

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Nurses' flying pickets bring out 1000 miners

by Colwyn Williamson

Swansea IS District Committee

MORE THAN 1000 miners in three pits in Swansea, South Wales, came out on strike on Tuesday in response to an appeal for solidarity by the Swansea Nurses' Action Committee.

The committee was started six weeks ago by nurses in two of the biggest city hospitals and trade unionist members of the International Socialists. Its purpose was to take the nurses' dispute to trade unionists in other industries.

At each of the three pits, the nurses leafleted miners as they arrived for work, and unfurled a large banner which proclaimed the headline that appeared in Socialist Worker when the nurses' dispute started: **STRIKE A BLOW FOR THE NURSES.**

At Morlais Colliery, lodge secretary Gareth Williams welcomed the nurses and agreed at once to call a pit-head meeting. Student nurse Ann Addie told the miners:

'The miners have led the way before. You even brought a government down. We learnt our flying pickets from you. Now we're asking you to set another example for the rest of the trade union movement by taking strike action to support the nurses.'

Deserve

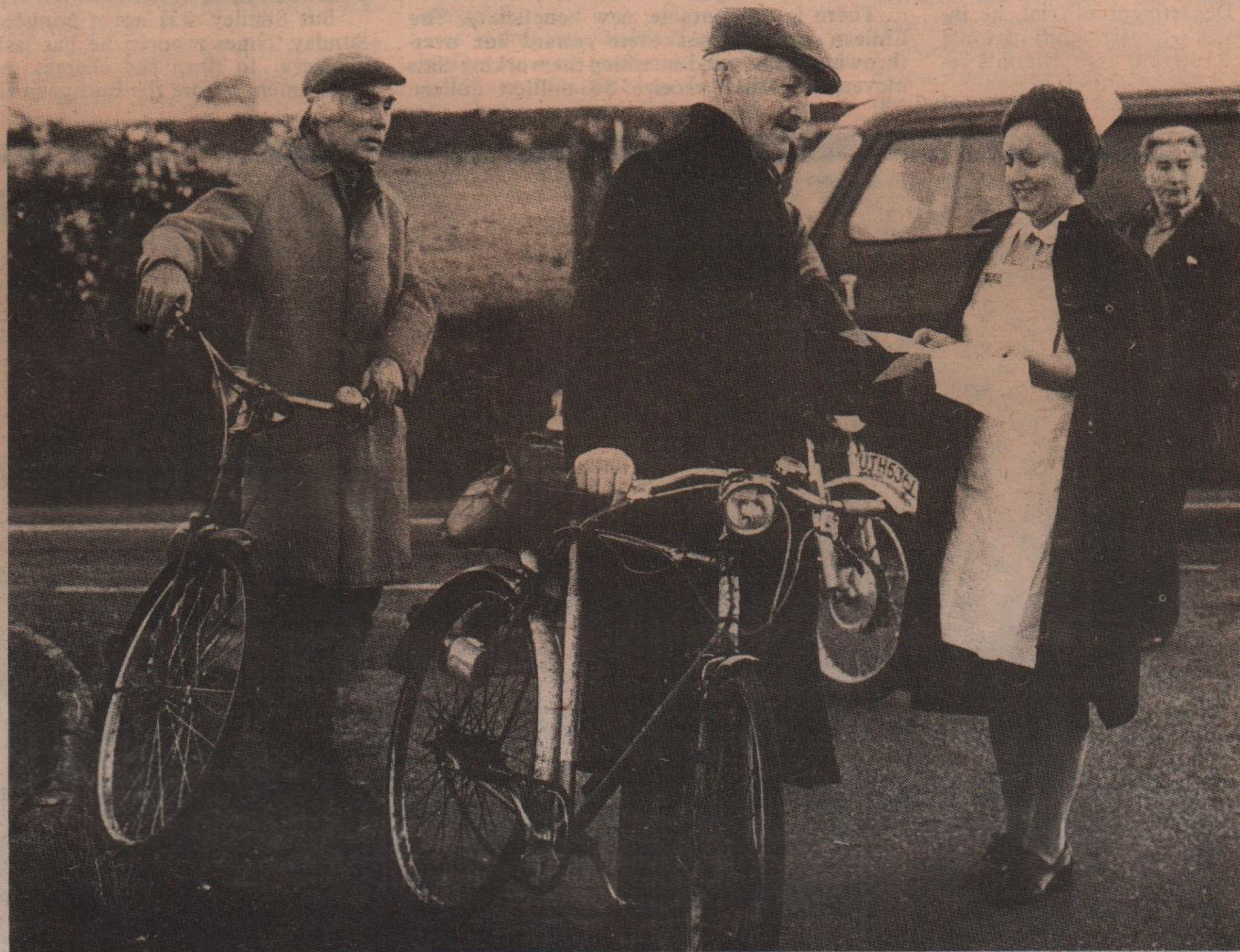
The response was overwhelming. The miners voted unanimously to stage an immediate 24-hour strike.

Mike Lewis, a miner at Morlais, spoke for the men when he said: 'It was the only decision we could make. You can't live without nurses. It's up to the rest of us to fight alongside the nurses for the wages they deserve.'

At Graig Merthyr pit, the nurses were not so lucky. The lodge committee refused their request for a pithead meeting. But the miners were infuriated by their committee's decision and insisted on a meeting.

The committee boycotted the meeting, so the rank and file members ran it.

Nurse Jean Thomas told them: 'Mass action is needed not only to improve the lot of the nurses but to save the National Health Service. In this society you only get somewhere when you hit profits. Nurses can't do that, but other workers can. So let's



A nurse hands leaflets to miners as they arrive for work. Within half an hour the miners voted to strike

go together, miners and nurses, to other workplaces and demand the same action.'

The miners voted unanimously to go on strike.

At Bryn Lliw colliery lodge officials agreed at once to hold a pithead meeting for the nurses, and nurses Geoff O'Malley and Margaret Jones spoke. They explained that Barbara Castle's inquiry was just a way of delaying the issue. 'There's no need for an inquiry as to whether nurses need more money', said Geoff. 'Everyone knows they do.'

Fantastic

'With all the money being spent on expensive equipment to kill people, some could be afforded to keep people alive.'

The meeting voted overwhelmingly to go on a 24-hour strike the follow-

ing day—Wednesday—with afternoon and night shifts coming out as well.

Ken Price, convener of the Public Employers' Union shop stewards in South Wales, summed up the day: 'This is a fantastic display of solidarity with our fight. We've had enough sympathy and resolutions. What miners have done today, the rest of the trade union movement must do tomorrow.'

Mike Atkinson, NUPE hospital convener for the North East, said when he heard what had happened in South Wales: 'This action by the South Wales miners sets an example to all workers and, gives us in the North East a fantastic incentive to make our day of action on 26 July really effective.'

'If this sort of support and action can be reflected all over the country, we must see an end to the poverty of working in the National Health Service.'

SOCIALIST WORKER!

—breach of the peace

IN BLACKBURN a man has been charged with breach of the peace for shouting out two words: 'SOCIALIST WORKER!'

Even before he could shout 'On Sale Here' he was arrested and taken to the police station.

In Nottingham, six people are up on various charges for selling left-wing papers including Socialist Worker.

In Guildford recently the local council threatened to enforce an obscure by-law to stop the selling of left-wing literature in the streets.

In the High Courts, magistrates courts and police stations everywhere, new ways are being searched out for the prosecution of Socialist Worker and other socialist papers.

The big wholesale and retail newsagents boycott socialist papers. When socialists try to sell their papers on the streets or in the factory, the police and the foreman move in to stop it.

We'll go on producing our paper. We'll go on selling in Blackburn. In Swansea this week, for instance, we'll be selling 100 more copies than last week.

But this constant battle against the authorities costs money.

That's where your pennies and your pounds come in. Send us something, however little, for our fighting fund.

This week we received £353, making a total for the month so far of £1100.

Many thanks to: Grimsby Socialist Worker readers £4, International telephones £5, Lowestoft £10, Fakenham £5, Paddington £76.88, Dudley £8, Wythenshaw £21, Maidstone £4, C A Parsons, Newcastle £21.50, Beaufort St Socialist Worker readers £1.50, Bristol £10, Tower Hamlets £6, Middleton £8.45, M K Electrics £6.30, Hull £1.20, Finsbury Park £2, Tottenham £21, Keighley £10.

Send your donations and collections to: Jim Nichol, National Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

YES SHAH, NO SHAH, THREE BAGS FULL SHAH

NERO is said to have fiddled while Rome burned. Dennis Healey tinkers while the economy slides towards the slump.

Wedded, as he and his government are, to trying to make capitalism work, he is reduced to crossing his fingers and hoping for the best.

The reduction in the 'Mini-Budget' of VAT by 2 per cent will have some slight effect on the rate of price increases. The allocation of £50 million extra to the bread subsidy will have some effect on the retail price index and so, the government hopes, may save many employers a threshold payment in the next few months. But all this is peanuts.

Big business gets the limit on dividend increases put up to 12½ per cent plus a doubling of the subsidy firms receive for each worker em-

ployed in development areas. The CBI, the bosses' organisation, thinks this is peanuts too. It wants effective abolition of price controls to boost profits.

But that is impossible for the Labour government. An election is imminent. The one significant change—the rebate on rate increases—is pure electioneering. The Tories were all set to make the running on rates. After the election the rates will go up again. That is certain.

After the election. That is when the real extra budget will be brought in. It will be built around a new 'wage restraint' policy.

What else is there to say about Healey's performance? Only this. We can anticipate that the Labour government will be licking the Shah's boots in the months ahead, lest that capricious tyrant take his dollars elsewhere.

HANDS OFF CYPRUS!

The defenders of 'democracy'



NIXON: THE PRICE OF 'FREEDOM'

RICHARD MILHOUS NIXON, whose commitment to peace, liberty and law and order depends on whether he is addressing our TVs or his own tape-recorder, has now given us the inside story on ITT.

The latest transcript—and the most revealing yet—of his private White House chats, tells what went on behind-the-scenes in this story of international subversion.

ITT, the International Telephone and Telegraph Company, intrigued with the CIA to try to overthrow President Allende of Chile at the time of his election four years ago. It was, of course, a plot that the United States government and its President, so devout in the defence of democracy, could never espouse.

That, at least, is what they would like the world to believe. In private, it was a rather different story. According to the newly-released Watergate transcript, Nixon made an angry phone call in 1971 to his Deputy Attorney-General Richard Kleindienst.

He demanded that a prosecution against ITT be stopped and that the man pursuing it, a Justice Department official, be instantly removed. ITT, one of the world's largest multi-national companies, was, meanwhile, paying £160,000 into Nixon's re-election campaign.

Nixon told Kleindienst: 'The ITT thing—stay the hell out of it. Is that clear? That's an order. I don't know whether ITT is good, bad or indifferent. There is not going to be any more anti-trust actions as long as I am in this chair. God damn it, we're going to stop it.'

The case was eventually settled out of court—and Nixon, in another of his totally sincere public announcements, praised the official for 'having moved effectively against ITT.'

Getting the reds taped

THE TOP men in the civil service go to great lengths to ensure that at no time is business as usual disturbed. A letter in the current issue of the Society of Civil Servants journal makes this abundantly clear.

SCS member H Clements, who works in the Home Office, describes what happened when he went for an interview in front of the Final Board for Administrative Trainee Selection.

Asked whether he believed history was the result of individual efforts or of mass movements, Mr Clements replied that he believed in fate, that 'the moving finger' decided the future.

Obviously relieved, the examiner replied: 'Ah. So you aren't a marxist.'

In his letter, Mr Clements draws the obvious conclusion: 'He (the examiner) was not on the board as a detached examiner of ability: his function was to smell out political heresy!'

WE HAVE WAYS OF MAKING YOU STAY

THE 'socialist' prison camp known as East Germany is still having trouble with the inmates.

Would-be escapers now face one more hazard—a great scientific advance for communism called the steel fragment bomb.

It is similar to the splinter bombs used by the Americans in Vietnam and righteously denounced by the East Germans at the time.

This is what happened to one fugitive from 'socialist democracy' recently: a man cleared all the ob-

stacles, such as minefields, ten-foot deep ditches and barbed wire entanglements, between the East and West German borders at Hohegeiss, 130 miles south east of Hamburg.

Then, as he climbed the last wire fence, he touched a trip-wire—and was ripped to pieces by a hail of jagged steel fragments from the bomb.

The automatic bombs, located every ten yards along the 860-miles, are especially positioned to hit the victim at head and knee height.

Armed Insurance for Dictators

THE US government armed the Greek military dictatorship. The US government armed the Turks, too, along with a collection of the most reactionary and brutal dictatorships.

A US Senator, Allan Cranston, has been looking at the latest 'foreign aid' programme.

He shows that more than two-thirds of the 7500 million dollars will go to 'military dictatorships and authoritarian governments' who will use the money 'to underwrite repression and militarism'.

Top of the list is General Thieu's dictatorship in South Vietnam (2400 million dollars). Lon Nol's Cambodia gets 551 million and the murderous tyranny of President Park in South Korea collects 416 million.

The Greek colonels get their usual cut along with the right-wing military dictatorships of Brazil and Indonesia.

There is one notable, new beneficiary. The Chilean generals get their reward for overthrowing Allende and smashing the working-class movement. They receive 85 million dollars

ORME: WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT TORTURE?

WHEN socialists attack the Labour Party's policy and record, Labour 'left wingers' often agree with the criticisms. 'Yes, you are right,' many of them say. 'But you should come in to the Party and help us to change it.'

Alas, it is usually the 'left-wingers' who change while the Party goes on as before. Consider the case of honest Stanley Orme, one-time pillar of the Tribune group and the Broad Left, and a great believer in the 'join the Labour Party to change it' philosophy.

If, a year or two ago, you had said to honest Stan that he would soon be defending internment without trial and the torture of political prisoners, he would have indignantly denounced such vile slanders.

He might have pointed to his signature on the appeal against internment and for an independent inquiry by MPs and trade unionists into army and police brutality, which appeared in Socialist Worker on 11 September 1971.

But Stanley was not a minister at the time. Today he is and, so the Sunday Times reports, he has 'asked the Irish Prime Minister, Mr Liam Cosgrave, to drop the charges, now being brought against the British government before the European Human Rights Commission.'

What are these charges? They include the following violations of the Human Rights Convention, which was ratified by the UK government in 1951. First, internment without trial, second, torture of prisoners during interrogation.

The hearings on the charges are 'embarrassing' the Wilson government, you see.

So Minister of State for Northern Ireland Stanley Orme acts with vigour. Not, indeed, by resigning from a government which maintains the system of internment against which he once protested.

On the contrary. His efforts are devoted to trying to persuade the Irish prime minister to forget the whole thing.

What has changed? Not internment. Not, unfortunately, the Labour Party. What has changed is Stan Orme.

He, like so many 'Labour lefts' before him, has been absorbed by the right wing Labour establishment.

Perhaps, like the carpenter eating the oysters, he weeps for his victims. But the consolations of office are sweet.



Franco: It's a dead shame...

IT IS with regret that we report this week that General Franco of Spain (above) is in danger of dying.

Our regret is that it didn't happen 40 years ago.

Franco, whose regime has terrorised workers since his forces, with the backing of Hitler and Mussolini, smashed the Republicans in the Spanish Civil War, has handed over power to Juan Carlos.

The regime will continue, of course. But Franco's demise will hearten Spanish socialists.

The amazing humanity of the General was paid tribute to in the Daily Telegraph last week:

He soon showed his ability to command troops.

It is said that while he was inspecting troops complaining of poor food, one soldier spat a mouthful into his face.

Franco ordered an improvement in the food and confined those responsible for its bad quality to barracks for 90 days. But he had the spitter shot.

LABOUR'S CHEAP —AND SO IS WHITEWASH

By a SOGAT worker at Reed's TOVIL and Bridge paper mills at Maidstone, Kent, part of the mighty Reed International empire, are to be the venue of a meeting of the Reed Group safety officers in October.

Already the whitewash has started; and instructions have gone out to the safety committee to be extra vigilant for this great occasion.

What a fine start has been made! A hydropulperman has received a possible rupture by pushing in the contents of the hydropulper with the pole provided for the job.

A mill fireman narrowly escaped decapitation by a ladder 'mysteriously' hanging from the hook of an overhead crane.

And there was yet another fire in the machine house, caused this time by friction on paper wrapped round a felt roll. The sparks ignited paper dust which had accumulated on the machine, and the flames were hot enough to melt the coverings of the extractor fans in the roof.

If the machine had been shut and the paper cleared it would never have happened—but the pursuit of profit must go on, and labour is cheap. So is whitewash.

THE JUNTAS' JAMBOREE

One

THE CYPRUS COUP WAS CONDUCTED BY A TINY MINORITY OF ARMED THUGS, WHOSE MAIN PURPOSE WAS TO RID CYPRUS OF ALL SOCIALIST AND TURKISH INFLUENCE.

Every test of opinion in Cyprus in recent years, every local election, every advance in membership of the Pan-Cyprian trade union movement has shown that union with Greece, the declared aim of the military junta under Nicos Sampson, was losing popularity among the half-million Greek Cypriots on the island.

The 120,000 Turkish Cypriots, obviously, were also one hundred per cent opposed. Union with Greece under the junta, at the time of last week's coup in Cyprus, was supported by no more than 10 per cent of the Cypriot people.

Two

IN SPITE OF ALL THE RHETORIC, THE COUP WAS NOT SERIOUSLY OPPOSED BY THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS.

In a report from Nicosia last Saturday, Eric Rouleau of the French paper *Le Monde* wrote:

'The Paphos area would probably not have fallen into the hands of the putschists so quickly if the British military authorities had not given permission to units of the National Guard to take the road near the Akrotiri Base to go from Limassol to Paphos. For in fact this road crosses the enclave which belongs in full sovereignty to the United Kingdom.

'Questioned about this, a spokesman close to official British circles has assured us that it was not 'legally possible' to refuse access to anyone, for this might have created a dangerous precedent which sooner or later could have led to a challenge to the very existence of the two bases in the island—the most important bases Britain has in the world.

'This is not the view of [Cyprus socialist leader] Dr Lyssarides, who told us: "The British High Commissioner has given us a formal promise not to allow this strategic road to be used by seditious elements who have taken up arms against the legitimate authority of the Republic of Cyprus."

While British Foreign Secretary Jim Callaghan was welcoming the island's President, Archbishop Makarios, to Britain as the 'rightful head of state', British forces were making the way clear for the fascist troops who proceeded to Paphos and slaughtered all the trade union and labour leaders in the town.

Callaghan's hypocrisy was soon put to the test. The day after his welcome for Makarios, Callaghan refused to demand the removal of Greek troops from Cyprus. Instead, he urged their 'replacement'—which was planned anyway by the junta to make up for military losses.

The American government insisted at all costs on maintaining close ties with the Greek junta. So Callaghan was quickly whipped into line.

Three

THE TURKISH INVASION HAS STRENGTHENED THE REACTIONARY FORCES IN CYPRUS.

British liberal opinion, led by the Sunday Times has supported the Turkish invasion as 'legitimate defender of a minority'. In fact, the invasion has sabotaged all progressive movements in the Turkish Cypriot community.

Such an invasion has long been planned by the Turkish Cypriot

leader, Rauf Denktash, Vice-President of Cyprus. Denktash, an extreme right-winger, has insisted that the Turkish Cypriots stick to the Turkish 'enclaves' in Cyprus. He has repeatedly tried with some success to ban Turkish Cypriot membership of trade unions. He has victimised known members of the bi-racial social democratic party, EDEK.

