

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

The 'hoaxer' of Scotland Yard

AS THE MPs pack up for the long summer holidays, they are congratulating themselves on the fact that Watergate can't happen here. Corruption in British life is at an end.

The Poulson case is over. An unpopular architect, a greedy civil servant, a union official and a couple of local government dignitaries are behind bars, and that's the end of the matter.

But there is at least one lingering mystery. Almost exactly a year ago, on 20 July 1973, Scotland Yard, the headquarters of the London police, was rocked by the leaking of a top secret document about the Poulson corruption case.

Newspapers and television broadcasts featured a memorandum from Scotland Yard's

WAS THE DOCUMENT GENUINE?

solicitors' department which instructed Deputy Assistant Commissioner James Crane, head of the Fraud Squad, to take statements from eight MPs. Crane, at that time, was heading inquiries into the Poulson scandal.

The eight MPs were Reginald Maudling, who had just resigned as Home Secretary, Ted Short, now Deputy Prime Minister, Roy Mason, now Minister of Defence, Ernest Armstrong, now Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Ministry of Education, Fred Willey, former Labour Minister for Land, John Cordle, Tory MP for Bournemouth, Albert Roberts, Labour MP for Normanton, and Ted Leadbitter, Labour MP for Hartlepool.

These MPs were not named at the time or since. Scotland Yard immediately denounced the memorandum as 'a hoax'. Commander R Huntly was put in charge of the case, and the hoaxer was soon tracked down.

On 2 August, the Daily Telegraph reported that a 'civilian employee' of Scotland Yard had 'admitted responsibility' for the 'hoax' and had 'resigned'. He was, wrote the Telegraph's crime correspondent, a member of the Metropolitan Police Solicitors' department but was not based at the Yard. He worked in different courts in the Metropolitan area. He was not named, and it was understood that no further action would be taken.

Elsewhere the 'hoaxer' was described as a 'junior civil servant'.

No charges were brought against the man, either for forgery, if the document was a hoax, or for breaking the Official Secrets Act, if it was genuine. Which is odd, because government departments usually regard the forging or releasing of secret documents as serious crimes.

Only one man who remotely fits these descriptions left Scotland Yard during that time. A spokesman for Scotland Yard confirmed to Socialist Worker that a Charles Paley-Phillips resigned from the Solicitors' Department of Scotland Yard on 31 July, 1973.

Mr Paley-Phillips is a Conservative councillor on the Waltham Forest Council, East London. He is known in the area as a publicist. He has been censured by the council for putting out press reports in the name of the council which are contrary to the facts.

Mr Paley-Phillips is a supporter of the Monday Club and a former admirer of Enoch Powell.

Since his sudden departure from Scotland Yard last year, he has continued working in the London criminal courts as a solicitor's clerk. He can be found at the Inner London Sessions or the Old Bailey or even at Scotland Yard—anywhere, that is, where justice can be seen to be done.

SMEAR

If Mr Paley-Phillips did publicise the document from his department, it was not the first time.

In August 1970, he complained to the press about a confidential circular sent to his department through the civil service. It reminded Scotland Yard staff of their responsibilities not to discriminate under the Race Relations Act.

Mr Paley-Phillips was very angry about the circular. 'It is grossly prejudicial to English people,' he said. The new Tory government agreed. The document was withdrawn by the government and Mr Paley-Phillips was not even reprimanded.

No one ever denied that the document was genuine.

Could it be that the Poulson document which was released last July was genuine? Certainly if it was a hoax it is difficult to see what was the purpose of it. It was not a 'dirty tricks' job on the Labour Party, for there were two Tory MPs on the list.

Whatever the answer, it is clear that a champion of law and order like Paley-Phillips can expect more than lenient treatment when he plays around with secret documents, real or forged.

MR CUBE'S MOTTO

'Free enterprise but no free speech'

THE FOLLOWING press statement was put out through the Press Association, the national news agency, in the evening of Friday, 2 August, in the name of Paul Foot, editor of Socialist Worker:

'At 9.30 this morning I was contacted by the Today programme of Thames Television and asked to take part in a discussion about the sugar shortage, arising from a front-page article in Socialist Worker this week, and remarks I had made on the television programme, What the Papers Say last night.

'I was told that a representative of Tate and Lyle would be asked to take part in the discussion, and I agreed at once.

