going ahead again on 8 July. There will be a lobby at Belgrave Square, SW1. For further details contact the NALGO Action Group, 01-318 3566.

## July 8: It's still on, say nurses

COHSE, the Confederation of Health Service Employees, was to have stepped up the nurses' fight for more pay from Monday this week. There was to have been a ban on all non-emergency admissions to hospitals throughout Britain.

Instead, the COHSE Executive has thrown in the towel for promises of a possible interim pay rise in advance of the Halsbury Committee's report on nurses' pay and conditions.

But nurses at the Oakwood Psychiatric Hospital in Maidstone, Kent, rejected the back to normal call and voted overwhelmingly to continue their ban on all admissions except emergencies.

COHSE's banning of private patients and agency nurses remains in force 'indefinitely', despite the groans of NUPE press officer Bernard Dix (see page 13). As he took his latest swipe at union unity, NUPE members at London's Charing Cross Hospital forced a total ban, closing the private wing.

The first seeds of confusion and demoralisation were sown when the other main union, NUPE, snubbed the militancy of its own members, who had been joining other nurses in action. Rank and file calls to back COHSE's action met with vicious attacks by NUPE's Alan Fisher.

Following this backsliding by the official unions, a lot of steam has been taken out of the plans of the rank and file National Nurses Co-ordinating Committee to make next Monday—8 July—a day of national action.

Nevertheless, the committee has called for the action to go ahead. In several areas demonstrations have been planned and support has been obtained from local factories.

Where nurses are still pressing ahead with some action, other trade unionists should fight for support. Official delegations should be sent on demonstrations to show that trade unionists are still behind the nurses' fight to stop the rot in the Health Service.

Where action has been called off, trade unionists should press for pledges of action to be given for when the nurses next make a clear call.

### Muscle

This is not the end of the nurses' action. Without action being kept up, the interim award may not deliver what nurses expect—and the Halsbury Report could get 'lost' for months. If so nurses anger will rise to new heights.

If there is no interim award, COHSE has threatened to start up the action again.

The feeling among many nurses is that this threat is worthless unless a clear date is set. Nurses must fight in their branches to get COHSE to name the day and put some muscle behind its threats.

IN BARNET, North London, the Trades Council has set up a Nurses Support Committee at Friern Barnet Hospital. Nigel Ravenscroft, a member of the Friern Barnet NAC, summarised the need for nurses to join unions and unite with industrial workers.

He told Socialist Worker: 'We nurses must be united in a union prepared to take action and genuinely represent the rank and file. Our [COHSE] action has come from the rank and file, not from the leaders.'

IN TEESIDE, the North East Nurses Advisory Committee is pressing ahead with its action. A demonstration has been planned for Monday, but it is hoped to make 26 July into an even bigger show of trade union solidarity.

IN LEEDS, more than 300 trade unionists and socialists responded last Saturday to a call by the Leeds Nurses Action Committee and marched through the city centre. A small but lively meeting on the Town Hall steps later heard several trade unionists call for industrial action in support of the nurses.

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## SABOTAGE!

From Bill Message  
in Llandudno

DELEGATES at the National Union of Mineworkers' conference here defeated by four votes on Tuesday a resolution from the Yorkshire area calling for wage increases of up to £20 a week.

They voted, instead, by the same majority in favour of a competitive resolution moved by the Nottingham area which simply talked about 'substantial increases'.

Immediately after the vote Mr John Mitchell, a member of the Midlands area

## Votes row as 'moderates' win miners' pay battle

delegation, alleged that the 15 votes cast against the Yorkshire resolution and for the composite by his delegation's leader, Jack Lally were contrary to the mandate given him by the Midlands Area conference.

Mr Mitchell told me that delegates to the National Conference had been mandated to vote for any composite that included Yorkshire's insistence on a claim for £65 for faceworkers, £50 for other underground

workers and £45 for surface workers.

The resolution for which Lally cast his 13 votes did not include these demands. Had Lally cast his votes according to mandate, the Yorkshire resolution would have been passed by 26 votes.

Speaking in a debate, which followed an impassioned plea for moderation by TUC boss Len Murray, Yorkshire delegate Don Baines said the cost of living would rise by 20 per cent this year. The Yorkshire demands represented 'a fair and justifiable return for our labours.'