This policy has been supported by the feeble Turkish Prime Minister Ecevit, who dare not move without the support of the Turkish army.

The Turkish army, the biggest in Europe, sponsored the coup in 1971 which resulted in almost total dictatorship throughout the country. Independent trade unions were banned. Labour leaders were imprisoned and tortured in a wave of terror.

That army has not changed under Ecevit. The torturers have not been purged. These are the men who, in exchange for an amnesty for political prisoners in Turkey, demanded that Ecevit order the invasion of Cyprus.

At any rate, Ecevit has always pursued a right-wing line in Cyprus. Last April, his policies were denounced by Turkish Cypriot members of EDEK.

His policy, said an official EDEK statement 'seeks the establishment of a racist-based regime with complete disregard to the wishes of the Turkish Cypriot community. It will place the Turkish Cypriot adminis-



tration in a state of built-in-servility to Ankara—and will hasten the day when the Greek Cypriot community is in complete servility to Athens.'

These criticisms were gaining ground in Cyprus, and Denktash was losing support. The army pressed Ecevit to intervene with Turkish troops to 'establish' Turkish enclaves and to put a stop to 'fraternisation' between Turkish and Greek Cypriot workers.

The Greek junta's coup in Cyprus gave the Turkish army their chance. Ecevit was quickly persuaded to agree to the invasion. The invasion is NOT the act of a progressive government protecting a harassed minority. It is the act of a brutal military power to shore up its reactionary supporter in Cyprus, Denktash.

That is why the Turkish forces did not attack the Sampson junta, but held fast to their own enclaves. They want to divide the island on racial lines, with both communities subjected to tyrannous regimes.

Four

WE MUST DEMAND THE REMOVAL OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS FROM CYPRUS.

There can be no solution to the racial and social problems of Cyprus until all foreign troops are with-

drawn. That means the Greek 'National Guard', the Turkish army, United Nations forces, and the British troops.

The Makarios government's decision to allow Britain two massive bases in the south and west of the island ensured that Britain and the other NATO powers would use the island as a pawn in the Cold War games.

Five

BUT THE DEVELOPMENTS IN CYPRUS SHOW ONCE AGAIN HOW FUTILE ARE THE TACTICS OF WORKING-CLASS LEADERS WHO URGE SUPPORT FOR AND COMPROMISE WITH 'CONSTITUTIONAL' CAPITALIST GOVERNMENTS'

By far the largest political organisation in Cyprus is AKEL—the Communist Party—which gets the vote of almost half the Greek Cypriot population including almost the entire Greek Cypriot working class. Many Turkish Cypriot workers, especially in Famagusta, are also members of AKEL.

A right-wing Athens-inspired coup in Cyprus was inevitable ever since Archbishop Makarios moved to expel the Greek National Guard from the island. Yet no move was made by the Communist Party or the Communist-led trade unions to prepare the workers for such a coup. No plans were laid for a general strike or workers' military mobilisation in the event of such a coup. They merely called for the strengthening of the special police.

Instead, the Communist Party urged closer support for the capitalist Makarios government. Communist praise for the wealthy Makarios—he owns a substantial share in a third of the island's property—intensified. AKEL called for a 'strengthening of the special police' which Makarios was setting up to 'counteract' the Greek junta's puppet army.

Prepared

When the coup came, Makarios' police were quickly overwhelmed by the National Guard. The workers were left helpless against the armed thugs who arrested their leaders and shot them. Factories, docks and hotels stayed in business—because no one had prepared for a general strike.

After the coup the Communist Parties contented themselves with appeals to the United Nations to stop the fighting and put back the 'legal government'. In less than a day, however, the UN was exposed for what it was: a talking shop for the property interests of the Great Powers. The UN Security Council was prepared at a word from the Pentagon to recognise the representative of the new junta in Cyprus.

Now the Communist Parties in Europe and in Cyprus demand 'prompt action from the British and American governments to restore constitutional rule'. What this action could be, or what hope there is that the British or American governments will act against its own military interest is not specified. Instead of calling on the Great Powers to get out of Cyprus, the Communist Parties are calling on them to go in!

We have had enough proof in the past year of the impotence of 'progressive' constitutional governments in the face of ruling-class terrorist armies. Cyprus follows in the pattern of Chile. The 'constitutional' demands of self-professed revolutionaries are stripped naked.

We've got to get all foreign troops out of Cyprus. Working-class movements of the world must throw their strength behind the Cyprus workers. That way, and that way alone, will those workers shake off the tyranny which engulfs them.

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WHAT WE THINK

Exit stick —enter carrot

THE INDUSTRIAL Relations Act is dead. The National Industrial Relations Court shuts up shop this week. Sir John Donaldson, foiled by the Appeal Court in his last-ditch attempt to force a conclusion to the General Aviation Services case against the TGWU, draws his redundancy pay (or whatever judges get in such cases) and retires into a well-merited obscurity.

There are no mourners. The Financial Times remarks that 'few will regret the death of the Tory law' which it, in common with practically the whole of Fleet Street, so enthusiastically welcomed only three years ago.

The Tories announce that they will not attempt to re-enact their law if they re-gain power. The Labour Party leaders boast that they always opposed it and the Liberals explain that they never *really* supported it. Nobody, it seems, loves the Industrial Relations Act. It was all a dreadful mistake.

It was not. It was, as Socialist Worker said when the Tory Bill was published in 1970, a plan 'to strip the organised workers of most of their hard-won rights . . . to bring in legal shackles that will put the unions at the mercy of the state machine and the bosses.'

It was a deadly serious attempt, supported by all 'respectable' opinion. *And it might have succeeded*, indeed *would* have succeeded if workers had followed the advice of the TUC and confined their opposition to purely passive, legal resistance.

Fortunately, they did not. The TUC, pushed by the impact of the big unofficial political strikes on 8 December 1970 and 12 January 1971 did indeed call for a 'mass demonstration of protest' on 21 February—a Sunday.

They got it—140,000 workers turned out for the biggest march in living memory—and then, having let off steam, the TUC bosses settled down to 'peaceful co-existence' with the law.

'The sole further action they propose,' Socialist Worker reported of the Croydon Special Congress in March, 'a lobby of parliament—is so pathetic that even Victor Feather, Commander of the British Empire, didn't pretend it would do any good.'

A good fairy

This Congress *rejected* a resolution instructing unions not to register under the Act in favour of 'strongly advising' unions not to do so. It is perhaps worth recording what some of the heroes of the movement said then.

'We can't see what the advantages are of registration or de-registration. You are going to be registered anyway,' proclaimed Sir Sidney Greene, the Railwaymen's leader. 'We say the Bill is unworkable. Why don't we co-operate and prove it?' inquired Frank Chapple.

Then came the crunch. After the Merseyside dockers had defied the law by continuing to black the container firm, Heaton Transport, and the railwaymen had given the thumbs-down to the Tories by overwhelmingly rejecting the employers' offer in a state-imposed ballot, Tory Judge Donaldson struck back.

He ordered the arrest of Conny Clancy, Tony Merrick, Bernie Steer, Vic Turner and Derek Watkins, five London dockers, for 'contempt' of his NIRC. Their crime? Picketing the Midland Cold Store contrary to his orders.

The escalating strike movement to free the five got no help at all from the trade union leaders. These strikes were entirely the work of rank and file militants and they put the fear of God into the establishment.

So much so that after five days the TUC itself decided it had to call out its entire membership—for a token action naturally—to keep control.

The government caved in. A good fairy, the Official Solicitor, was conjured up to free the five. The Tory law was mortally wounded. Socialist Worker called it 'the greatest victory for the British working class for more than half a century'.

Many struggles against the NIRC lay ahead. There were the cases of Joseph Langston and Goad the scab, the fines on the AUEW and Donaldson's desperate bid to seize the whole of the AUEW's assets in support of the Con-Mech management.

But the Pentonville struggle was the decisive turning point. It paved the way for the later resistance. It forced the right wingers and the phoney lefts in the movement to stay unregistered.

The Industrial Relations Act is dead. Long live the Social Contract. That is what the bosses and their agents in the workers' movement are thinking now.

Coercion failed. Perhaps guile will succeed in the endless struggle to paralyse the working class. Harold Wilson, Ted Heath and Len Murray are allied together to try it.

Working-class action smashed the Industrial Relations Act. Working-class action can bury the Social Contract fraud. Speed the day.

LETTERS

Orangemen: now your ball is over, think!



Sublime mysticism and nonsense . . . Orange power on the streets of Belfast 1974.

AGAIN WE have been subjected to the annual walk of the Loyal Orange Institution in Liverpool. After several years in decline because of the troubles of Ireland and Ulster, they are now flexing their muscles and preparing to abandon their so-called Christian principles in support of what is now a fascist state in Ulster.

There were bands from North and South Liverpool, Kirkby, Skelmersdale and Scotland and Ireland, with their attendant badges.

What had been for some people a procession with a slightly carnival atmosphere must now be seen as it really is; a display of domination over the Catholics. Before the war, the fathers and grandfathers of these working-class marchers helped to drive Oswald Mosley and the Fascist Party off the streets of Liverpool. Now they support the same sort of people.

Right now, the Craigs and Paisleys are courting the National Front. Wake up you Orangemen! Put your duty where it should be, to your fellow workers, and to hell with the Ulster politicians who are using you. Have your day out, but at the end of it, when the flutes and drums and concertinas have finished, consider how many workers' lives have been lost in Northern Ireland because of the repression you now represent.—Member of Evans Medical IS Branch, Liverpool.

I'm going to sit down and vote myself a bureaucrat

I THINK Gerry Jones errs in calling for election of Transport Union officers by postal ballot (6 July). We in North America have had bad experiences with mail ballots which British workers should avoid duplicating.

First, postal ballots almost always tend to favor the more conservative side. Those members who don't attend branch meetings and avoid their stewards are encouraged to continue doing so, and vote either for people they've heard of before (the incumbents) or for those least likely to rock the boat (ditto).

Second, mail ballots are extraordinarily open to manipulation and miscounting.

Third, because members vote in a situation (the privacy of their homes) which both reinforces individual conservatism and takes place where meaningful debate is impossible, postal ballots not only give conservative results but encourage employer meddling in union affairs.

I mean not only that the capitalist media will attempt to influence the outcome of major union elections by slanted coverage aimed at inactive union members, but that 'public relations' plays an increasingly important role.

We in the US and Canada have already had instances of thousands of dollars being spent on television commercials for union elections. This money, when not looted from union treasuries, was secured by contributions from union staff workers fearful for their jobs and from employers (whose interest may be guessed).

The most honest and democratic way to conduct union elections and referenda is by secret balloting in well-publicized branch meetings where ample debate is allowed.—TOM CONDIT, (East Bay International Socialists, Int'l Brotherhood of Teamsters), California.

HEROES?

REGARDING the editorial, Bombs and Hypocrites (20 July), I agree with all but the last sentence in which you refer to 'heroic individuals'. I can see nothing heroic in placing a bomb in a place full of tourists of which at least 50 per cent must be children.

We all know that innocent adults and children are being killed in Ireland as they were by the British paratroopers on Bloody Sunday. The paratroopers who shoot down innocent people are certainly not heroes nor are the people who place bombs in targets full of kids.—MICHAEL FENN, Plaistow, London.

Slumps and Politics

MIKE ROOKE (20 July) accuses me of 'crude economic determinism' when I wrote that a recession (with continuing very high inflation) could 'lead to working class anger' and could bring a determination to get rid of the whole system.'

It is precisely because I do understand crude economic determinism that I wrote 'capitalism will never collapse of its own will', and, again, the system 'will have to be scrapped from top to bottom and replaced.'

As Socialist Worker has made clear repeatedly, only a potentially conscious working class led by a mass working class socialist party can lead to the revolutionary reconstruction of society. But to deny that economic crisis coming at a time (unlike the 1930s) when the working class has not experienced mass defeat and demoralisation does not lead to a potential political threat to the system is to shut one's eyes to reality.

The Tories, the employers and the extreme right wing all understand this very clearly.

While on the subject may I put right a few points which the print gremlins got at in my original article? I wrote that the prospective balance of payments deficit was £4000 millions (not £400 millions). I wrote that cuts in arms spending 'slowed' (not 'showed') economic growth. Finally I wrote that the money supply is the 'means by which inflation is passed from one infected sector of the economy to all others.—JOHN PALMER, Rayners Park, London.

AUEW: Tories yes, but socialists no

IN RESPONSE to the article (13 July) about the refusal of the Engineering union executive to give national conference reporting credentials to Socialist Worker reporters, the following resolution was passed at the Edmonton 1 AUEW branch.

'This Edmonton 1 Branch deplores the EC's undemocratic decision not to give Socialist Worker reporters credentials to cover our forthcoming national conference. It is deplorable that reporters from a workers' newspaper are not allowed to attend whilst reporters from anti-working class newspapers such as the Daily Telegraph and Daily Express are allowed to attend.

'We call on the EC to reverse its decision and allow Socialist Worker reporters to attend in line with our principles, laid down in our journal to allow all shades of opinion to be represented.—KEITH NICHORSTER, Edmonton, London.

VOTE LABOUR? OH NO—

BEFORE the International Socialists get the opportunity to lavish Socialist Worker with emotive two-inch high VOTE LABOUR headlines, all dissenters should write, while time is opportune, and try to influence an otherwise similar inevitable approach to the next election.

After showering readers with gems of endless rhetoric on how parliament is a bourgeois institution, after SW's excellent expose of Chile's erroneous 'Parliamentary Road, after IS distributed an excellent pamphlet by Roger Kline on the subject, it seems incredible to me that we were asked to vote Labour as temporary respite from the then Tory onslaught on the working class.

Without a doubt that onslaught was real and accelerating, but the inevitability of a Labour onslaught is just as real. And for that matter so would a Labour/Liberal onslaught, or a Tory/Liberal onslaught or a National Governmental onslaught—a ruling class onslaught.

With the serious forthcoming recession, all parliamentarians have to make capitalism work at our expense. So why cloud this important truth by asking us to vote Labour—albeit temporary relief?

Lenin had agreeable arguments in favour of parliamentary participation by the revolutionary left. IS has expressed the eventual desirability of

running candidates for parliament but to contemplate this, it is important to understand the nature of the British democracy which in its present form would deny us any success for years to come.

How can any parliamentary seats be contemplated when contested in such an impossible system (by European standards) of misrepresentation? We must work in the Labour movement for proportional representation which, when the occasion arises, would assist in securing for us a greater statistical representation and hopefully, propaganda platforms in parliament.

Don't vote—you know it makes sense, unless it's for revolution.—TONY BARRS, Holt.

Was there a Tower bomb warning?

ONE HAS read the press and listened to the radio and television over the last few days about the bomb blast in the Tower of London. One has heard about the poor children who suffered: the 40 people injured. The IRA has been blamed although there is no proof, and the persons responsible gave no warning.

Is it possible that a warning was given and no action taken on it by the police by orders from above? This must be the best propaganda that the British government have

HOW CAN you still go on making the same mistakes after all this time? Dave Hallsworth opens his Talking About Socialism (20 July) with 'In a reasonable world men would choose . . . ' and goes on 'look at mankind today.' What a narrow-minded view of the world!

There will be no 'reasonable' world without half the human beings in it—women. Where is your consciousness as socialists which would enable you to stop the words 'men', 'mankind', 'he', 'him', when you mean women and men? It is up to you to include women without fail, in the language of Socialist Worker.—CAROLINE BOND, London E.8.

had for a long time to try and alienate the IRA from any class of people.

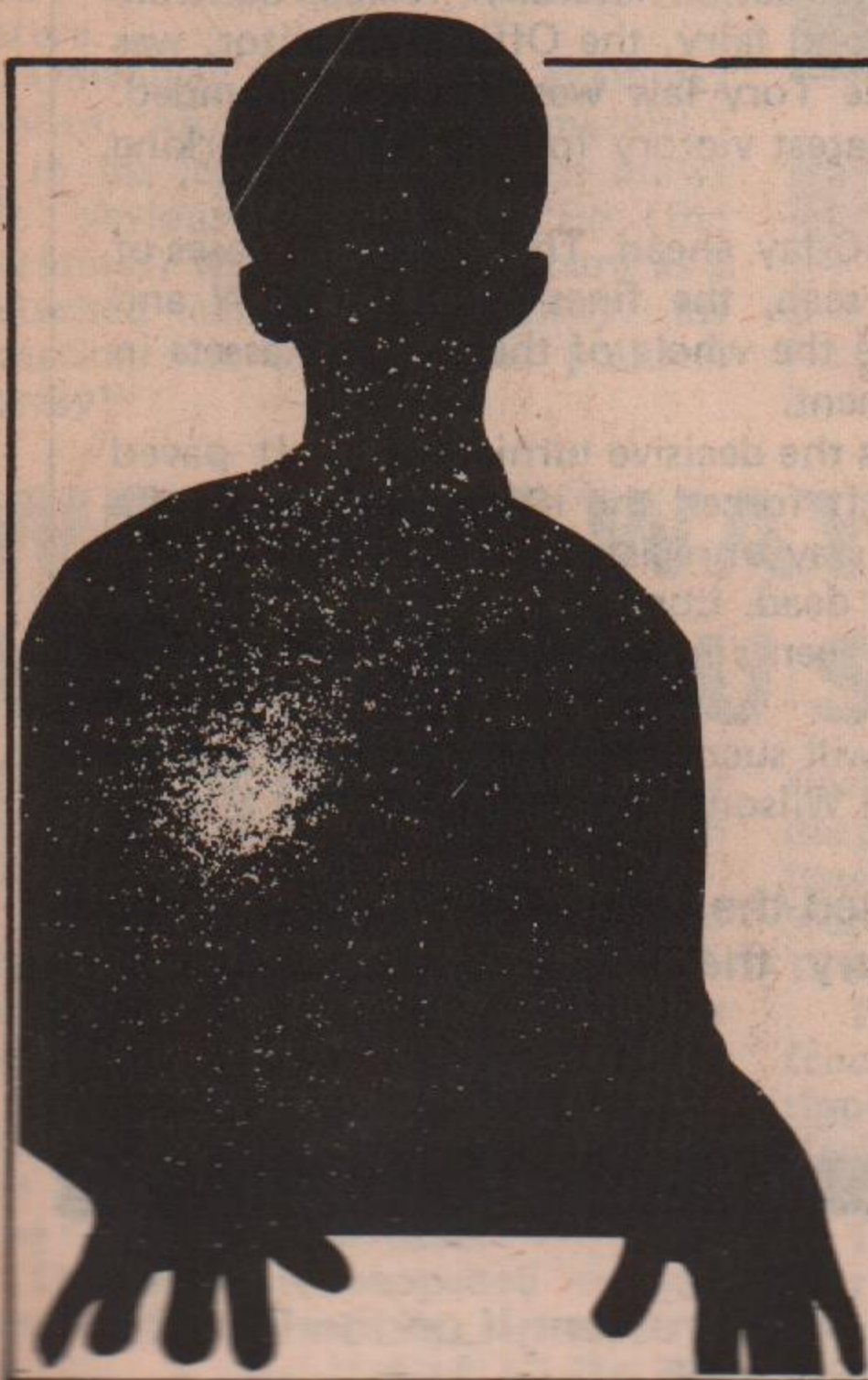
I am not talking or stating my views as a person supporting the IRA but I spent 18 months in Northern Ireland as a British soldier and I saw the way an armed force could be used against a minority people and how certain incidents on which I was present were entirely differently reported in the gutter press the following day.—M HUGHES, Doncaster.