'At about 4pm this afternoon, I was rung by Thames TV with the news that I was to be "faded out" of the programme, as Tate and Lyle were seeking an injunction in the High Court to prevent me from "making defamatory remarks" about Tate and Lyle. Tate and Lyle, I was told, were prepared to take part in the programme provided only that I did not.

'At no time in the day have I been told of these legal moves by Tate and Lyle.

'It is an interesting aspect of modern free enterprise that a company so experienced in publicising its alleged virtues should go to such extravagant lengths to prevent the public appearance of its critics.

MONOPOLY

'I notice that at least two directors of Tate and Lyle are also directors of Aims of Industry, which is conducting a well-endowed campaign against public enterprise. It seems that under private enterprise,

Tate and Lyle can rely not only on a monopoly in sugar but also on a monopoly in truth.'

Only the Sun and the Sunday Telegraph printed any part of this story. No newspaper published any of the 'comment' at the end.

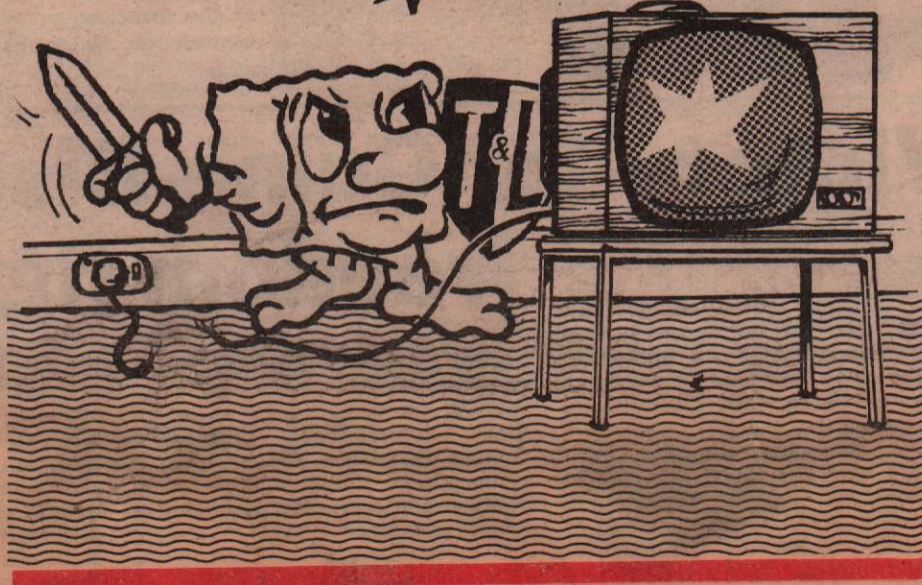
Tate and Lyle told Thames Television that they were considering libel proceedings against Socialist Worker and What the Papers Say. To date, we have heard nothing

Tate and Lyle got their injunction—at 5.30 last Friday afternoon—from a 'duty judge' who was, conveniently, available.

The debate on Thames was cancelled, and replaced with a film about a fox which drinks lager.

Tate and Lyle had no objection.

..OUR NEXT PROGRAMME WILL BE AN INVESTIGATION OF PROFITS IN THE SUGAR INDUSTRY.. *ZZZPHUT!* *



Fascists murder twelve

JUST TWO months after the terrible killings at Brescia the Italian fascists have struck again. Their bomb on the Rome-Munich express killed 12 people on Sunday.

If everything had gone according to plan, it would have murdered several hundred more. The bomb was timed to go off in the central station at working-class, Communist-voting Bologna.

Giorgio Almirante, parliamentary leader of the Italian fascist organisation MSI, told the police well in advance that bombs were to be planted on trains.

Doubtless he gained this knowledge from his many friends and

associates in the armed wing of the fascist movement. Of course his friends and associates don't stop at the Italian border. Almirante is in close touch with the MSI's British sister party, the National Front.

The terrible murders in Italy are yet another indication that the situation is so serious that they are now getting support from big businessmen who want to use them to put down a dissident, well-organised and active working class.

Italian workers have shown with mass strikes and demonstrations their unflinching opposition to the Italian fascists. British workers should be doing the same

Anti-fascist demonstration
Leicester, Saturday 24 August,
2pm

All IS branches to support
Further details next week

BRITAIN'S POLITICAL PRISONS NOW THREE YEARS OLD

JIMMY DRUMM is doing his fourth stretch inside. He has spent 14 of his 53 years in prison. He has never in his life been found guilty of a crime. He has never in his life been charged with a crime. He is one of the internees in Long Kesh.