He blamed the decline in wages during the 1960s on the fact that wage claims had not demanded specific figures.

George Rees (South Wales) seconding the resolution said: 'We should not return to the pre-1970 situation when the National Executive Committee submitted 'substantial' claims and gained increases of five to 15 shillings'.

Wages had increased dramatically since the figures had been stipulated in the claims, and in 1969 the minimum wage underground had been £14, while in 1974 face-workers' wages were £45.

He asked whether this had been achieved by a social contract or talk about 'substantial' increases and said: 'No, no, we did it by getting up off our backsides.'

Len Clarke (Nottinghamshire) moving the composite resolution, argued for a long-term agreement lasting five years backed up with a productivity deal and threshold agreements.

Bob Main, right-wing Executive member for Northumberland, gave the game away when he complained that specific figures demanded in wage claims were like 'hand-cuffs' on negotiators.

There is no doubt that despite the wages victory of a few months ago the right wing in the NUM is on the offensive. As Lally's behaviour shows so clearly only rank and file organisation and determination to control full-time officials can effectively smash the right wing.

### SHELL SHOCKED

THE 1800 strikers at Shell's giant oil refinery near Ellesmere Port are determined to force the powerful and wealthy corporation to assure them of half decent wage rises when Phase Three ends.

Six months ago, the workers, members of the Transport and General Workers Union, ended up with a Phase Three increase. Now they are seeking an agreement to pay around 17 per cent when Phase Three passes on.

This would just about compensate them for what inflation has done to their wages. Shell stood firm at 8 per cent, a pittance.



Nurses and trade unionists marching on Saturday from the Central Middlesex Hospital to Willesden General in support of the nurses' pay claim. The march was a part of a campaign by Brent Trades Council, which is pushing for stoppages on Monday, the national Day of Action. Picture: Andrew Wiard (Report)

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## The Slave-owners' Charter

AFTER ten weeks of fruitless talks, the crunch has finally come at the five British Leyland Bus and Truck plants at Leyland and Chorley in Lancashire. 9000 production workers came out on indefinite strike last Thursday after an attempt to force through a Measured Day Work system without negotiation.

Workers have been presented with 'the document', which reads like a slave-owner's charter, and told to like it or lump it. It includes total mobility and flexibility of labour, minimising of idle times, a tightening up of discipline, and 'relaxation periods' only to be taken during set-ups and machine breakdowns.

But the heart of the 'document' is a Pooled Bonus System based on industrial engineering. The industrial engineers will dictate speeds and working methods and the only method of appeal is through a lengthy procedure designed to bypass the shop stewards. The proposals would also give management the free hand to introduce Methods Time Measurement, Leyland synthetics and any other brand of time

and motion trickery they choose.

As an inducement to the stewards to commit this form of suicide, they offered the princely sum of £114. Some sections would be earning £2 to £4 more under the new system, but others would be taking a wage cut.

The company have refused even to implement the national engineering agreement, to which they are a party, unless the 'document' is accepted.

Last week management decided to try to bulldoze their way through. They informed senior stewards that industrial engineers would operate on the factory

THE FOUR pickets arrested by the Special Patrol Group outside Ford's Dagenham during the official engineers' strike on 8 May, came up before Barking Magistrates Court on Monday.

Stephen Harper, Mohammed Siddiqui and Victor Emslie were remanded on bail until September. But Colville Rainey, an AUEW shop steward and a member of IS,

floor from 3 July and that the other provisions of the document would be introduced by stages over the next month.

When an industrial engineer appeared on the shop floor on the North Works on Wednesday to start timing a job he was told to go away and 500 workers walked out. A mass meeting the following day voted overwhelmingly for immediate strike action.

There is another sinister aspect to this strike. Leyland are shaping up for a major rationalisation drive across the combine and this looks like further shots in that campaign.

## Pickets in court

was fined £10 for obstruction.

Inspector John Ivis told the court that Colville 'appeared to be one of the ring-leaders', but later admitted: 'He was just standing there doing nothing. He just happened to be the one I addressed my remarks to.'

The court was picketed by more than 50 trade unionists.