ASBESTOS

The dust that kills in the name of profit

A new Socialist Worker pamphlet that tells the story of the Glasgow insulation workers' union branch, of the men who have died because of asbestos—and of their fight to save others from it. To the series of articles originally published in Socialist Worker has been added a guide to where workers are likely to encounter asbestos, what laws cover its use and how to force management to keep to them.

10p plus 4p postage (10 copies or more post free) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.



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

Postal Points

A million 'parasites' wait five more years

IT'S TAKEN nearly five years for the Finer Committee to reach the obvious conclusion that one parent families get a raw deal in our society. I felt a flicker of hope as I listened to their recommendations being announced on the TV.

A guaranteed maintenance allowance paid as a right to lone parents, the raising of allowable earnings and a suggestion there should be more day nurseries.

What happens? Barbara Castle greets the report with some sympathetic murmurs and promptly shelves it for another five years!

My children and the children of similar families can wait no longer in hope while suffering the deprivations and joylessness of life on the poverty line.

One million children are being doubly deprived. First of a parent and then of all but the most meagre material necessities.

To the capitalists we're non-productive parasites. To the social security bureaucrats we are scroungers who deserve no better than we get.

After two and a half years of suffering their insults and paltry hand-outs I am getting off my knees to shout that something must be done.

We have no bargaining power. We cannot withdraw our labour. We have no economic strength. To trade unionists everywhere I say: We need your help. One million children need your help.

If we are to build a better society you must fight not only your own battles but those of the under-privileged minorities who cannot fight on their own.—SHEILA JONES (Mrs), Lacey, Nr Grimsby.

Cost of living rise? of course! but not you, or you...

A TALE of the General and Municipal Workers Union's efforts to get us a 'cost of living' rise from the directors of the Reo Stakis Organisation.

The Stakis Organisation owns a large chain of hotels, restaurants, and pubs throughout Scotland. Around the beginning of July the newspapers informed the public (and members of the union) that we were going on strike if we didn't get some threshold payments.

Later a notice was put up on our union notice-board saying 'no action to be taken before a meeting of union representatives and directors on 11 July.'

On 12 July the daily papers again informed us of the position. We had won our rise—and on the 13 July we found out through our own noticeboard exactly how many of us were NOT eligible for this £2 a week threshold payment.

There were even conditions to be fulfilled. You must have worked for Reo Stakis for six months previous to the first payment and earn £18 as a basic for a 40 hour week. You can only receive £1 if you live in. You must not be a student and work for at least 21 hours a week.

How many people do you know in the notoriously badly paid catering industry who earn a basic of £18 a 40 hour week? As a barmaid I earn £14 for a 40 hour week, and £17.50 for the 52 hour week I have to work.

Also it is an industry which is quite dependent on seasonal workers—so do they have to work for six months to qualify?

The eight shop stewards present at that meeting unanimously agreed to these conditions. The threshold payment was 'a final offer (from the directors)—made as a gesture prior to the main negotiations which are operative from 5 November.'

Don't they know that threshold payments have nothing to do with annual wage negotiations? Maybe our shop stewards should read the Socialist Worker leaflet on the subject.—SHEILA ARTHUR, Stirling.

NATIONALISATION . . . We were told that nationalisation would make us an owner of every industry taken over . . . Today it is one of our rulers chief weapons to claw back wage rises . . . In the short term of Labour's rule we've seen dearer steel, postal rises, rail fares, coal up dearer electricity and soon 10 pence in the pound on gas . . . It has been misused to lower our living standards while prices rise.—ARTHUR MITCHELL, Pontypool.

AND THE BUCK PASSES ON . . . It's said that our national bureaucratic machine can't stop plants using Nypro being built where they can endanger residents as well as workers. When enquiries started into who controls factory building it was 'obviously' the planners. Then it turns out that councils give planning permission—but they don't have 'experts'—they come from the national government's factory inspectorate. But civil servants are bound by the Official Secrets Act and may be unable to reveal information to councils—even if they can get it from the companies. What a shame the Act doesn't stop factory inspectors having to tell companies in advance of their visits.—BERNARD HARRISON, Manchester.

COMRADES NIGHTINGALE . . . It's great to see nurses fighting back against the 'Florence Nightingale image' of nursing . . . But the amusing thing is that the image has as little in common with Flo as Marx and Lenin have with the USSR's 'Marxism-Leninism'! Cecil Woodham-Smith's biography of Florence Nightingale time and again shows her contempt for the idea of nursing as a high-minded, low-paid 'maternal' vocation. Our rulers don't only control us through their control of the economy, family and state. They also do this with mind-bending images—and we must also fight back here . . . If Flo was alive today she'd probably be in women's liberation, as well as supporting the militant trade unionists.—BOB KORNREICH, Bradford.

WILSON, HEALEY, JENKINS, WE'RE NOT PROUD . . . To answer your innuendo against Mr Wilson (6 July). The Labour government have reintroduced food subsidies and are asking for wage restraint in return for this and other acts of social justice. Your smear is both out of context and out of touch with political reality. You have joined the Tory press, the BBC and ITV and all the rest who put out baseless rubbish about Mr Wilson (the real target of course is the Labour government).—CJ DAVISON, London SW15.

VIOLENT? PUNCH ME AND FIND OUT . . . Often in talking to people about socialism, the other person will lash out at me with 'what about violence?'. Often they confide that they would join tomorrow if it weren't for the fact that nothing in the world would induce them to inflict violence on anyone . . . Would they not use force to stop a man beating his wife or his child? To stop a factory murdering people with its effluents? . . . Many fail to see the wider aspects of the struggle, and can only be motivated to do anything when it reaches their doorstep. If this happened I feel sure they would quickly see the need to have more realistic principles.—A SHARPLES, Manchester.

PACKING AWAY THE MRA . . . While working as a packer at Blandford Press I've noticed several religious books written by authors connected to the Moral Re-armament group . . . which peddle politically biased religious propaganda suggesting that 'god-less materialism' should be opposed by 'spiritual re-awakening'—hardly worth bothering about except that several of these books are ordered by the religious education departments of various schools. So while it is wrong for teachers in Birmingham to discuss humanism and communism (13 July), it's OK to indoctrinate children with anti-marxist garbage . . . unless times have changed since I was at school most kids regard religious education teachers as some kind of mental deficient anyway so perhaps the damage ain't too bad.—JOHN MARAIS, London N16.

LUMPS? NO SMALL FRAGMENTS . . . The New York Times run a report saying that 'About 300 construction site workers stoned and vandalised a building being

renovated . . . for more than an hour, it was a non-union site. Damage was estimated at between 25,000 and 50,000 dollars. No arrests were made. In Philadelphia a crowd of 1000 workers did 30,000 dollars worth of damage. In Memphis a 1,600,000 dollar building was dynamited . . . There were 72 such incidents in 26 states in the USA in 1972.—D PARKES, Cardiff.

SLOW, PROFITABLE SUICIDE . . . Hundreds of people die every year as a direct result of cigarette smoking . . . Every year millions of men, women and children risk their lives to fill the pockets of the big cigarette companies to overflowing . . . Let us hope that in a socialist society smoking will be no longer the symbol of attainment of the glossy world of the adverts . . . this filthy and dangerous habit will eventually disappear . . . seeing a girl with nicotine-stained fingers, a young child with a fag end in his mouth, or an old man coughing his lungs out, one realises the values of our society: profit at our expense . . . Perhaps there could be an article on these 'Tobacco Murders', with a proper economic analysis of the situation, from the exploited worker on the plantation to the big companies?—LAURA A SCHIOITZER, Norwich.

WORKING CLASS HEROES . . . I disagree with the use of the word 'heroic' (20 July) to describe the bombers in Ireland and England. How can it be heroic to resort to violence instead of reason? . . . Bombing is the violence of despair . . . Let's save the word 'heroic' for those who are working on the shop-floor to achieve socialism—theirs is a harder struggle than making bombs. We should concentrate on the politics of optimism—there is a solution, let's have more about those who are working for it.—BOBBY NOYES, Southampton.

A ROSY VIEW . . . I read the good factual analysis of Portugal in International Socialism Journal Number 70 but no guide was given for the future . . . There is no strong revolutionary party, or homogeneity for such a party. What Portuguese militants must do is demand and fight for a bourgeois democratic parliament. This would be a tremendous step forward and will get the support of the mass of the working class.—THOMAS NICHOLSON, Glasgow.

RECALL THE WRP CONFERENCE! . . . In the recent unofficial strikes of teachers in London there were two groups who showed inflexible consistency in opposing them. One, a tiny minority of extreme right-wingers, and, believe it or not, the Workers' Revolutionary Party. During the first week, with nine schools on strike, they called it 'adventurism'. When the numbers rose to 12 on the next strike, 40 the next, 70 the next, it was still 'adventurism', 'divisive', etc. Who, indeed, were now divisive? Really astonishing behaviour!—T ROBERTS, N London.



Difficult to arrest 'em when they're on the roof—of the prison . . . The law watches protesting prisoners at Chelmsford Jail in 1972.

Don't forget the workers behind the walls

I'VE READ many socialist newspapers in the last year, they all mention factory conditions, home conditions and the struggle of the working class. This is fine, but why have you excluded some of the working class?

I'm talking about working class prisoners. There are about 38,000 people in prison, most of them are working class.

There's always space for political prisoners, aren't we all political prisoners really? Prison workshops are slave-shops, producing more wealth for the minority at 75 pence for a week's work.

There is a fear, lack of understanding and feeling of oppression created by prisons. Prisons really work, they are a deterrent. There is no prison reform system—it's a myth.

Prisons produce cheap labour and indirectly they must be affecting the economic struggles of the working class. There are many different forms of work production in prisons, engineering and heavy fabrics are just a couple.

Prisons are people, black, white male and female. People who are fighting back in the only way they know how—violence, alcohol, robbery, they are struggling too. Prisoners must be included in the class struggle.

Prisons are very easy places to get into these days. It is about time that the inhuman conditions inside were exposed to the rest of the working class so that they can prepare a better future—without prisons.—D GROVES, (ex-convict) Leeds.

Join the army—see yer boots

JOIN THE army and see the world, that's what I was told when I joined, but it's a completely different story once you are in, the reason most young people join the army is because they are on the dole with no job and very little money.

They see the posters saying '£40 per week, see the world, plenty of things to do, and plenty of time to do it in'. The actual money we used to get was £3 per week, which went mostly on cleaning equipment, so we had no money to do anything.

Most of our time was spent cleaning kit for parades and if it wasn't up to the standard they wanted, you got put on report. Then they start training you with weapons until you become like a robot trained to kill, with no will of your own.

When we used to get some spare time the NCOs used to brag to us about what they done in Ireland, about how they used to beat up people just for some fun, that's one of the things the people over here don't here about.

After all the soldier is still a worker and they have no option but to fight. Instead of putting them down why don't you try and find some way to get across to them, as they can't get the paper to read and try to find out what they think?—AN EX-SOLDIER, Liverpool.



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TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM



AS WE have seen, Marx and Engels did not accept for a moment the idea that state ownership equals socialism. 'Otherwise,' Engels wrote, 'the [Prussian] Royal Maritime Company, the Royal Porcelain Manufacture, and even the regimental tailors in the army would be socialist institutions.'

Otherwise, he might have put it if he were writing today, the National Coal Board, the British Steel Corporation and even the Bank of England would be socialist institutions. They are not.

Why not? Because, in Engels' words, 'the workers remain wage earners'. This is the heart of the matter. For socialism is not a question of 'the means of production, distribution and exchange should be owned by the state' as the dictionary has it. That is merely a means to an end. The end is a classless society based on co-operation not competition, on production for use, not profit.

The Coal Board and the rest of the state enterprises operate as capitalist concerns under the general direction of the capitalist state. They are out to increase the profit extracted from their workers in just the same way as British Leyland or ICI.

It is true that government policy in recent years has been to hold down prices in the nationalised industries and to compensate them by subsidies and write-offs of debt. But this no more alters the fact that they are state-capitalist enterprises than the massive state subsidies to the 'private' British Aircraft Corporation make it 'socialist'.

The nature of state-owned industries depends entirely on the nature of the state. A capitalist state means state-capitalist nationalised industries. This fact in

What we mean by Socialism

no way prevents us from fighting for nationalisation, for example to save jobs.

This may seem contradictory. It isn't really. Look at it this way. If British Leyland went bankrupt we should most certainly demand that the government take it over. We should call for the occupation of all BLMC plants to enforce the demand.

We would do these things without having any illusions that a nationalised BLMC would be basically different from other nationalised car firms—Renault for example. Nationalisation, in such a case, is an immediate answer to an immediate problem, the prevention of closure and mass sackings.

Exploiters

But for state-owned industries to be socialist industries the capitalist state has to be destroyed and replaced by a workers' state. That does not mean the old army, police, civil service and so on with socialists running the government. It means something radically different.

A workers' state means, as Marx and Engels put it in the Communist Manifesto, the workers 'organised as the ruling class'. How is this possible?

Lenin put it simply and clearly in his book *State and Revolution*. 'At present the Post Office is a business organised on the lines of a state-capitalist monopoly . . . But the mechanism of social management is here already to hand. Overthrow the capitalists, crush the resistance of these exploiters with the iron hand of the armed workers, smash the bureaucratic machine of the modern state—and you will have a mechanism of the highest technical equipment . . . capable of being wielded by the united workers themselves, who will hire their own technicians, managers and book-keepers, and pay them all, as indeed, every state official, ordinary workmen's wages.'

Duncan Hallas

£100 The price a newspaper has

to pay for Caren Meyer's soul...

by GEOFF ELLEN

MISS Caren Meyer, you will be impressed to know, is the Campaigning Journalist of the Year.

This public watchdog was unleashed last week by the London Evening News, a newspaper not notably obsessed with its concern for the common people, to alert the ignorant masses to an appalling threat in their midst.

Miss Meyer's five-part series—entitled, in the best Evening News tradition of mind-numbing cliché, *The Wreckers*—'exposed' the "extremists struggling for power" in Britain.

She was not, however, exposing the machinations of multi-national companies or the increasing but still little-publicised suggestions by the rich and powerful that, perhaps, Britain may soon need a military dictatorship to protect those riches and that power.

No, her attention was directed elsewhere. Directed, in fact, to those who are aware of what is really going on in Britain and who believe that the working class, the majority of the population, should organise to deal with it accordingly.

Miss Meyer's Wreckers, in case you can't guess, are socialists, with a few sharp words thrown in for the National Front so as to establish her journalistic impartiality.

The second part of her series consisted of a large article lifting the lid off the International Socialists who, it appears, are Public Enemy No 1.

After the same diligent and thorough research that no doubt won Miss Meyer her grandiose title, she lays bare the damning and awful truth about IS: They demand the regular election of full-time trade union officials!

Biggest

But while London is still shuddering from that and other similar revelations, I want to invite you to consider a few things about Miss Meyer and the 'alleged newspaper which employs her.

I worked for the Evening News for 18 months, sitting within throwing-up distance of her desk, and came to learn of some interesting facts about 'campaigning journalism' and the world's biggest evening newspaper.

Miss Meyer, for instance, is an activist in the National Union of Journalists.

But when, in the winter of 1972, the Evening News began to

orchestrate its symphony of hate against the gasmen, the latest group of trade unionists 'seduced by extremists' into industrial action, who played first violin . . . Miss Meyer.

And with a £100-a-week pay slip to consider, what use had she of trade union principles?

The Evening News had already lined up the 'news stories'. Two reporters were told to go out and find any old person who might be dying because of the cold and then write up a story pinning the blame squarely on the gasmen.

Heartless

That done, Miss Meyer would supply the in-depth feature. Beneath a headline which told of the 'prosperous gasman' who was about to cut off your supply, she ran an interview with a worker so well off that to strike was obviously the act of a greedy, heartless and vicious bastard.

He earned the staggering amount of £45 a week but if further proof was needed of his 'prosperity', Miss Meyer supplied it. The man listened to records by Mahler. He even had his own gramophone.

After about 20 paragraphs of subtly impressing the selfishness behind the strike, by which time most readers would hopefully have taken the point and turned the page, Miss Meyer casually let slip the fact that his £45 included nearly 20 hours overtime pay.

Of such stuff are 'campaigning journalists' and the 'free Press' made.

But it is all too easy for workers attacked by the capitalist Press to pin the blame on the journalists. True, journalists and sub-editors often perform a socially irresponsible job, misinforming workers and so dividing them against one another.

But carworkers make shoddy cars. Building workers put up shoddy houses. They are usually powerless to do otherwise. And so it is with

journalists. The real target is the proprietor who has wealth and position to protect—and the politics to go with it.

Those politics are what journalists, often naively, call 'news values'. Reporters quickly learn the limits of those values. For instance:

A young innocent, eager to make an impression after just joining the Evening News, filed a story about a young black kid being beaten up by ten policemen on the doorstep of his South London home.

The reporter, excited by the story the kid had told him of police brutality, arranged for pictures of the boy, showing his blood-spattered face and body. His enthusiasm waned when both pictures and story failed to appear in the paper.

Such 'investigative' reporting is not what the Evening News is in business for.

That story illustrates why there is so little direct censorship in the British press. Reporters know what is and is not expected of them . . . and present the 'facts' accordingly.

Take another example. A reporter got a story of a man called George Williams who deserted from the British Army because he had been ordered to fire on small children.

Disowned

Not a bad story, you might have thought. Unfortunately, a senior member of the editorial staff, the 'backbench' who make the crucial political decisions of what goes into the paper, said he didn't 'believe' the story. So it was dropped—for the time being.

It went in some days later, suitably 're-angled'. A reporter had been detailed to interview the soldier's parents, who lived in Walthamstow, East London.

The new, acceptable version explained how Williams' family had disowned him because he was a disgrace to his country for deserting. Not until the last paragraph did Williams' reasons for deserting emerge—and then only as some 'wild' claim by a man whose character had already been safely assassinated.

Most editors love to spout about

IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU SICK

THE FACTS about the financial gulf between the rich and poor are getting out at last. Many people now know that the richest 5 per cent of the adult population own 75 per cent of property. But the social system is generous enough to give the working class something in return: bad health. Sickness, like money, varies according to social class.

Unskilled workers are twice as likely to be ill as professional workers. Their average number of days lost because of sickness is three times as great.

It's easy to explain. Building sites, factories, foundries, mines and quarries are riddled with dangers. Britain's manual workers, skilled and unskilled alike, are daily subjected to double the risk encountered by those working in office and executive suites.

The danger levels for women are also unequal though not quite as sharply so. Home conditions, then, play a part in wearing down working class bodies, too.

Chronic illness, the type of sickness which lingers and slowly gets worse, is much more common among people who have little money and poor housing. The smaller the family's income, the more likely for members of it to become chronically sick.

VICIOUS

Figures published by the Government in the General Household Survey shows that in families where the head of the family has an income of over £30 a week only 9.3 per cent were chronically sick. In households where the head had an income of between £5 and £7.50 a week, 40 per cent were chronically sick.

It's a vicious circle. People who don't recover from illness are also those people who live in old property, have outside lavatories, rent privately and have a small weekly income.

The type of illness itself varies with class. Almost all diseases (with the exception of diseases of the eye) are more common in the bottom end of the working class.

But chest diseases, specially bronchitis, and injuries, are much more common among the working class. The rate for bronchitis was eight per 1000 among professional workers, while it was 28 per 1000 among the semi-skilled and manual workers.

The most marked way finance affects health is still shown in private practice. A room in the London Clinic in 1972 cost £168 a week with drugs and doctors extra. And the existence of organisations such as BUPA and Private Patients Plan, which act as insurance agents to provide finance for private treatment both inside and outside the NHS, means that those who can afford to pay high premiums, (or can have them paid by their company as a perk) get preferential treatment over the great majority of normal NHS patients.