Long Kesh is about seven miles outside Belfast. It consists of 40 huts scattered across an area 800 yards square. Two high barbed wire fences surround the camp, the space between them patrolled by guard dogs and floodlit at night. Other fences section off the

by Eamonn McCann

interior into 'cages', each cage containing four huts, each hut holding up to 40 men. Machine-gun towers are dotted around the perimeter.

Long Kesh looks like every concentration camp you have ever seen in a Second World War film. At the last count it housed more than 1000 men.

The present phase of internment began just three years ago, on 9 August 1971, when

British troops and Special Branch men stormed into Catholic working-class areas with lists of dissidents to be rounded up. They took 319 men that first night.

In the next few weeks many were tortured beyond endurance. Some were spreadeagled against walls for more than 40 hours, bags over their heads and 'white noise' played through earphones into their ears until they lost contact with reality and gibbered like idiots. Some were taken blindfold into helicopters, told they were hundreds of feet up and then kicked out. Some had broom handles rammed up their backsides. Some had their heads shaved. Some were simply beaten to a

pulp. There are those who will never recover from it.

In all, close on 3000 men have been interned for varying lengths of time in the past three years. Of the original 319, eight are still in Long Kesh. The oldest man interned was Liam Mullholland, aged 75. The youngest Alec Murphy, was 15 when he was picked up last July. He is still inside. Last summer Liz McKee became the first woman internee. There are now 21 women in a special wing of Armagh Prison.

Internment has always been the regime's last line of defence in Northern Ireland. A state which depends for its very existence on the subjugation of a third of the population has to have such weaponry available.

The 'justification' has been that a relatively small number of evil men were seeking violently to bring down the state, and that if only these men could be identified and removed from the scene 'normality' would quickly reappear. It is an argument seen to be based on wilful fantasy as the violence keeps pace with the numbers detained. Internment is not part of the cure for Northern Ireland's ills. It is part of the disease.

FAKERS

Eight of the MPs who signed the pledge against internment are now in government and are themselves helping to operate internment. Stanley Orme as Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office, has direct, personal responsibility for sending dozens of men to the prison camp he swore he would help abolish.

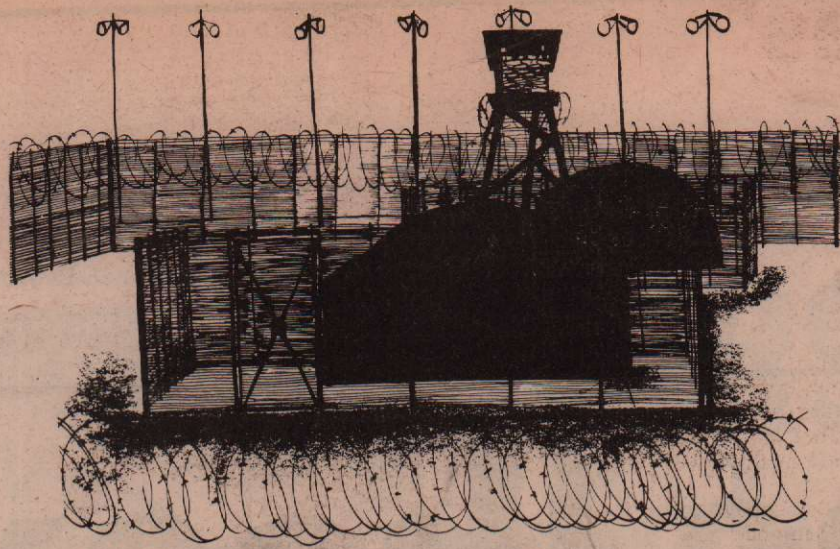
Perhaps it is permissible at this time, when some men innocent in the eyes of all law are beginning their fourth year in a prison cage, to single out Stanley Orme and say that of all the traitors, frauds and fakers who have blighted the history of the British working-class movement, and blighted the relationship between the British working class and the Irish people, he stands out as being, veritably, among the lowest of the low, head and shoulders beneath any of his contemporaries.

He would not be worth the words it takes to write that if he represented only himself. But he acts and speaks for that formidable body of opinion, most of it gathered around the broadsheet Tribune, which poses as the 'conscience of the Labour movement'.