At the end of June 1972, the number of patients waiting for admission to hospital as NHS patients was 580,000. Paying for private treatment is simply another way the rich can leapfrog over the heads of everyone else. Yet the right to medical care should be the same for all.

Not only are workers more prone to illness, but the illness lasts longer. Being poorly housed and low paid makes you more prone to nervous system diseases, heart disease and high blood pressure, arthritis and rheumatism. You can't buy your way to the front of the queue for treatment . . . and you will probably live in parts of the world 'unattractive' to ambitious doctors.

The politics of Lenin

Paul Ginsborg

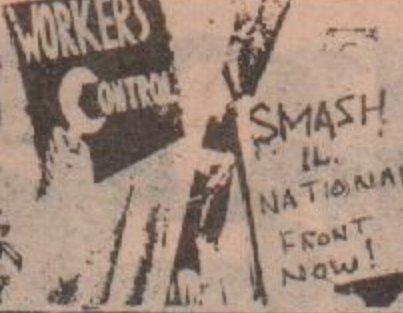


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THE WRECKERS



£100

The price a revolutionary has to pay



THE SPLINTERED LEFT

WHAT are the differences between ultra-left groups?

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS (IS), estimated membership 3,500; WORKERS' REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (WRP), 2,000-3,000, and the INTERNATIONAL MARXIST GROUP (IMG), 1,500, believe in workers' control and common ownership.

They believe Stalin's discredited line is the 1917 Revolution right in advocacy than revolution in

Differences between the official GREAT BRITAIN line.

The COMMUNIST (MARXIST-LENINIST) line, adhering to

branch of the IS. The National Front is the only group other than the IS to have a control over the IS. They believe Stalin's discredited line is the 1917 Revolution right in advocacy than revolution in

Caren Meyer's article on IS: obviously disturbing for her two million readers. So disturbing, in fact, that she received two letters in reply.

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academics, a lot of them graduates from the London School of Economics. But it helps, after leaving college to work on the shop floor to gain experience and start organising. Steve Jefferys, the new industrial organiser of the IS, for instance, left the LSE to work at Chrysler's car factory in Linwood, becoming a shop steward there, later appearing on the troubled Clydeside shipyard scene, by then already a full-time IS organiser. His predecessor, same LSE vintage as Jefferys, did a stint at the British Rail workshops in Acton, with NUP membership card, of course. No such manual tasks for the founder of the International Socialists. They discourage the personality cult, which is why practically nothing has

the freedom of the press and its impartiality. For working journalists, especially in Fleet Street, it usually produces a wry smile.

I remember my first experience of the Evening News' impartiality. Shortly after joining the paper in the summer of 1972, the jailing of the five London dockers produced some typically 'objective' reporting.

But more interesting were the unpublished feelings of the editors and his assistants, the 'backbench'.

They broke into a roar of spontaneous approval one day. The news had just been flashed that the dockers, against the advice of Bernie Steer, the Evening News' hate-figure, had voted to return to work.

The hysteria of those days was more than recaptured when the miners went on strike this year. With a general election called, the Evening News back bench became an extension of the Conservative Party Central Office.

As one experienced journalist at the heart of the operation told me at the time: 'I have never seen such manipulation of news as in the last few weeks'.

Take one example: a few days before polling day, a reporter gained an exclusive interview with Harold Wilson. For the first edition, the story, with a good picture, appeared on the front page.

It was then, for the second edition, run as a big story on an inside news page with the picture remaining on the front.

Then the editor, Mr Don Boddie, arrived on the scene. In panic at this plug for Labour so close to polling day, he ordered the picture to be taken out of the paper and the story inside to be butchered.

Feverish

In the words of one of his assistants, the whole piece had 'sabotaged the Tories' election campaign'.

Mr Boddie, who sees Reds and communist conspirators everywhere, was desperate to wind the Evening News up to a feverish propaganda pitch to help re-elect the Tories.

He became almost paranoid about my modest and unsuccessful attempts to challenge his ideas of impartial reporting. A few months before, aware that I was writing a pamphlet on how Fleet Street really works, he had summoned me to his office and had tried to make me swear an oath of loyalty to the Evening News.

He also asked for an assurance that I would not print any of the inside muck about the paper.

As the editor of such an impressive newspaper, he is obviously a man of the highest intelligence. At an editorial conference before the election he predicted to his minions that there would be 'fighting in the streets' if the Tories won. When they lost, he said he would 'kick Wilson in the goolies'.

And all the time, at staff meetings, he assured the assembled baffled journalists that there were 'elements in our midst trying to destroy the Evening News'.

When I made a trivial mistake in a headline about the miners' strike, it was his chance. I was given an official warning—the first step to the sack—for 'inflaming' the miners.

The fact that, in the same week, the paper ran a big feature on the miners with the headline Economic Terrorism was not of course, deemed to be inflammatory.

The journalists forced the editor to back down on my victimisation. But I left a few weeks later, glad to escape the paper's corrupting stench and the claws of a man who sincerely believed 'I must have had an unhappy childhood'.

But unhappily for the Don Boddies and Caren Meyers of this world, the knives they plunge into the backs of others can also be used on them.

A few weeks after I left the Evening News, Boddie was sacked—and 150 redundancies announced.

For what he, and the likes of Caren Meyer, must never see as they sell themselves and their souls, is that in the jungle we politely call capitalist society there's always a bigger snake than yourself.

FOOT PRINTS FOOT PRINTS FOOT PRINTS



Derek Bentley's family at his re-interment in 1966. In Opposition, five years later, Harold Wilson made them a promise. In power today, he denies it.

Mr Wilson and the 'pardon' for Derek Bentley



Derek Bentley: victim of 'law and order'

IF YOU want a really precise measurement of a Labour government's performance, then one of the most fruitful areas you could choose to examine is their record in the field of law and order.

Just recently the Labour government indicated that they would bring in a new rationalised law on picketing. The idea was to make marginal (very marginal!) changes in the present legal situation which defines the 'right to picket so tightly that it hardly exists.

But at the first murmur of disagreement from the employers' lobby, the Confederation of British Industry, this plan was dropped.

Clearly though, it's not just the employers Labour treats in such a considerate and obliging manner. They are also very considerate about anything which might sully the untarnished reputation of HM Police.

For a long time now, the families

of two young men who were wrongly hanged, James Hanratty and Derek Bentley, have been campaigning for a public inquiry and a pardon.

The Hanratty family have now got a judicial inquiry from the Labour government. But the Bentleys have not being faring even that well.

Derek Bentley was hanged in 1953 for being associated with the murder of PC Sidney Miles. Derek's friend Christopher Craig was supposed to have shot the man at Bentley's suggestion.

In his fine book on the case, To Encourage the Others, David Yallop tore this 'theory' to shreds. He showed that in all probability no one murdered PC Miles since he was the victim of a stray police bullet.

He showed that Derek Bentley was, in fact, the victim of the law and order brigade.

The Bentley family finally felt a pardon was on the cards after seeing Harold Wilson late in 1971. They

came away thinking he had clearly stated that if a Labour government was returned then Derek would be pardoned.

Now, however, the same Harold Wilson, Prime Minister, is denying he said anything of the sort. His denial came just after the announcement of the death of Derek's father William, at the age of 70, two weeks ago.

Wilson's denial wasn't the only act from the Labour government to mark the death of William Bentley, one of their most faithful supporters after 20 years of constant campaigning to clear his son's name.

Shirley Williams, now Minister of Prices, also denied David Yallop's statement that she had said a Labour government would pardon Derek.

The denials have mystified and greatly upset David Yallop who clearly remembers the promises being made. They are of course very pleasing to the police, who do, contrary to popular belief, have a reputation to keep up.

Top policemen of course, have considerable faith in Labour governments. They always recall with pleasure the sensible conversion of Clement Attlee, Labour Prime Minister from 1945 to 1951.

In 1919, when he was the Mayor of Stepney, Attlee supported the policemen who went on strike for the right to form a union. They were smashed, a federation was imposed and the rebels were drummed out of the force, without compensation and without any pension.

Twenty-six years later the Association of Police Strikers thought they were in with a chance. There was a Labour government. The man who had supported them was Prime Minister. At last they would get their pensions.

They sent a deputation to see Attlee. They were met with stony silence.

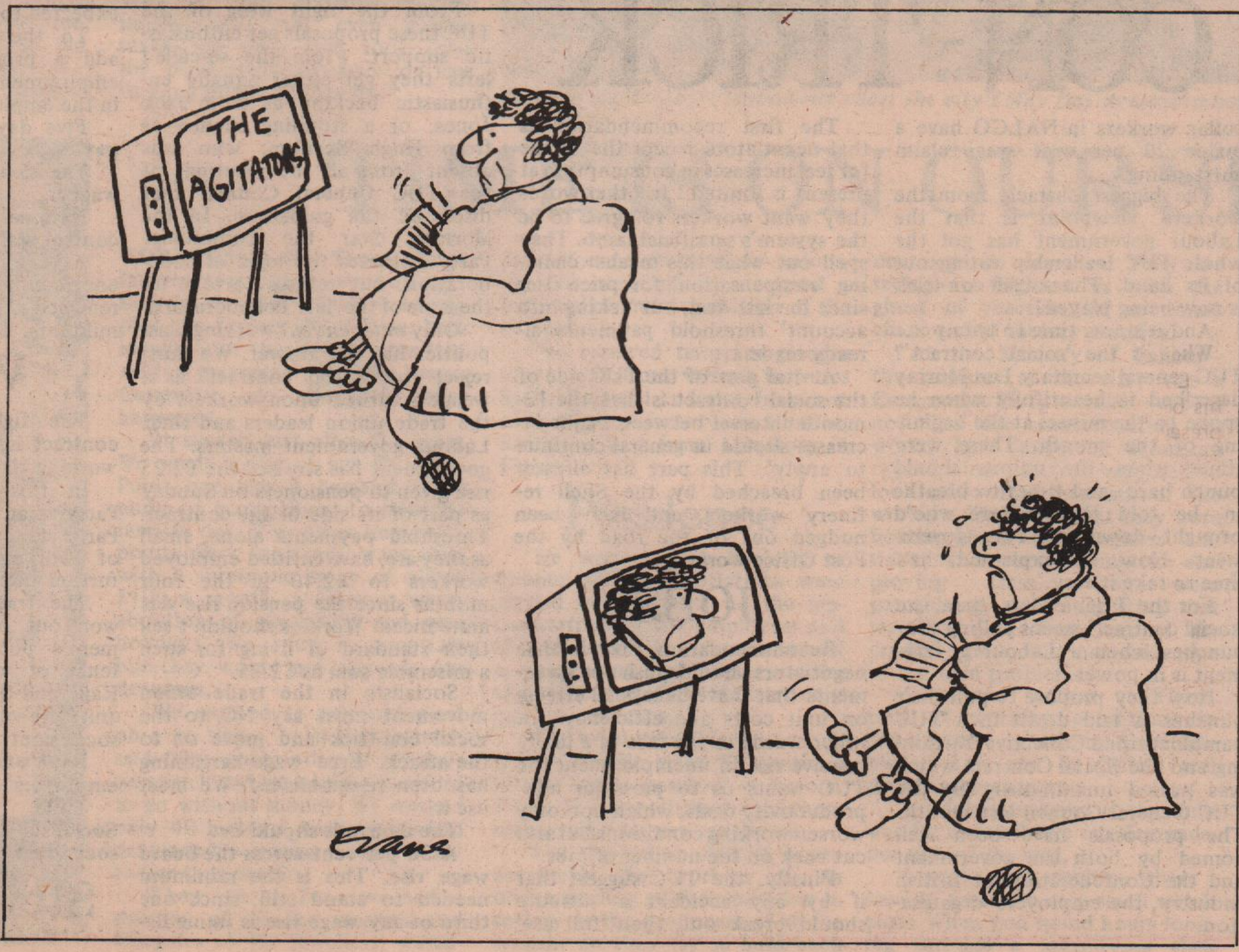
British is best

HAND IN HAND with the British army war effort, British business is doing a great job in Oman and Dhofar. It's keeping starving peasants hungry and rich parasites in power.

Last week, Cementation International—part of the giant Trafalgar House Investments shipping to coal-mining concern—picked up a wonderful contract which will be of precisely no benefit to anyone except the tiny band of shareholders.

They are to build a £5 million royal guest house for Sultan Qabus. This will take the shape of a self-contained walled city for the foreign dignitaries who scarcely, if ever, visit Oman.

This brings the total value of useless projects Cementation are building in Oman to £30 million. This is called economic development.



Evans



How the army revolt started: For the soldiers Mozambique wasn't sunny beaches and bikini-clad girls, but the brutal repression of a people

Portugal: Ho -by the wo

A NEW government was formed in Portugal last week. The previous government formed after the coup which overthrew the fascist regime in April, had fallen apart because of deep divisions over the way to deal with the country's economic problems.

The coup had been supported by sections of Portuguese big business, who saw the fascist government as obstructing policies they wanted to pursue. But workers took advantage of the

new freedom to push for higher wages, to organise freely at their places of work, and to purge management of fascist supporters.

The government formed last week has been greeted as a 'move to the left' in some quarters. This is because General Spínola, the president, had wanted a conservative-minded government under his own control, but has been prevented from achieving this by the lower-ranking army officers in the Movement of the Armed Forces. Instead he has been forced to accept a government dominated by the junior officers with the

continued party Communist Party.

But it is clear of the new government utmost to keep and to hold in. Laws remain in effect. fines on newspapers the armed forces 'climate of anarchy' the revolution to one extreme to

ANTONIO Martins dos Santos is an official of the Lisbon Metal Workers Union, who was victimised from his job as an engineering worker for TAP, the Portuguese airline, under the Caetano regime.

'Before the coup, militants had to operate in secret and were usually not even linked by trade unions. They were organised in rank and file committees in each factory and only occasionally were there any links between them.

'Leaflets dealing with the complaints of particular sections of workers would go out. There would be strikes, but afterwards there would be little ongoing organisation.

'After the coup, things continued like this at first, without real organisation. But now in every strike there is a strike committee elected by the workers.

'In the big companies, the multi-nationals especially, in every

place without exception economic demands go with demands for the purging of all members of the management or administration that were in any way connected with the fascist regime. In some places this means the sacking of them all.

Levels

'What tends to happen is that the workers elect a committee to run things, and then, as an intermediary between the workers and the capitalists, a member of the armed forces comes and runs the factory with them.

'But within the Portuguese trade union movement two levels are developing. The trade union bureaucracy is working closely

with the Ministry of Labour to put forward labour laws that are likely to strangle the workers' struggle.

'In the Intersyndical—the Portuguese equivalent of the TUC—the people who dominate are Communist Party members who are not of working-class origin, but mainly middle-class. Two are Canais Rocha and Octavio Pato, who were never trade union militants and were never involved in workers' struggles. After the coup there was a kind of agreement with the Provisional government that the Intersyndical would be formed from the top down.

'This explains why the workers' struggle are often taking place quite irrespective of any inter-

ference from the

The metal workers' 'The federated workers' unions agreement with the the Ministry of Labour and working conditions and file metalworkers organisations were

Refu

'The reaction to that the union in Lisbon to call a general strike. But the Communist Party restrict attendances categories of union other members re in protest. So of 1 only 200 went to Nevertheless, the the federation had

'The first thing did was to ask the federation if the selves earning the lished in the agreement union members. refused to answer.

'The people of then began to lead and to call the 'provocateurs' and workers jumped on form and physical representatives of The 40,000 workers' stories ignored the the Intersyndical strike immediately

'The Communist militants to the fa



The Pay Board goes out with a whimper

THE Labour government abolished the Pay Board on Thursday, after five months in office.

Labour delayed the abolition of the Phase Three controls on wages to get most of the major wage negotiations in the pipeline settled within the Pay Code limits. The maximum under Phase Three was a 7 or 8 per cent rise and the deal had to last 12 months.

When you consider that prices have been rising at an annual rate of 19 per cent from March—according to the official Retail Price Index figures, you can see that Labour's delay was much appreciated by the employers.

The end of wage controls means first that there is no legal top limit to any rise your employer can give you. Secondly, there is no legal time of 12 months imposed on any deal. Thirdly, there is nothing to stop workers getting threshold payments consolidated immediately. Fourthly any group of workers who have settled under Phase Three may now go in again with a new claim.

TIED

Despite a well-publicised statement from Employment Minister Michael Foot that Labour would not introduce a formal wage freeze before or after a General Election, there is little doubt that within weeks of the General Election—a freeze will be brought in.

Most likely this will outlaw all substantial wage rises and allow only increases that are tied to movements of the Retail Price Index. Like the present 'threshold' rises, this will mean a continued cut in living standards.

The Labour government has clearly carefully planned these two or three months of 'freedom'. Only the local government white-

TRUMP THE SOCIAL CON-TRICK

collar workers in NALGO have a major 20 per cent wage claim outstanding.

The biggest obstacle from the workers' viewpoint is that the Labour government has got the whole TUC leadership eating out of its hand. The social con-trick is now being played.

And it's now time to trump it.

What is the 'social contract'? TUC general secretary Len Murray described it beautifully when he spoke to the miners at the beginning of the month. There were times when the unions should punch hard—and times to breathe in, he told the workers who'd brought down the Tory government. Now, he explained, 'it's time to take it easy.'

For the TUC leaders, then, the 'social contract' means pulling your punches when a Labour government is in power.

How they propose to pull their punches is laid down in a TUC pamphlet titled Collective Bargaining and the Social Contract which was passed unanimously by the TUC General Council last month. The proposals have been welcomed by both the government and the Confederation of British Industry, the employers' organisation.

collar workers in NALGO have a major 20 per cent wage claim outstanding.

The first recommendation is that negotiators accept the 'scope for real increases in consumption at present is limited.' In other words they want workers to agree to be the system's sacrificial lamb. They spell out what this means: claiming 'compensation' for price rises since the last deal, but 'taking into account' threshold payments already made.

A vital part of the TUC side of the social contract is that 'the 12-month interval between major increases should in general continue to apply'. This part has already been breached by the Shell refinery workers, and has been nudged out of the road by the Post Office workers.

JOBS

Recommendation Five is that negotiators should push for agreements that 'have beneficial effects on unit costs and efficiency'. In other words in the face of a likely massive rise in unemployment the TUC wants us to press for new productivity deals, which not only worsen working conditions but also cut back on the number of jobs.

Finally, the TUC suggest that if by any accident a dispute should break out, then 'full use

should be made of the new government conciliation service.

The sum total of these recommendations is that the trade union movement should not 'rock the boat'. We should not use the end of the wage freeze to place realistic demands on our employers. Instead we should only ask for increases that will slow down the erosion of our living standards.

From the right wing of the TUC these proposals get enthusiastic support. From the so-called lefts they get either equally enthusiastic backing—as from Jack Jones, or a stunning silence—as from Hugh Scanlon, who was absent from all the meetings of the TUC General Council that discussed the guidelines. In the Morning Star the Communist Party criticises the logic of collaboration, but refuses to take up the issue of the 'left' collaborators.

Only independent working-class politics has the answer. We must reject the 'social contract' as a weapon turned upon workers by the trade union leaders and their Labour government masters. The government has stressed the £2.25 rise given to pensioners on Sunday as part of its side of the contract. Threshold payments alone, small as they are, have entitled employed workers to £2.40 in the four months since the pension rise was announced. Workers shouldn't sell their standard of living for such a miserable sum as £2.25.

Socialists in the trade union movement must say NO to the social con-trick and move on to the attack. 'Free' wage bargaining has been re-established. We must use it.

The demands should be: A 30 per cent across-the-board wage rise. This is the minimum needed to stand still, since one third of any wage rise is immedi-

tely lost in deductions.

No time limit to any agreement. The only sure defence against inflation is to win the right to put in for new wage rises whenever the worker decides.

Equal pay for women. It was promised for 1975 by the last Labour government and is almost as far today from being won.

A £35-a-week minimum wage. No worker in Britain should be expected to live on less.

To these demands, we must add a programme to fight unemployment, the second string in the employers' bow.

Five days' work or five days' pay

The 35-hour week for 40 hours' wages

Nationalisation under workers' control without compensation

As the battle over the social contract heats up we can expect renewed attacks on socialists and militants.

VITAL

The fight against the social contract is, above all, a fight for working-class politics.

In this struggle the Labour Party is an obstacle. The Labour Party stands for the collaboration of workers and employers to further the aims of the employers.

The trade unions have to be won out of the Labour government's pocket back to the defence of workers' real interests. Rank-and-file organisation and unity are vital for this. Against the social contract we must fight for:

Rank and file unity against the employers' attacks.

Build the International Socialists into a revolutionary socialist workers' party.

Steve Jefferys

How and why we fight workers

icipation of the Socialist and
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from the first public statement
nment that it intends to do its
Portuguese big business happy
check the workers' movement.
ffect which have led to massive
ers that criticise the policy of
es. Spinoza has warned of a
y,' saying that 'we did not make
allow the situation to go from
another', and calling for 'new

ways to deal with labour conflicts.'

The new prime minister, Colonel Vasco
Goncalves has stressed the need for 'discipline'
and has called on workers to work harder: 'With-
out hard work by all the Portuguese at all levels
the development of the nation will never be
accomplished.'

The background to such statements is the
growing militancy of Portugal's workers. Here,
two interviews give the workers' view. The first
is with a metalworkers' union official, the second
with strikers at Portuguese Timex factory.

STRIKE

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t Party sent its
stories to try to

calm the workers down. In every
place without exception they were
ejected. The Party tried to orga-
nise a demonstration against the
strike movement. But only 3000
people turned up, most of them
school teachers.

'The demand of these strikes—
opposed by the Intersyndical and
the Communist Party—was for less
than £25 a week.

'As a result of the discussion
about the strikes, the workers'
understanding grew a lot. For
instance when the Federation be-
gan to argue that agreeing to the
wage demands of all workers in
Portugal would use up more than
the total national income, workers
began to reply by asking: Why
pay the National Guard which
does nothing? Why maintain a
police force which disrupts the
rest of the country? What about
the war in Portugal's colonies,
which costs half the national bud-
get?

'In the bakers' and transport
workers' strikes, smears were put
about that they were fomented
by fascist agents. I carried out
an inquiry into the causes of
the strikes, asking dozens of
workers involved what happened.

'In the Lisbon transport under-
taking—which is half British
owned—most of the managers had
been fascists. After the coup, the
workers forced the Armed Forces
Movement to sack all but one,
who was warned that if he did
not behave he would go too.

'When the Minister of Labour

refused to grant their wage de-
mands—for a minimum wage lower
than what most other workers
had won and for a reduction in
the working week from 55 to 44
hours—this manager was afraid for
his job and told them: "What
do you want? If you want to go
on strike, just strike. I have
nothing to do with it". It was
on this basis that the Communist
Party claimed 'fascists' had or-
ganised the strike.

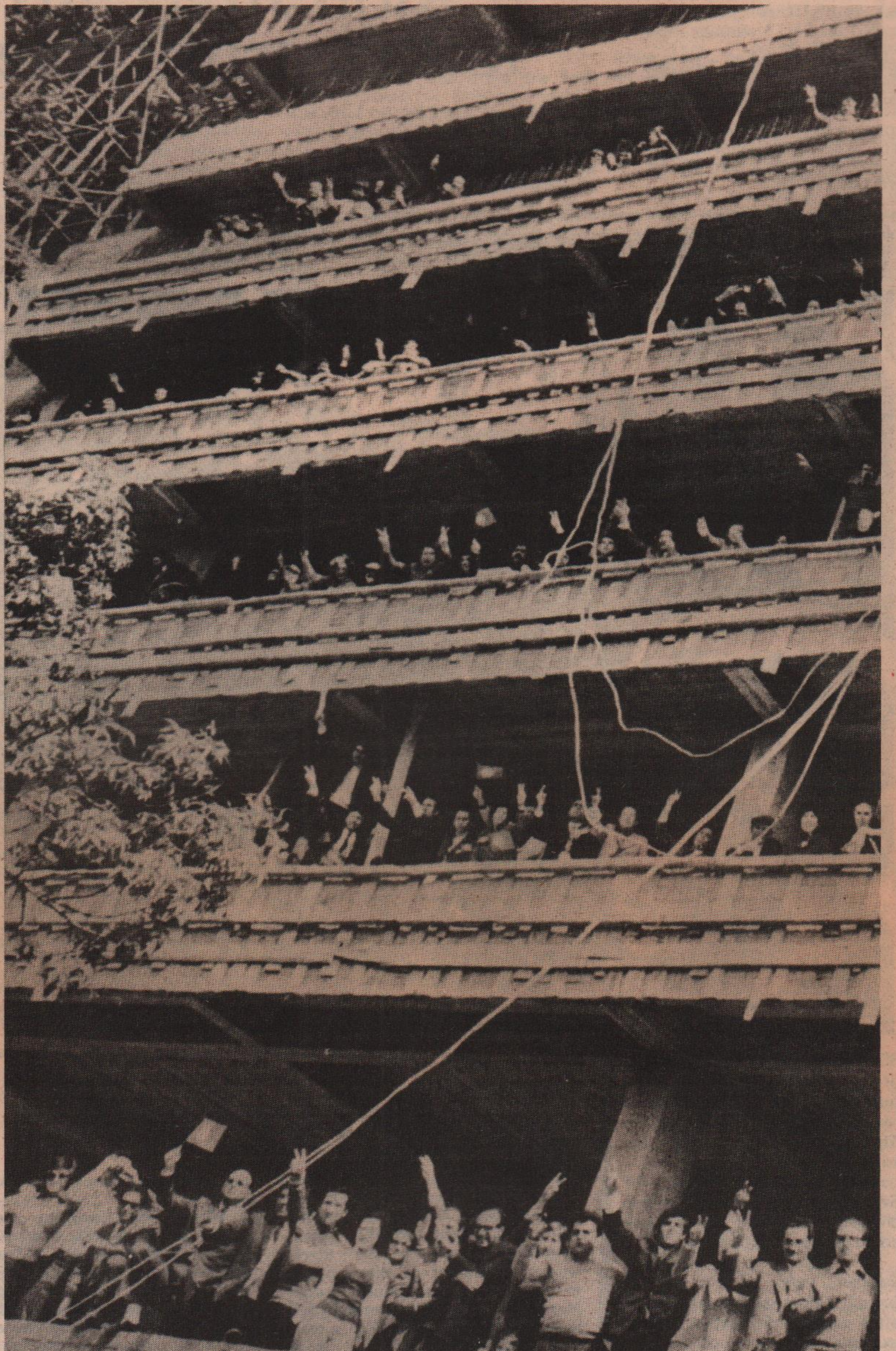
'The bakers' strike caused much
hardship because people need
bread. But the bakery workers
began their dispute by producing
bread and not charging for it, so
as not to cause hardship. But
then the bosses locked them out.
Again, the Communist Party
claimed this meant the bosses had
wanted the strike.

Occupied

'The reaction of many trans-
port and bakery workers was to
say they wanted to burn alive
Communist Minister Cunhal.

'There have been new develop-
ments since these struggles. In
some factories that have been
occupied, workers have begun
using the stock and going into
production themselves, selling
produce through their wives and
families.

'At a large plant where they
repair cars, the manager said he
could not increase wages because
he was losing money. The workers
looked at the books and realised
that he was actually making
money and not even paying
taxes. So they just took over
the plant and are more or less
running things themselves.'



Building workers on a Lisbon site cheer the city's May Day demonstration

TIME IS ON OUR SIDE

WORKERS at the Timex watch
factory near Lisbon went on a go-
slow in May and struck and occu-
pied the factory on 4 June. Two
members of the strike committee
told a journalist from the paper
Comercio de Funchal what
happened.

'It started just after the coup.
We made a list of our demands.
Point one was a demand for a
purge of management to clear the
fascists out. The other important
points were for a new wage scale
with a minimum wage of about
£100 a month, a 40-hour week,
abolition of piecework and paid
holidays. We tried to negotiate
but they would not concede our
demands.

'We worked to rule and went
on a go slow . . . as management
said they would not pay for days
we struck and we could not afford
to go without money. We worked
only 40 hours a week, as we had
demanded, leaving every day
earlier than usual.

'Then on 4 June we had a
meeting of all the workers and
delegates of the jewellers, watch-

makers' and metalworkers' unions.
At this meeting we declared a
total strike and occupation of the
factory . . .

'We received telegram pledges
of support from various factories
inside Portugal and also from one
of the Timex factories in Dundee,
Scotland, and from a factory in
France.

Prudence

'We went to the Ministry of
Labour where negotiations were
carried out between us, the rep-
resentatives of the employers and
the Ministry. The bosses would
not make any concessions and the
representative of the Ministry only
advised prudence.

'The revolution has been made
by the middle class. We continue
in the same position as before.
They are benefitting but there
seems to be no way out for us.

'For the ruling class it is un-
acceptable that workers gain an
understanding of their position in
society as the producers of all the
wealth. So they try to hold back

our urge to organise. They are
trying to frighten us with the
ghost of reaction, of economic
chaos and of factory closures.

'At the Ministry of Labour—
the minister at the time was a
Communist Party member—we did
not find the understanding we
would have expected from an
organisation which is supposed to
look after the interests of the
workers. We found that they were
holding back the workers' ini-
tiative and were helping the em-
ploying class. They were
patronising, as if suggesting that
we "had just come out of the
cradle" and could not take care
of our own problems.'

A woman worker at Timex
told of working conditions in
the factory, which is American-
owned and run by British and
American managers.

'I think the strike is the only
way for us to achieve our demands,
our rights,' she said.

'I work on a machine where I
have to deal with very small watch
parts. When you spend hours look-
ing through a magnifying glass

your eyes hurt. Well, previously
we had to sit by the machines all
the time, since they virtually for-
bade us to go to the toilet. We
had to achieve a certain number of
"points", a production target. If
I did not achieve these points,
they threatened to sack me, so I
had to strain myself all the time.
There were times I missed lunch so
as to achieve the number set.

'We were compelled to do 60
points, but the director demanded
we do more. He wanted 70 points,
and was also trying to intimidate
us into working harder. At the
end of the day we had to have the
work done, otherwise we would
be called to see the director.

'One day I was working at the
machine when my finger was
caught by it. The manager gave
me a terrible scolding, saying I was
not attentive enough to my work.
I left for the doctor crying, not
because of the pain, but because
of the way the management had
told me off.

'I agree with the strike. At least
things have changed. They are
going to change even more.'



The Beef Mountain

THE MOUNTAINS of Europe have been joined by a new peak, the most expensive mountain in the world. Made up of 130,000 tons of meat, it is called the Beef Mountain.

It has grown up at a time when the people of Britain are eating, on average, less meat than at any time since the early 1950s. There is enough in that mountain to give every man, woman and child in the nine countries of the Common Market one pound of beef each.

Plenty for all—but full bellies aren't profitable this year

You must remember beef. It's that dark red meat, which is kept in the museum part of the butchers and supermarkets. You probably remember eating it. But things are different

now. You'll probably be told there is a 'shortage'. That there isn't much around so 'the price has gone up'.

It isn't around because it's in the Common Market 'intervention stores'.

It is beef you won't eat.

If it was released the price of beef would fall. Farmers would complain. And you wouldn't even be able to look at it during your weekly sight-

seeing tours of Britain's meat counters.

All round the world people starve. In Britain people go hungry. Last year, as economic depression hit the western world, demand for beef fell. The price was too high. While that was going on, the cost of producing beef went up.

So people couldn't afford it—and demand fell. But the price didn't fall. As nobody would buy the beef, it was put into deep-freeze. Farmers and governments sit round waiting for the day that people can afford to buy it.

Except by then it will be uneatable. They'll need to can it. Or do what they are doing with hens in Britain this week. Kill them and turn them into—fertilisers.

The price of eggs was 'too low'. The farmers killed the hens and make them into fertiliser. The price of eggs will rise and the farmers will be happy, and people will eat fewer, or no eggs, and get steadily more unhealthy.

But then what happens to the fertiliser? Simple. It will make the price of producing food cheaper. So then what happens?

They'll dump the food. Price is too low you understand...

Which brings us back to the cow you can't afford. You'll be pleased to know that the Common Market and Fred Peart, British Minister of Agriculture have found a solution.

You see it's all the fault of these non-European cows. The ones from Australia and Argentina. You know them in the supermarket. The ones that are so deep-frozen you could carve them into grand-pianos before they thaw out.

For the first time in history a total ban has been placed on their entry into Europe. That might make prices (but not your wages) rise...

And the great European Beef Mountain? That'll stay there. Odd chunks will be dished out to the armed forces of Europe, token amounts will go to hospitals, to old age pensioners who still won't be able to afford it at subsidised prices.

But there are two simple names for the Beef Mountain. One is capitalism.

The other is lunacy.



600 soldiers on strike after eight of their comrades were court-martialled for distributing a revolutionary soldiers' newspaper. Their banner says: abandon the trial.

The accused, members of Sweden's I 11 regiment, were also charged with going sick so they could get free night passes.

The trial, in the Southern Sweden town of Vaxjo, was brought under government orders after chiefs of staff urged an example to be made of the men in case their actions 'spread to other regiments'.

After a key prosecution witness told the trial that he had been forced to lie under police interrogation, the case collapsed into farce.

The witness altered his entire account to the advantage of one of the accused—and then, one after the other, more prosecution witnesses did the same.

But the trial is still going on—and there is every possibility of the men being found guilty.

Women who mean business

'SISTERS', announced Addie Wyatt from the platform, 'you can all tell George Meany from me, we ain't come here to swap recipes'.

Addie Wyatt is the black woman's Director of the Amalgamated Meatcutters Union. George Meany is the ultra-conservative leader of the American TUC, a man who makes Len Murray look like a Bolshevik.

Thrilling

The sisters were 3200 American women workers who had crossed America this March to cram into a ritzy Chicago hotel for the foundation convention of the Coalition of Labour Union Women (CLUW). There was a thrilling meeting overflowing with a passion and verve which astonished the union full-

timers who had brought CLUW into being.

When 3200 working women joined arms at the end of the session to sing out the old union song Solidarity for Ever, more than a few were openly crying. A socialist observer wrote: 'All the excitement and hopes of the week-end were captured in that moment of solidarity'.

The Statement of Purpose which the delegates took away, while lacking a clear direction for action, provides an excellent starting point for a working women's movement. It calls for complete equality on the job, a drive to organise women into trade unions, equal rights, legislation, demands for state-financed parent-controlled child care and improved maternity and pension benefits.

Conference delegates stressed the particular difficulties which women workers face in working up the sheer nerve to challenge their employers and the ingrained prejudice they still experience among many male trade unionists.

They insisted that for women genuinely to participate on equal terms in the unions, democracy was not a luxury but a must.

Common

And they called for the formation of women's caucuses in the unions where women could meet to discuss in an informal atmosphere the directions and problems of organising.

For despite the fact that it is much more common for women to work in America than in England,

the unions have clearly failed to match up to the challenge of the modern woman worker. They have left untouched women clerical and secretarial workers, a third of the women work force, and the mushrooming service industries where millions of American women slave away behind counters, desks and tables serving up a smile for every customer in exchange for a pittance. Six out of seven working women are un-organised and only one in 50 have child care.

The feeling that created CLUW came out of the Women's Liberation movement which swept America like a hurricane in the late sixties.

The ideas of women's liberation unleashed in the trade union movement, have the potential to turn CLUW into the biggest thing since the avalanche of industrial unionism in the late Thirties.

Stunt

But CLUW's future is not guaranteed. The union full-timers who brought it into being are petrified that it might take on a life of its own. The conference platform pulled every stunt in the bureaucratic book to prevent CLUW giving outright support to the United Farmworkers, the one union which really has tried to organise the unorganised.

But the enthusiasm is too great. They can't hold CLUW down. Local branches have already taken successful action over the victimisation of women organisers and have supported the New York publishing strike, which women have led.

TENANTS FACE COURT BATTLE

NORTH LONDON:—Court injunctions have been taken out against 10 members of the Islington Tenants Campaign. This move by Prebbles, a local estate agent, follows months of picketing by the Tenants Campaign, who accused Prebbles of 'winkling' and illegal harassment of tenants. Pending the court hearing in October, the 10 have made legal undertakings to withdraw from tenant campaigning. But other pickets have now appeared at the three Prebbles offices in High Road, Tottenham, Upper Street, Islington, and Parkway, Camden Town—and more are needed.



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.

UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Brainwashed—then music struck the right note

By BRUCE SCOTT, a building worker, folk singer and member of Kirkby IS.

AS KIDS growing up in downtown Liverpool, we just took for granted that the squalor and poverty of our environment were all part of our lot.

None of us ever questioned the set-up, the system that spewed up the slums. Or how these conditions came into being—like the houses still standing in the fifties and early sixties.

Built over 100 years before, they were crammed around narrow insanitary courtyards, some with one outside lavatory and water-tap serving the needs of the whole alley—and some courts contained over 200 inhabitants. And these were still sheltering the descendants of the workers that built them.

The history we were taught in school was certainly nothing like Engels' Conditions of the Working

Class. All we got was the 'glorious British Empire' and how Britain had been so 'great' and had gone out and civilised the world.

Nothing of the rape and exploitation of the former British colonies on which the sun never set. Nor of the thousands of deaths from malnutrition and a host of other horrifying diseases that accompanied

the Industrial Revolution and the mad, inhuman scramble for profits.

All this in Mother England's supposedly green and pleasant land.

I first started learning a true history through listening to, and questioning, the facts in the folk songs and ballads I heard as a boy. Some of these songs I got from my mother.

Others at first from the Irish communities of Liverpool and St Helens; later, from Ireland itself and from the folk revival in Britain.

From songs of the Wexford Rebellion of 1798 I found out how peasants from the Scottish Highlands had been used to put down other peasants in Wexford and Wicklow.

And then a few years later, some of the defeated Irish, conscripted into the British Army after being starved and burned from the land, were used to drive and burn out the Highland crofters from the glens of Inverness-shire and Sutherland, all because sheep were more profitable than human beings.

Then, as now, the ruling class were setting working man against working man.

Then I heard the mournful, touching ballads of the so-called Irish Famine when two million people died of starvation or emigrated.

Then the rousing rebel songs of Dublin's Easter Rising when, led by the Marxist Connolly, a couple of hundred men in a tragic blood sacrifice pitted themselves against the British state machine—and after a week of courageous battle found out that capitalists will destroy property as well as hundreds of innocent lives to preserve the system.

The songs of the Civil War taught me most of all that workers should stop killing each other in the interests of British and international imperialism. That they should unite and fight the imperialists in the interests of international socialism.

Relevant

From the British folk-song revival I learned the industrial working-class history of Britain and America—the struggles of the miners, mill-hands, railway navvies and agricultural labourers against the iniquities of the tommy-shop and truck system of the evictions from company-owned dwellings.

Songs like Oakey Evictions and The Blackleg Miners. The latter telling how the coal-owners imported destitute Irish labourers into the Durham coal-fields in an effort to smash the unions.

Again, workers used against workers. The oldest trick in the bosses' book.

All these songs of the past are quite relevant today. Nothing has changed. The Gresford Mine Disaster, the Trimdon Grange Explosion THEN—Markham and Lofthouse and Flixborough NOW.

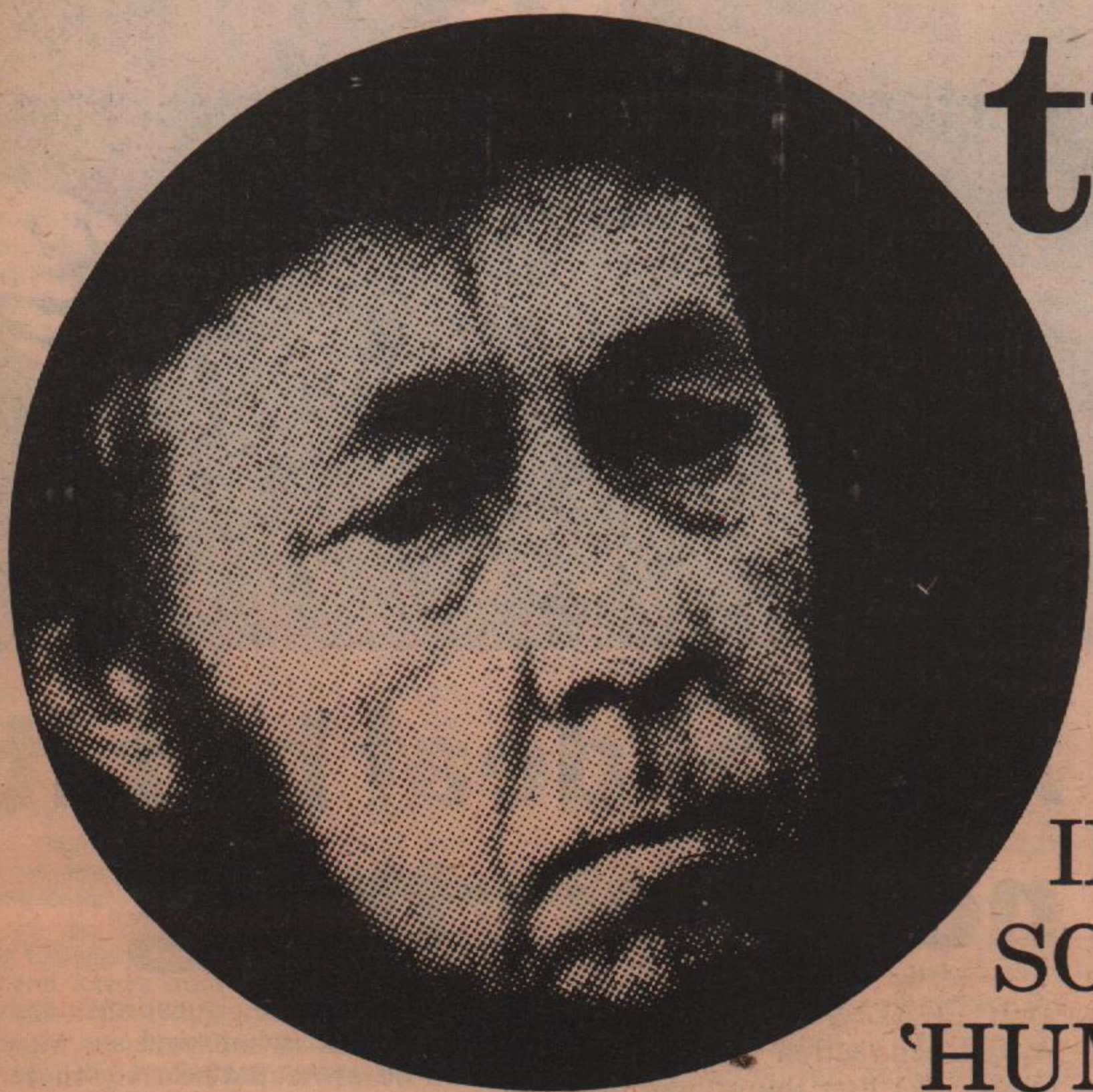
English and Scots peasantry in red-coats led by bourgeois officers against Irish peasants THEN—English and Scots workers in khaki uniforms led by the Tory descendants of those officers against Irish workers NOW.

But it was good to learn from the songs and to go into youth clubs and sing them to kids who were bored with bourgeois history lessons but who listened to the songs and learned the true history of class struggles from them.

And some of them, like myself, came under the influence of socialism. Let us speed the day when hundreds of thousands more will be influenced for we have been living and dying under the dictatorship of capitalism for far too long.

'Socialism' turns full circle

SOLZHENITSYN'S ANSWER TO THE INHUMANITY OF SOVIET RUSSIA: THE 'HUMANITY' OF TSARISM ...



ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN'S book about the prisons and labour camps of the Soviet Union* is all over the bookstalls. It's unusual for a new book, especially a long book on a serious subject, to go straight into paperback. The total sales, in Britain and America and in numerous translations, sure to run into millions.

Why? Because it provides a mass of evidence about grave and terrible events? Because Solzhenitsyn is an enormously gifted writer and the book has great literary value? Both these things are true.

No socialist ought to join the Soviet hacks in running Solzhenitsyn down. His motives are sincere, he is working for nobody but himself, and the facts he presents are—sad to say—undeniable.

But if one must respect Solzhenitsyn, one isn't bound to feel the same way about all those who are pushing his book. After all, there have been other valuable accounts of the Soviet terror—notably Roy Medvedev's Let History Judge—which never made the mass market.

Conservative

But Medvedev is still a socialist. He sees the terror and the forced labour camps as a betrayal of the ideals for which the Russian workers made their revolution in 1917.

Solzhenitsyn is a conservative. He idealises the old Russia that pursued its traditional course before it was upset by the storm of revolution. This bygone way of life seems to him to be 'natural', a reasonable and justifiable state of affairs.

For example, when millions of peasants were arrested for refusing to deliver their crops to the State at a fixed price, he comments that they

Gulag Archipelago is the first ever study of the Soviet Union to make the best-sellers' list. We asked MERVYN JONES, the socialist novelist to look at the politics behind Alexander Solzhenitsyn's massive study of Russia in the Thirties.

were merely trying to sell as best they could on the market—and what's wrong with that?

By training, Solzhenitsyn is an engineer (in this context the word means the 'staff' type of engineering worker). It seems to him 'natural' that industry should be run by engineers, using the traditional discipline.

Writing of the 1920s, he says: 'They were deprived of the authority to impose this discipline. Any worker could not only refuse to carry out the instructions of an engineer, but could insult and even strike him and go unpunished.'

In other words, there had been a revolution. This, from his point of view, is what was wrong—it just couldn't work.

Throughout his book, Solzhenitsyn makes comparisons between repression under Tsarism and repression under Soviet rule. The Tsarist period comes out better.

Political prisoners had the right to defend themselves in open court, conditions in jails and in Siberia were less appalling, far fewer people were shot. This is quite true.

But Solzhenitsyn only compares repression with repression; he doesn't mention that the old stagnant society had been swept away, a ruling class had been dethroned, and the working class had won new opportunities. The impression, once again, is that the revolution was a blunder and a disaster.

Why, in any case, did Soviet rule take the form of repression, injustice and cruelty? It's a big question; but this is a big book, and history

ought to tell us not only what happened but also why it happened. Solzhenitsyn devotes little space to the problem, but he comes up with a simple answer.

The trouble was ideology. The tyrants and wicked men of the past stopped short at a certain point because they had no ideology. He explains: 'Ideology—that is what gives evildoing its long-sought justification and gives the evildoer the necessary steadfastness and determination... Thanks to ideology the twentieth century was fated to experience evildoing on a scale calculated in the millions.'

Exploit

For the socialist—Medvedev, for instance—the disaster of Soviet history was that ideology was forgotten, or rather crushed and distorted. Stalin and all the little Stalins, ceased to relate their actions to their supposed principles.

The men who clung to their ideology—that is, to socialism as it had been understood when they learned it—were just the men who got a bullet in the head or a ten-year spell in Siberia.

The absence of ideology, to this day, is what produces the lifeless, hollow, orders-from-above atmosphere of the Soviet Union.

The crimes of the Soviet rulers, of course, have done a mighty disservice to socialism the world over. 'If you have socialism, you'll have forced labour camps, secret trials, mass executions—look at Russia'.

That theme has been hammered home by the enemies of socialism for 30 years.

It shouldn't surprise us at all that they're glad to exploit the comparisons and the genius of Solzhenitsyn.

*The Gulag Archipelago by Alexander Solzhenitsyn (Collins/Fontana) 80p.

ON THE BOX

SUNDAY, ITV, 9.40pm. In the interests of great art and the public image of Associated Television is a 'spectacular television adaptation' of the Royal Shakespeare Company in ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA. The publicity material gives the cost of carpets and pewter mugs used in the production (£44 a mug!) which should ensure a highly artistic evening.

MONDAY, BBC-2, 9.35pm. HORIZON IS WHAT PRICE STEAK? At 8pm WHICKER'S WORLD looks

at HOUSTON, Texas. On BBC-1 at 8.10pm is, MARTIN BELL IN ULSTER. BBC reporter Bell talks to the Army, and Ulster Defence Association commanders but *not* the IRA. Perhaps the Republicans were on holiday while Bell was filming...

TUESDAY: BBC-1 9.25pm. TUESDAY'S DOCUMENTARY is 1945—THE YEAR THAT SHAPED OUR WORLD. On BBC-2 (9pm) is

Gogol's play DIARY OF A MADMAN GOSLING'S TRAVELS (10.30pm, ITV) looks at Scotland's largest oil drill platform at Nigg.

WEDNESDAY: BBC-2, 8.10 pm. Truancy is examined in OUR SCHOOL.

THURSDAY: BBC-2, 9.55pm. THE BURSTON SCHOOL STRIKE of 1914 is remembered by striker

Violet Turner. On RADIO-4 at 8pm. is CRY WITH THE WIND, interviews, letters, diaries, songs of the Suffragette Movement.

FRIDAY: BBC-2, 8.10pm. THE NAME GRIERSON—THE WORD DOCUMENTARY looks at the founder of the British documentary film movement. India has a huge film industry producing variations of the Sound of Music and Love Story. An exception is Satyajit Ray, whose THREE DAUGHTERS is at 9.30pm.

ONLY THIS WEEK!

Only 30 copies left of the special Pluto Press edition of this book!

LEVINÉ



The Life of a Revolutionary by his wife and comrade Rosa Levine-Mayer (Saxon House £2.50). Special Pluto Press edition £1.40 post included.

Pluto Press

Pozzolini: Antonio Gramsci (an introduction to his thought) is out of print in paperback. We are selling out the remaining (80) hardback copies at the paperback price of 90p (plus 10p post and packing).

Pluto Press

Cash with order to Pluto Press Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1.

PNEUMOCOCONIOSIS

THE SCALE of chest diseases and ruined lives in the mining industry is unbelievable. There are 40,000 registered sufferers with the dust, causing emphysema and chronic bronchitis as well as pneumoconiosis.

Miners, like other workers, had a certain freedom in this matter. They could, without knowing and thanks to the employers' negligence, obtain a disease. Then after they had got it and managed to get it confirmed, they were 'free' to try and win damages from their employers.

This was not the only thing that made redress difficult. Miners with the dust could go to doctors and it would be put down as something entirely different. Others would not go near a doctor or the Pneumoconiosis Board (when it came into being) for fear that diagnosis would mean being taken off the face and losing money.

Then the infamous limitation act had a particularly vicious impact on miners. It said you could not sue more than a year after the incident that caused the injury. With a lung disease that did not show until years later, it meant that thousands of cases were out

of time or thought to be. It meant that miners were thwarted by a mere technicality.

In short, miners like other workers, were vulnerable. They were so obviously unequal before the law, that the union was the only hope. The union, too, failed them.

Despite the fact that one Welsh miner had won damages for pneumoconiosis in the thirties, the miners' unions and the area and national organisation that succeeded them fought no campaign. After the second world war, their leaders worshipped at the shrine of nationalisation, of moderation, sweetness and light. The miners paid the price.

But in 1969 an ex-miner, William Pickles, in a case supported by his new union, the Engineering Workers, got £7000 damages. The Coal Board coughed up at the eleventh hour outside the court.

That put the cat among the pigeons. 3000 miners slapped in claims. Others waited and watched. 37,000 others had the disease with more being diagnosed every week. Clearly the Coal Board had to do something about pneumoconiosis...

The dust that won't settle

IT IS good news, fantastically good news, that thousands of miners who suffer from the terrible chest disease pneumoconiosis are to get some reasonable compensation as of right. Pneumoconiosis has exacted a terrible tribute on the mining community. Thousands of men have suffered and died with nothing more by way of recompense than state industrial injury benefit, and that only comparatively recently.

Now lump sum payments are to be made to all registered sufferers and the National Union of Mine-workers are to negotiate a package where the wages of present and future victims will be protected and not withdrawn, as at present.

In return, the NUM has 'inde-

by LAURIE FLYNN

initely postponed' the legal actions for damages due to be heard at Middlesbrough in October.

Furthermore, even before detailed negotiations take place, the NUM

has agreed to encourage all members to accept the deal—and that it will not finance any member's attempts to get common law damages.

This news has been warmly welcomed in the mining industry. People feel they are at last going to get redress for the disease which has crippled and laid low thousands of men.

But it is worth probing the matter a little, not least because what the National Union of Miners, the most powerful section of the working class, agrees on will help determine what happens in every other industry.

Crucial

The deliberations of the Pearson Commission into personal injury compensation are nearly over. This collection of insurance lawyers, employers' insurance men, a judge and a retired trade union leader, certainly won't give away any more than the miners get from the NCB. This is why the settlement is so crucial.

'new era in industrial relations' that led to the NUM at top level agreeing not even to sue the Coal Board over the dust.

This, perhaps, explains why neither the NCB or the union want to go to court. Both have skeletons in the cupboard. Both have an interest in keeping the coal-house door closed. There are skeletons inside, relics of co-operation, moderation and the previous version of the social compact.

But the miners have added responsibility in the present situation. They are the strongest section of the working class and no-one will do much better than they. It is vital that they do not end up with yet another, albeit attractive, dirty money scheme.

IS THIS WHY THE COAL BOARD 'SAW SENSE'?

THE deal has little to say about preventing future cases of pneumoconiosis. It is concerned with improving the condition of men who have already caught pneumoconiosis and of those who will catch it in the future.

Behind all the talk of a new era in industrial relations, the Coal Board is still set on the same targets—getting production higher and ever higher. And more coal means more dust. So does another productivity deal now on the way.

There is a possibility that the Coal Board's purpose in negotiating this package is to buy the right to give miners pneumoconiosis. It is a possibility that must be guarded and fought against.

Interestingly enough it was the last



A vital deal but it's not everything

THE COAL Board took swift and determined action over pneumoconiosis. The first thing these lovers of 'moderation' and the 'new era of industrial relations' did was to deny their responsibility.

Each case was to be fought on its own. The NCB would not accept that four Durham claims were test cases.

This wasn't all. The Coal Board's lawyers stated they would pursue another line of attack. They would contest the claims on the grounds that they were out of time. They were prepared to cheat injured miners by a technicality.

The Board set out to get the issue of limitation tried on its own, independent of any miners and their ruined lungs. The idea was to increase the chances of 'winning' on a technicality.

Nor was this the limit of their ruthlessness. The Board even declared that it was not responsible for what went on before nationalisation. Presumably, miners were to sue the old coal-owners, a fantastically difficult job even if they could be found.

Public

They made this statement despite the fact that NCB documents admit the Board took over the owners' liabilities in this field.

Suddenly, in the wake of the 1974 strike and just before this year's miners' union conference, the Coal Board appeared to undergo a miraculous conversion.

Its negotiators, in consultation with the Labour government abandoned their vicious legal manoeuvring and switched tack. The outlines of an out-of-court package settlement on the dust was made public.

Aspects of the package are very good indeed. All those who suffer from pneumoconiosis are covered by it. Pneumoconiosis victims are to have security of earnings. This means they will have a wage coming in when incapacitated instead of being flung on to the scrapheap of social security.

But some questions are worth asking. At what level are wages going to be protected? Surely there should be full protection of earnings at top rates, not those to which men have been reduced by disease.

Surely there must be a stipulation that all increases subsequently paid to working miners will be paid in full to disease victims.

The same goes for the lump sum compensation. At what level is that to be paid? Pretty low, it seems.

The argument is that, though low, the lump sum compensation is being spread around and will be paid to those who might not win Common Law damages.

There is no reason why the NUM should be bound by this argument. They could demand and win lump sum compensation to the full extent of Common Law damages. They could even try to force the NCB to admit liability and go to court on damages alone in the NUM test cases.

The NUM would be fully justified in pressing this. Common Law damages are pretty damned meagre.

Indeed the union would be wise to press for a good deal more if the redress for the dust is to be on anything like the scale of the misery inflicted on the mining community.

But the NUM does not look like pushing these issues at all. The union is understandably pleased at the advance which at long last has been won.

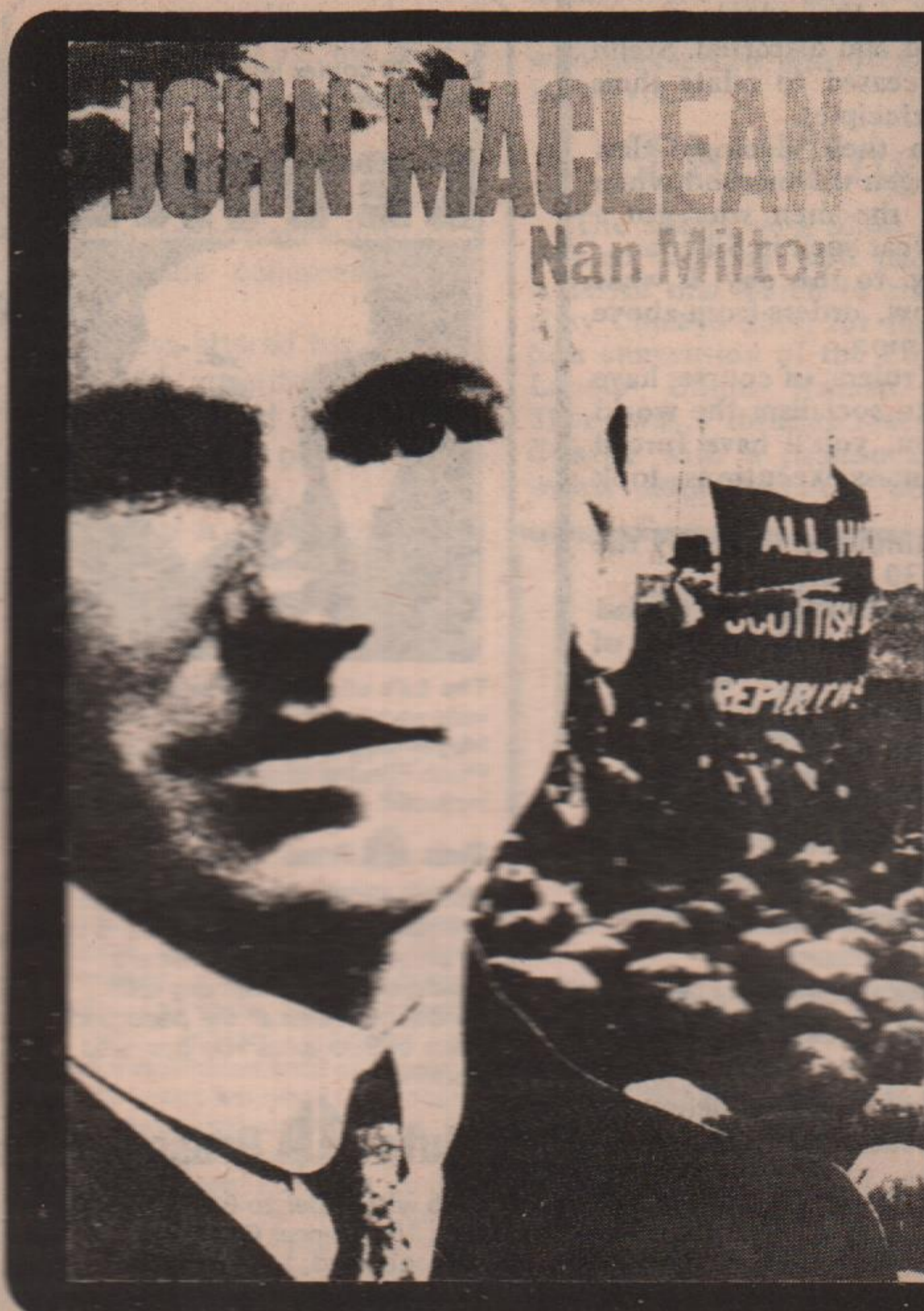
But this is not the best available deal. In some ways it is very, very seriously defective.

For many a long year the NUM has been pushing to have two other industrial diseases, chronic bronchitis and emphysema, recognised as such.

But they have agreed to leave these out of the present negotiations. They will not be compensated for. Men struck down by them will still be flung on the scrapheap.

The package doesn't cover one other group of injured men—those who had their lungs destroyed courtesy of the Coal Board in yet another way—nitrous fumes in shot firing. They, too, are excluded.

SOCIALIST WORKER would like to hear the opinions of NUM members on pneumoconiosis.



Available from: IS BOOKS
265 Seven Sisters Road
London N4
Paperback £2
Hardback £4.35

John Maclean was regarded as Britain's greatest revolutionary leader of the time by both Lenin and the British government. He pioneered marxism in Scotland, was a major architect of the 'Red Clyde' and leader of the anti-war struggles during the First World War. He was the Bolsheviks' first consul in Glasgow.

The author, John Maclean's daughter, traces his life from 1903, when he joined the Social Democratic Federation, to 1923, when he died at the early age of 44. She uses a mass of original documents, interviews with participants and personal memories.

PLUTO PRESS

Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road,
London NW1 8LH.

Ex-paratrooper speaks on Ireland

MORE THAN 100 IS members attended a day school on Ireland which covered the history of British domination of Ireland, the role of the Protestant ascendancy in the North, and the task for socialists in Britain.

Neil Davies, a building worker and ex-paratrooper, told how he and other young workers suffering low wages and unemployment had been seduced into the army by promises of travel and excitement. Once in, they are told the army is 'keeping the peace' when it beats up people in Kenya, Aden and Cyprus. He

came to realise it was really protecting the economic interests of the British employing class, he said.

He said cracks were beginning to appear in the morale of the army in Ireland. The government were trying to paper these over with pay rises and 'comforts' such as colour TV sets.

Bloodbath

The job of socialists in Britain, he said, was to fight in the working class for the withdrawal of troops from Ireland. To

those who argued that there would be a bloodbath, we should answer that the bloodbath had been going on through centuries of British domination and the army was prolonging it.

John Palmer told the meeting that only the united working class, both Protestant and Catholic, could defeat British capitalism in Ireland. IS supported the IRA fight against British domination but as long as they failed to work seriously to unite all workers in North and South they would not succeed.

Similar schools on Ireland are to be

held in Manchester and Scotland. Watch the WHAT'S ON column for details.

Draft leaflets and posters for IS meetings on 'Troops out of Ireland' are available from John Houston, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.



The latest issue of *The Worker*, monthly paper of the Socialist Workers Movement of Ireland, is available price 5p plus 4p postage from 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.



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

KINGSTON IS public meeting: Solidarity with the workers of Chile. Film and speakers on the Chilean struggle. Thursday 25 July, 8pm, Castle Pub, Fairfield, Kingston.

TWICKENHAM IS public meeting: Ireland. Speaker: Carole Bourne. Thursday 25 July, 8.45pm, The Red Lion, Heath Road.

HARROW IS public meeting: Crisis in London—public services speak out. Speakers: Pete Glatter (London bus-worker), Nigel Currie (London teacher) and a local hospital worker. Thursday 25 July, 8pm, Victoria Hall, Sheepcote Road, Harrow (opposite Granada Cinema).

BLACKBURN IS public meeting: The role of the Police. Speaker Michael Fenn, (London dock). Thursday 8 August, 8pm, Mid-Pennine Arts Association Gallery, King William Street.

TOWER HAMLETS IS film show and Asian music: 'A place called Ardoyne' and 'Oh for the wings of a dove', both films about minority groups—Catholics in Belfast and Pakistanis in Birmingham—at the Half Moon Theatre, Alie Street, E1. Saturday 27 July, 8pm. Admission 30p. In aid of Socialist Worker Defence Fund.

CAMBRIDGE IS public meeting: National Health Service in Danger. Speakers: Local hospital trade unionists. Wednesday 31 July, 8pm, Mawson Hall, Mawson Road (off Mill Road), Cambridge.

BARNET IS public meeting. The Police—the long arm of the ruling class. Speakers: Ian Ollie (London Royal Dock) and Jim Nichol (Socialist Worker). Wednesday 31 July, 8pm, Bull and Butcher, High Road, Whetstone. (near Totteridge and Whetstone tube).

ALEX GLASGOW will be singing socialist folk songs at the King's Head Hotel, High Street, Acton, London W3, from 8pm till 11pm on Friday 27 July. Organised by North West London District IS.

Meetings for IS members

BIRMINGHAM District IS meeting for members only: pre-conference discussion on industrial perspectives introduced by Ken Appleby (member of the national committee). Sunday 4 August, 2pm-5pm, Lecture room 2, Digbeth Civic Hall. All members must attend.

THE IS AUEW/TASS meeting in Newcastle for Saturday 27 July has been cancelled due to the alteration of dates of divisional meetings.

YORKSHIRE AND NORTH DERBY IS MINERS meeting: Saturday 3 August, Masons Arms, Market Place, Doncaster, 12 noon. Including a session on the case for a national rank and file movement (Speakers: Roger Cox, secretary, Rank and File Conference Organising Committee). Non-IS miners welcome.

MIDLANDS IS MINERS meeting: Saturday 27 July, Victoria Hotel, Campbell Road, Stoke-on-Trent, 12 noon. Sessions on: Building the Rank and File Movement, Fighting the Productivity Deal. Non-IS miners welcome.

IS DAY SCHOOL on Ireland. Speakers on republicanism, the role of the army, Orangeism and the Loyalist strikes. Saturday 27 July, 11am-4.30pm, Meeting room 2, Manchester University Students Union, Oxford Road, Manchester. For IS members in Lancashire only.

IS notices

COMRADE needs own room in house or flat in North London (Finsbury Park area). Phone 739 2639 daytime/450 2976 evening.

SOCIALIST WORKER PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS needs a carpenter (experienced craftsman, no amateurs please) for four weeks, cards required, and a full-time driver. Both to start as soon as possible. Write or phone Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 (01-739 1870).

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 as important as experience of the working-class movement. Lack of qualifications should not deter applicants. Job will entail living in or within commuting distance of London. Apply in writing—giving experience and reasons why you want the job and sending examples of anything you may have written. Applications by 31 July to Editorial Board, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2 9DS.

چنگاری

-IT SAYS CHINGARI

THE latest issue of Chingari, the International Socialist's Urdu paper, is out this week. It gives front-page coverage to the strike of Asian workers at Imperial Type-writers in Leicester and its editorial deals with the tactical problems thrown up by recent strikes of Asian workers and emphasises the need to maintain morale and solidarity through democratic involvement of all strikers.

Most strikes of Asians have been far from successful—not least because of union betrayal—so the lesson has been drawn: the need to go back into the factory and rebuild the organisation *inside* the factory.

An extensive article on Portugal is of special interest to our Pakistani readers, who have themselves suffered and overthrown army dictatorship to find that the newly-elected government, despite its socialist rhetoric, has come down on workers' organisations with an iron fist.

Home news deals with the political significance of the nurses' and hospital workers' direct action against private medicine in National Health Service hospitals. There is a commentary on the anti-racist march that resulted in the death of Kevin Gately.

Help us make Chingari an effective workers' paper by sending us news and reports of immigrant workers' struggles. Feedback from Chingari readers is directly related to the efforts of IS members in building Chingari: the last issue contained reports and letters from workers in Blackburn, which reflected the months of effort put in by IS members there in establishing contact with the immigrant community.

Cast around

CAST, the revolutionary socialist theatre group, is producing a play on the reformist role of the Labour Party. It is titled 'Sam's your man?', traces the Labour Party's sell-outs since 1945 and focusses on the duplicity of the 'left' of the party. A country-wide tour is planned for late autumn. CAST is looking for an actress who could specialise in playing a middle-class Labour parliamentarian. The group rehearses in the evenings and would make allowances for holiday arrangements. If interested, contact CAST at 01-402 6087.

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.

THE COLLIER: July/August issue now out. 5p—now 8 pages! All orders to 29 Station Road, Dodworth, Barnsley.

First issue of **THE NORTHWEST PLATFORM** Rank and file paper for all busworkers in the North West—OUT NOW, price 5p. Copies from 99 Tintern Crescent, Blackburn, Lancs (cash with orders, please).

GKN WORKER, paper of rank and file trade unionists in GKN combine, will be appearing at the beginning of August. Any news, information, to GKN Worker, 165 Tame Road, Wilton, Birmingham.

PORTSMOUTH Chile Solidarity Campaign demonstration against the presence of a warship for Chile in Portsmouth dockyard. Saturday 27 July, 2.30pm, assemble outside St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, Portsmouth.

THIRD WORLD PUBLICATIONS are looking for a marketing manager. A challenging job for an enterprising person who is politically and socially aware, in a three-person workers' co-operative. Working conditions informal but efficient. Previous marketing experience valuable but not essential. Must be able to plan and carry out an imaginative and effective marketing strategy, produce promotional materials and expand contacts with people interested in development/liberation of the Third World. TWP markets a wide range of mainly low-cost, readable and attractive publications about the Third World and its relationships with the West. More details from TWP, 67 College Road, Birmingham B13 9LR (phone 021-777 9644).

What International Socialists will be doing in the next two months

IN INDUSTRY

THE post-election 'honeymoon' ended within two months and the trade union leaders are desperately trying to salvage the social contract from the wreckage of the Tories' incomes policy, in the face of an unprecedented level of economic militancy from the working class.

But this militancy is fragmented and disconnected. With the ending of the Pay Board we have a situation of 'free' bargaining for the first time for years.

Because of the trade union leaders' attachment to the 'social compact' they will not use this opportunity to lead national wage battles. Instead we can expect a further increase of fragmented rank and file militancy in the period immediately ahead.

For the IS this means a change in our style of intervention. Our reaction to local disputes has to be much more dependent on local initiatives than before, when we could relate to national strikes with centrally produced leaflets, papers and posters. Relating our politics to fragmentary struggle necessarily means formulating specific 'How to Win' programmes for the specific dispute.

Such specific interventions must

Statement by IS executive committee

be based on the central points of the organisation's programme against the social compact; 30 per cent across the board increases, no time limits on agreements, nationalisation under workers' control of companies who say they cannot afford to pay.

Such interventions should not be seen as a purely propaganda exercise. The object is for IS to assist workers to win their dispute and to win workers to IS politics. Where we do not have IS comrades directly involved in the dispute we can only win members in-so-far as our politics appear relevant.

IS members should not hesitate to approach picket lines. But camping on a picket line is pointless unless the comrades talk politics and discuss how best to win the strike. Local IS meetings based on the local dispute, along the lines of 'The . . . strike and Labour's Social Compact', or 'The fight Against Unemployment and the . . . Strike (or Occupation)', provide an important means of widening the political horizons of any local dispute.

The most important contribution IS branches can provide in local disputes is to forge links with other groups of workers. To achieve this we have to use to the maximum of what industrial strength we have. Even if such initiatives are restricted to introducing groups of individual militants to other workers in other factories in the same combine, it is worthwhile and can bring results.

IN LONDON

IN London IS branches must concentrate over the next few weeks on the campaign for London Weighting Allowances. The crucial emphasis of raising £8 a week London Allowance claims in manual sectors not normally covered by London Allowances will largely depend on our local initiatives.

IN DEFENCE OF SOCIALIST WORKER

SOCIALIST WORKER is under attack. The Janie Jones Case and the possibility of criminal libel charges from the Kevin Gately posters represent a serious threat to our paper. There is every reason to believe that this represents the thin end of the wedge. In town after town Socialist Worker sellers are encountering increased harassment from the police.

These attacks on the paper are a reflection of its growing effectiveness within the labour movement and it is to that movement that we have to look to build support for its defence. The editorial board is circulating an appeal for support in the trade union movement and IS members are urged to raise the issue in their trade union branches, trades councils and stewards' committees.

Move a resolution of support for Socialist Worker's right to publish, and a donation to the fighting fund. Send a report of the resolution to Socialist Worker. Every IS branch is urged to prepare 'Defend Socialist Worker' meetings for September/October, and to organise a special effort for the Fighting Fund for August, September and October.

MANCHESTER ANTI-FASCIST COMMITTEE public meeting THE NATIONAL FRONT—FASCIST FRONT? Speakers: J Broome, M Ludmer (NCTUAR), representatives of Imperial Typewriters strikers. Thursday 1 August, Basement Theatre, Manchester Town Hall Extension.

STRIKE BENEFIT in aid of contracting electricians on strike at Watney's Brewery, Mortlake, South London. Ten Nights in a Bar-room, an American melodrama on the evils of drink, at the Unity Theatre, 11 Goldington Street, London NW1. Sunday 4 August, 7.45pm, Tickets £1 from the Strike Committee, 41 Chiswick Common Road, London W4 or at the Unity Theatre, address above (phone 01-387 8647).

BOOK RED LADDER THEATRE for your trade union branch, weekend school, trades council, school, tech, community associations, shows available: A Woman's Work is Never Done, Happy Robots? The National Cake. Book soon for autumn. We're touring north in early October. Midlands early December, West Country in January. For information ring 01-263 1053 or 01-730 5396 or write to 58 Holbein House, Holbein Place, London SW1.

GOOD DANCE GROUP Available for IS and trade union socials in London—£20 but negotiable. Phone Mike at 01-567 2028.

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

THE SOCIALIST PARTY aims at building a moneyless world community without frontiers based on common ownership—with productivity solely for use—not profit. It opposes all other political parties, all leaderships, 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.

Redundancies... prod deals: The battle warms up

THE BIG THREAT FACING THE MINERS

by John Owen,
Houghton Main NUM

MOVES now afoot to negotiate a productivity deal in the mining industry are dangerous. Any deal would give far more to the Coal Board than to rank and file miners.

It would produce more coal for less men, and since excess production is stockpiled it can be used against the NUM in future wage negotiations.

Extra pressure to reach bonus production levels will inevitably increase accidents and worsen

working conditions.

It was predictable that sooner or later the NCB would look for ways to disunite the miners. Since 1966 the National Power Loading Agreement has united the miners in a way that was unforeseen by both the NUM and NCB.

So the obvious ploy was to propose a new and, from their point of view, more favourable scheme or to modify the NPLA.

They seem to have put all their bets on the latter. Why are the NCB and our leaders pulling out all the stops to sell a productivity scheme to the miners?

The NUM leaders will submit to the pressures of the Labour Government and TUC's 'social compact' and take the way of least resistance. This year they

by Bill Message

A LETTER is being sent to Lawrence Daly, General Secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, telling him that Yorkshire miners are not prepared to accept the kind of productivity deal being negotiated between the NUM Executive and the National Coal Board.

Delegates decided unanimously at the Yorkshire Council of the NUM on Monday to oppose the scheme, which seeks to split miners pit by pit through locally-paid incentive bonuses. Many rank and file miners are appalled by the scheme, which they see as a return to the old jungle of the piece rate system.

South Yorkshire delegates to the Council meeting

complained bitterly that undermanagers at several collieries were trying to 'brainwash' development workers, in particular, into accepting such a deal by offering them extra cash now if they can make a few yards extra on each shift.

It was decided to send a letter to the four area directors of the NCB in Yorkshire instructing them that the union will not tolerate such moves.

An attempt by Kellingley branch to remove union backing for the NUM-sponsored Labour MP for Normanton, Albert Roberts, failed. Roberts is notorious for his contacts with the former Salazar dictatorship in Portugal, Franco regime in Spain and his connections with the jailed architect John Poulson.

Leyland: Why we are sick

LEYLAND, Lancs: After two weeks' strike action at British Leyland Bus and Truck a mass meeting of about 4000 voted, with only 10 against, to return to work.

Management had agreed in principle to 'mutually agreed safeguards' being incorporated into the new system of payment. They also agreed to an immediate increase of £2 across the board, £1.90 for women, plus a weighting in favour of the lower-paid sections. This ranges from roughly £1.34 on 400 per cent piece rate performance to nothing on 700 per cent.

In return for this princely sum, the industrial engineers are to start collating information from 16 September, during which time we are to be paid on individual average performance.

Many of us feel sick at the outcome—and that the struggle is by no means over.

We have gained everything other workers got without a battle: a £2 threshold rise and implementation of the national engineering agreement. We have got these only in return for tangling with Method Time Management.

We will get the £104 of course, but that looks more like Judas Iscariot's 30 pieces of silver now. Leyland boss Musgrove may get his way over the next few months if we aren't determined enough.

COURT PICKET

LONDON: Lloyd James 18, Horace Parkinson 19, and Robin Sterling 14, who were falsely arrested, beaten, and charged at Brockwell Park, South London a year ago, have now served three months of their three-year jail sentences.

The Appeal Court in the Strand will be picketed from 10am to 3pm this Friday, 26 July, when the Brockwell Three come up on appeal.

We need support - fast

By IPD Radiator Department

KIRKBY: Workers at the IPD plant, formerly Fisher Bendix, are continuing their occupation in their fight to preserve their jobs. Two years ago they successfully occupied the plant until Harold Wilson stepped in—but the new owner he found has now said the plant is no longer viable.

At the last meeting on Monday, we were amazed to hear that Liberal MP Cyril Smith wanted to talk to the 'work people' of Fisher-Bendix. So it's now a race between the Labour Party and the Liberal Party to be first to solve the problems of Fisher-Bendix yet again.

This makes little odds to the workers. Even if the factory is saved, many of the workers will go down the road. The problems of the factory are far more than just the saving of jobs.

Equally important to the workers are the issues of security, wages, conditions and the internal organisation of the plant.

The official receiver is attempting blackmail of the worst kind. He has our holiday pay and will not give it to us unless we accept the assessment of the viability of the factory.

This could mean the sacking of over 700 workers, leaving a mere 450. This is completely unacceptable to the majority of the work force.

The contrast between the action now and the occupation in 1971 is disturbing, particularly for those involved in the last struggle. Enthusiasm has given way to a deep resentment against the plant and the financial wheeling and dealing of Harry King, the latest owner.

Workers are getting no wages and are hard-pressed to get to the plant, as many live as far away as Wigan. When they get in, muddle is the order of the day, since the work force has not been allowed to take control of events.

Workers are cynically aware of this, but a grim determination to see the thing through to success persists.

The factory remains isolated with no known financial support coming into it from the labour movement. For success of any kind financial and moral backing must be sought. A well-organised appeal to union branches, shop stewards committees and other workers' organisations would not only gain much-needed support but would publicise the experience of workers at this notorious plant.

It would spread to other workers the lesson that

putting your trust in people like Harold Wilson is no way to ensure job security. During the last occupation we were in control. We had a strong industrial empire in our grip. But that's in the past, all we have now is the lesson, which we must not forget if we are to succeed.

SOUTHALL: Workers at Cramic Engineering voted 100 per cent last Thursday to fight the closure Ever Ready is imposing on its subsidiary. This takes effect from September solely for the pursuit of profit.

A joint action committee representing all Cramic workers was formed to stop anything leaving the factory.

CRICKLEWOOD: workers at Smith Industries MAI factory ended their two-day sit-in on Thursday after forcing management to withdraw lay-off notices given to 177 women assembly workers and winning payment for one of the sit-in days.

The sit-in achieved a victory that solves nothing in the long run. The motor industry is in crisis and Smiths, as component manufacturers, cannot escape the repercussions. The sit-in was only the first round in what promises to be a long fight.

Busmen on move again

by George Fuller, TGWU

BRIGHTON: Following the success of the recent one-day stoppage, busworkers from the Southdown Conway Whitehawk depot are once again on the offensive.

They are not prepared to tolerate a situation where there are no meal breaks in shifts of nine and ten hours.

The fight for the Busman's Charter—the main points are £35 for 35 hours and an hour's paid meal break—has met with stonewalling from management.

Steps are being taken to unite the whole Southdown fleet around the pay claim. The attitude towards meal breaks is that if management are not prepared to give us one, we'll bloody well take it.

So last Friday at 10.00am (early shift) and 7pm (late shift) every bus from Conway/Whitehawk garages came off the road for an hour's break.

The operation was 100 per cent solid and is another indication of the determination of busworkers here to stop the rot.

Pressure is on to step up the action. Busworkers here are becoming increasingly aware of the need to involve other garages in the town in a united fight.



£7-A-WEEK PAY VICTORY

CHELMSFORD: 500 members of TASS, the white-collar section of the engineering union, have won an important pay victory against GEC, one of Britain's most ruthless employers.

They gained increases of up to £365 a year after threatening to strike at the Marconi Radar factory where a number of big orders were in the pipeline.

TASS had been the last union locally to accept GEC's strategy of extending the working week. With factory organisation

at a low ebb in a town where militant is another word for the devil, the plan was pushed through fairly easily among all the Marconi unions.

But after working the extra two and a half hours for six weeks, TASS members decided they had had enough. They demanded to return to a 37-hour week—without loss of pay.

GEC's offer gave the workers nearly everything they had demanded. One militant said: 'It's staggering. I felt sure GEC

were going to put up a real fight. Now they've given in to us, their whole plan has been undermined.'

The TASS victory draws a clear lesson for the other Marconi unions, specially the AUEW, which has been content to sell principles for pay.

AUEW members, who are now working a 42½-hour week under the Marconi scheme, are beginning to say: If TASS can do it, so can we.

WOMEN reactory workers at Birmingham University staged their first-ever strike—and stopped the annual degree day public relations festival last Friday. All workers in the kitchens, canteens and snack bars walked out to join fellow workers and students in a 300-strong march around the campus, ending with a rally and picket. Visiting dignitaries and proud parents were presented with a workers' view of the University—wages of £12 for a 35-hour week, up to 50 per cent understaffing, appalling conditions, women losing fingers because no first aid was available, stale food and left-

overs being served up as workers' meals. The strike and solidarity action was co-ordinated by the Joint Union Committee set up eight months ago to unite all campus workers. The University management refuses to recognise this committee—they're terrified of its potential strength—and are now negotiating with the women's union, the GMWU, over the long list of demands submitted.

These include an immediate 30 per cent rise, a sliding scale of wages fixed to an authentic cost of living index, better conditions and recognition of shop stewards.

Racialism on the rampage

LEICESTER: Racialists among white workers at Imperial Typewriters won a victory for their divisive and poisonous ideas this week. As the 400 Asian strikers returned to work on Monday after their 11-week strike, the white workers staged a meeting.

A vote to strike over the re-instatement of 25 strike leaders was put. The racialists, led by members of the National Front, won the vote. And on Tuesday the 500 white workers struck for the day.

A decision has been taken not to work with the 25 and the dispute looks set to go on until the racialists feel they have proved they're the bosses. Litton Industries have got that well sewn up, however.

A tough intervention at an early stage from the district level of the Transport and General Workers Union would have prevented the shift developing to this extent. It could well have started the cure.

But it never came and as the Asian workers battled on, the situation among the white workers deteriorated.

TGWU district secretary George Bromley lined up alongside the white workers. He has been on television with convenor Reg Weaver saying that the brutally downtrodden Asian workers were 'led by trouble-makers' and could even be receiving funds from Peking. This only encouraged the racialists.

The TGWU Midlands Region intervention has done little to help, either. Regional secretary Brian Mathers was more concerned about doing a bureaucratic patch-up than getting to the roots of the dispute.

Socialist trade unionists in Leicester and elsewhere have a duty to campaign for all they're worth in support of the Asian strikers.

We fight on, say young workers

GLASGOW: Young workers at Barr and Stroud's have voted to continue striking for a full threshold payment. They have rejected a pro-rata award contained in a package accepted by older workers.

Management have increased their offer to 20p for

every per centage rise in the Retail Price Index for 16-year-olds, rising to 35p for 19-year-olds.

The junior workers, angered by management's attempts to avoid paying the cost of living award in full, abstained at the mass meeting. The young workers' strike is being supported by the whole work-force with a £1 per week levy.

Despite foul weather, there have been impressive pickets between 12 and 20 plus - out of 100 strikers. Blacking is effective, at least one urgent job can't be done and the general manager empties his own tray because the girl who does it is on strike!

A rare exception is an ETU convenor, doing a striker's job because he 'used to do the job before.'

The national and local union leadership have accepted pro-rata payments for apprentices and women - a sell-out which can, if unchallenged, weaken the whole trade union organisation in the factory.

Management know the junior workers' defeat would make easier the enforcement of the £2.80 limit they arbitrarily set for the whole workforce.

A Junior Workers Committee organises all the young workers in the factory's five different unions. The chairman, Stuart Ferguson said: 'We have taken this action to win the full threshold payments back-dated to 24 May. We feel very strongly about this. The cost of living has been rocketing for us as much as for any other section.'

'At least one of our members has a wife and kid to support. We want more than the threshold pennies. This dispute is a test - if the management get away with this they will walk all over us in future.'

Strike committee member Hugh Rice hammered home the point: 'It's not only us they are taking on, it's the whole organisation in the factory. It was a bad decision to accept the management's threshold offer - stopping short of an open-ended agreement and giving less to us.'

'The decision to levy £1 a head is a step in the right direction, that and effective blacking will help us to win. That will mean the whole factory will be in a better position to go forward in the future.'

HOW SHELL STRIKE WAS SOLD OUT

by John Deason

THE SELL-OUT of Shell refinery workers was completed last Saturday when the Stanlow strikers voted to return to work. The '25 per cent' package represents a dent in the social contract - but only a dent.

The Shell workers were poised to smash Labour's social contract fraud. But the manoeuvrings of John Miller, the Transport Union National Officer for Chemicals, Oil and Rubber destroyed that potential and weakened the developing National Shell Committee of shop stewards.

Last Tuesday, lay delegates from Carrington, Ardrossan, Teesside, Shellhaven and Stanlow unanimously decided to extend the Stanlow strike to an all-out national stoppage.

On Thursday, shop stewards' meetings at Shellhaven and Carrington endorsed the strike call.

Then Miller told Shell that arbitration had been agreed to. The first the Stanlow stewards heard of these manoeuvrings was from a local newspaper reporter!

On Friday, under considerable pressure from TGWU officials, Ardrossan, Shellhaven, Teesport and Carrington voted

against strike action and to accept the package while overtime rates went to 'arbitration'.

The 1800 Stanlow strikers were left high and dry. Yet a large minority of 700 voted the next day to continue the strike. The meeting unanimously passed a resolution strongly disapproving Miller's action and demanding that he be brought in front of the EC to explain his behaviour.

The finishing touch from John Miller was the attempt to use the new, untried TUC-CBI conciliation machinery. This is the final example of what Labour's Social Contract is all about, trade union officials intriguing on behalf of the government and the employers and 'holding the line' on wage deals.

Meanwhile Shell were holding the line on profits. They made £319 million profit last year, compared to £115 million the previous year. Much of these massive profits were made in blatant defiance of the Price Commission rules. Shell charged new higher oil prices for hoarded oil which had come to Shell at the old prices.

Shell were allowed to pocket the proceeds of course. After all, they're a very special case.

Teachers triumph

AT THE eleventh hour, the leaders of the National Union of Teachers have abandoned their bid to victimise the Wandsworth Three, David Whiteley, Fred Scott and Eric Porter.

Disciplinary moves against the three teachers, members of the union's militant Wandsworth Association, were first made nearly 18 months ago.

NUT leaders claimed they had been instrumental in 'disrupting' a strike rally at the Westminster Central Hall in February 1973. The rally erupted into noisy protest when the platform refused to allow any discussion of a motion sub-

mitted by Wandsworth.

The audience assumed, rightly, that the decision meant the NUT leaders were selling out the London Allowance claim - and they protested accordingly.

Since charges were first brought, demands for discipline and even expulsion of the three have reached a near-hysterical pitch. Leading Communist Party teachers like Max Morris, NUT president, have been spearheading the campaign.

But last Tuesday the three defendants were told the charges had been withdrawn.

The attempt to isolate the growing militancy in the union failed because of the tremendous support which rolled in for the three.

X-RAY ACTION HOTS UP

THE HOSPITAL radiographers dispute is hotting up. In the North East, a mass meeting voted for a one-week strike.

Picketing is hard, and the response from other hospital workers, patients and local factory workers is terrific. There was to be a day of action on Friday with the NUPE nurses' advisory committee, the NHS technicians (whether or not they have settled their claim) and other local workers united in support.

ASTMS National Officer, Reg Bird, is planning selected strikes in 'key' areas. This may have worked for technicians but most hospitals have X-ray facilities.

Closing one hospital in an area only means shifting the work to radiographers in other hospitals. Rolling regional strikes leading to a national stoppage is what we must push for.

In London, militants supported by ASTMS in the Royal Free Group are striking for the third week with emergency cover only for patients already in hospital. All hospital workers should encourage radiographers to join ASTMS and go for all out strike action now, before the Royal Free get demoralised through lack of support.

49 electricians at Robb Caledon's shipyard in Leith are on strike in support of their demand for payment of a £2.40 threshold. Their claim has been in for two months now, with management consistently declining to pay up.

The men came back from holiday last Monday and, after their convenors got no reply, resolved they would wait no longer. Their strike came just four days after the threshold triggered yet again taking it to £2.40. They are seeking payment in full.

The NHS technicians' industrial action on a three-year-old pay claim has produced an offer of 20 per cent from the employers. But it is only backdated to last November.

The rise brings these key workers up to a lousy £30 a week before tax and deductions. There is little doubt that rejection of the package would yield a higher offer.

Manchester nurses', radiographers' and technicians' action groups held a joint meeting on Monday to start a campaign to end the division of hospital workers which has been a great hindrance to all groups in the fight for better pay and conditions.



WHAT WE STAND FOR

THE International Socialists are a revolutionary socialist organisation open to all who accept its main principles and who are willing to work to achieve them. These principles are:

INDEPENDENT WORKING-CLASS ACTION

We believe that socialism can only be achieved by the independent action of the working class.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORMISM

We believe in overthrowing capitalism, not patching it up or gradually trying to change it. We therefore support all struggles of workers against capitalism and fight to break the hold of reformist ideas and leaders.

THE CAPITALIST STATE

The state machine is a weapon of capitalist class rule and therefore must be smashed. The present parliament, army, police and judges cannot simply be taken over and used by the working class. There is, therefore, no parliamentary road to socialism. The working-class revolution needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state, based on councils of workplace delegates.

WORK IN THE MASS ORGANISATIONS OF THE WORKING CLASS

We believe in working in the mass organisations of the working class, particularly the trade unions, and fighting for rank and file control of them.

INTERNATIONALISM

We are internationalists. We practise and campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries, oppose racialism and imperialism, and fully support the struggles of all oppressed peoples. We are opposed to all immigration controls.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country. Revolution is defeated by isolation. Russia, China and Eastern Europe are not socialist but state capitalist. We support the workers' struggle in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party, and all the activity of the International Socialists is directed to the building of such a party by fighting for a programme of political and industrial demands that can strengthen the self-confidence, organisation and socialist consciousness of the working class.

WE ARE

For rank and file control of the trade unions and the regular election of all full-time officials. No secret negotiations. All settlements to be voted on by mass meetings.

For 100 per cent trade unionism. Against all victimisations and blacklisting. Against anti-trade union laws or curbs on the right to strike and on effective picketing.

Against productivity or efficiency deals. Against any form of incomes policy under capitalism.

Against unemployment, redundancies and lay-offs. Instead we demand five days work or five days pay, and the 35-hour week. For nationalisation without compensation under workers' control.

For militant trade union unity, joint shop stewards committees at plant and combine level.

For the building of a national rank and file movement which will fight for these policies in the trade union movement.

Against racialism and police victimisation of black people. Against all immigration controls. For the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise in their own defence.

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

Against all nuclear weapons and military alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Against all forms of imperialism, including Russian imperialism.

For unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.

For the building of a mass workers' revolutionary party, organised in the workplaces, which can lead the working class to power, and for the building of a revolutionary socialist international.

International Socialists



If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and would like more information, or would like to join the International Socialists, then send this form to: The International Socialists, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

Name

Address

Trade Union

HANDS OFF CYPRUS! ΜΗΝ ΑΠΛΩΝΕΤΕ
ΤΑ ΧΕΡΙΑ ΣΑΣ ΣΤΗ ΚΥΠΡΟ

Central London Socialist Worker meeting
Speakers: Petros Savidis (Socialist Revolution, Greece)
and Duncan Hallas (International Socialists executive)
Thursday 1 August, 7.30pm
Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, WC1

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

HANDS OFF CYPRUS!

THESE Cypriot workers demonstrating in London last Sunday have got the right answer to the Cyprus tragedy. The occupying army from Turkey has now joined Greek troops and British troops on the island in a battle for imperialist and strategic advantage.

The new 'government' of Cyprus, a gang of racist hooligans, is running amok, killing trade unionists, Communists and Turks wherever they can find them. At least 1000 Cypriot trade unionists and left-wing political leaders have disappeared after being arrested.

The enormous majority of the Cypriot people are against rule by the fascist junta in Greece. The enormous majority of the Cypriot people are against the Turkish invasion.

The strategic position of Cyprus and its growing industrial and agricultural wealth are ripe plums for the 'Great Powers'. The corrupt crumbling regimes of Greece and Turkey can only be propped up by beating the nationalist drum over Cyprus.

There is no answer to the Cyprus problem until these plundering powers get out. Not just the Greek junta and their agents, but the Turkish army and the British army.

In solidarity with fellow trade unionists who are being imprisoned, tortured and bombed in Cyprus, we must demand in the British trade union movement that the Labour government get the British troops out of Cyprus now.

The facts behind the Cyprus crisis—PAGE THREE.

PICTURE: Andrew Wiard (Report)



No waiting for weighting

ALL London workers now have the chance to push for an immediate pay increase. The London Weighting battle is not just a white-collar affair. London Airport workers have already won a £4-a-week increase for the first time.

Even the Pay Board grudgingly recognised that all London public employees and private sector workers on national wage structures had the right to an immediate increase.

But the report is full of nonsense. If your work within four miles of Charing Cross you get £8 a week, and for the majority who work outside this area only £4.

But now the Pay Board has been abolished we must tell the Labour government that the nonsense must go as well; Now we have returned to 'free' bargaining we can turn this report on its head. If the Pay Board thought £8 a week was good enough

for central London workers, it's good enough for us all, whether we had an allowance before or not.

Hospitals union silent

Steve Ludlam (NUPE hospital shop steward) writes: THE savage effects of inflation on low-paid hospital and council workers and the ever-worsening staff shortages have already made the London Allowance a hotter issue than the Phase Three settlement.

By contrast to the noise it is causing in the hospitals, the traditional silence from head office of NUPE, the public employees' union, is deafening. Apparently no negotiations are in progress, and since the £400 claim was lodged for us as announced back in November, branches have only received one letter on the subject.

The real reason for NUPE's silence is to do with the fact that Alan Fisher, our general secretary, is on the management side of the Whitley Council, covering Electricity Board white-collar workers some of whom are taking official industrial action for the allowance. Another is Fisher's steadfast support for the social con-trick.

Memories of the public sector alliances during the hospital ancillary workers strike are still fresh for many members and can be turned into action again. This time we can join workers in the private sector in the allowance battle.

The much-vaunted £400 is not just going to fall from the sky. We are going to have to fight for it and we will almost certainly have to fight Brother Fisher in the process.



IS hospital workers met last week and planned action around the following points: 1. Emergency branch meetings in all hospitals to discuss the situation. 2. Reject the four-mile limit and fight for the full £400 claim across the board. 3. Demand the trade union executive organise joint action with the other NHS and public sector unions. Support for all local and divisional initiatives by trade union organisations aimed at joint action for the £400.

NALGO action

Geoff Wolfe (NALGO) writes: ACTION is continuing in dozens of NALGO branches, the government officers union, in support of the £400 claim. Last week's Metropolitan District Council meeting called for further action.

With the employers likely to make an offer this week, it is essential to step up the action in support of the full £400. The union's negotiators might settle for the March 'interim' offer of £180 for Outer London and £216 for Inner London unless they are pushed further.

It would also pave the way for a quick settlement of the local government white-collar workers' national claim. The June NALGO Conference decision to press ahead with the full claim and to refer any settlement less than 20 per cent back to a delegate meeting was a great step forward. Since then branches in Glasgow, Essex, Birmingham and Manchester have called for an early delegate meeting to consider action in support of the claim.

The London NALGO Action Group meets on Monday 29 July, 7.30pm, at the Court and Anchor, Wine Office Court, Fleet Street to discuss the next steps.

Stop press GREEK JUNTA FALLS

AS WE go to press, news is coming in of the collapse of the Greek military junta and the invitation from the Greek President to the former conservative Prime Minister Karamanlis to take charge of the government.

This move, coupled with the resignation of Nicos Sampson as head of the Cyprus military junta, is the result of furious American diplomatic activity to 'cool down' the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean so that war between the two NATO countries Greece and Turkey can be avoided—impossible while two hopelessly unpopular regimes, the Greek and Cypriot juntas, remain in power.

The Greek junta's fall is bound to lead to an outburst of political activity in Greece. The oppressed Greek working class will be freed from the chains of the junta in much the same way as the workers in Portugal were freed from Caetano in April.

The new Greek government, not to mention their American paymasters, will make every effort to persuade the workers to 'respect the new constitutional government' and to wait patiently for new elections. As in Portugal however, the longer the Greek workers wait, the stronger the bonds the new government ties around them.

The Greek junta is gone. That is a matter for rejoicing throughout the world working-class movement.

If the Greek workers now use their strength, and get the support of their fellow-workers in other European countries, they can rid themselves not only of military dictatorship but of the further economic dictatorship and exploitation which Karmanlis and Kissinger hold in store for them.

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