PRINCIPLE

British socialists would do well to consider whether they can continue to place such a low priority on the internment issue²¹ not from a moral but from a strictly practical point of view. The principle that political dissidents may be locked away without trial has now been conceded by all but the tiniest handful of Labour politicians. Having conceded the principle, how could they fight against the practice if and when it occurs to the Tories to extend it to 'the mainland'?

This weekend those who are serious about a struggle against repression should take time off from feeling warm, socialist satisfaction at press photographs of jubilant crowds welcoming released political prisoners in Greece, Portugal or wherever, and get on the streets to hasten the day when friends and relatives of Britain's own political prisoners can experience similar jubilation.



Eggs up, bread up, meat up!

DO YOU remember Dennis Healey's mini-budget speech a week or two ago? He claimed that world prices were on the downturn. Keep down wage increases was his message. The inflation is nearly over.

Don't believe a word of it. The price trends for bread, meat, eggs, milk, butter and cheese are sharply upwards.

As the UK Egg Producers Association predict eggs at £1 a dozen next year, prices of wheat and animal feed grains shoot up on the Chicago grain exchange. Animal feeding stuffs rose by 60 per cent, wheat by over 30 per cent, last week.

The Chicago price matters because the US and Canada provide 60 per cent of the world exportable surplus of grains. Winter floods and summer drought have cut the estimated harvest by around 10 per cent so the speculators are moving in to jack up prices.

The Russian harvest, the world's second biggest, is also below target and China has increased its import orders to Australia and Canada.

'Ultimately this is bound to lead to vastly increased prices for all livestock products to the housewife,' the Sunday Times Business News reports. 'Inevitably it must mean dearer wheat and more expensive bread.'

Imposed

The Common Market Agricultural Commissioner, Pierre Lardinois, has a solution. After warning that 'beef and cereal prices will rise sharply over the next twelve months,' he recommends housewives to go in for bulk buying. Get a year's supply or as near to it as you can manage.

All you need is a lot of cash, a butcher's shop size deep freezer, storage bins for your year's flour supply and the space to house them. No doubt Madame Lardinois will find the necessary room in her chateau.

To help to make sure that his prediction about beef prices comes true, Commissioner Lardinois has just imposed a total ban on imports of non-Common Market beef into Common Market countries, Britain included, and is promoting cut-price beef exports to Russia. 50,000 tons of it, bought by the Commission at 1800 dollars a ton, is being disposed of at 830 dollars a ton to Russian importers to help melt the beef mountain and force prices up inside the Common Market.



The Cyprus carve-up goes on . . . These are some of the 1750 Turkish Cypriots held in the open air Limassol stadium with no protection from the heat—often up to 105 degrees. In Northern Cyprus, Greek Cypriots are being expelled from their villages, shot and tortured by the marauding Turkish army. In Famagusta, where, before the carve-up, Turkish and Greek workers had joined the same trade unions, there has been bitter racial fighting, with scores killed on both sides. These atrocities are the direct responsibilities of the NATO powers, Greece, Turkey and Britain, who, with the help of the American government are squabbling in Geneva over the Cyprus share-out.

Victory for Guine-Bissau freedom fighters!

THE long battle of the people of Guine-Bissau, Portugal's tiny colony on the west coast of Africa is nearly over. At the United Nations last Sunday, the new Portuguese government announced that 'immediate agreement on independence' was being sought with the Guine-Bissau liberation movement, PAIGC.

The announcement has been greeted with emotional rejoicing in Portugal and in Guine. Similarly, in Laurenc Marques, the capital of Mozambique, another larger Portuguese colony in Africa, a vast meeting of blacks and whites has heralded the expected end of Portuguese colonial rule.

But it may be too early for rejoicing. The Portuguese government's declaration was not specific on dates for independence for Mozambique—still less for Angola, Portugal's richest colony.

The liberation forces in Guine-Bissau had the battle against Portugal nearly four-fifths won. More than 80 countries had already recognised them as the legitimate government. And Guine-Bissau is the poorest of Portugal's African colonies.

In Mozambique, and especially in Angola, the Portuguese army is far from defeated. Both colonies, especially Angola where the liberation movement is weakest, are rich in natural resources. In Angola there are vast untapped fields of oil.

Powerful forces inside the Por-

tuguese junta and the more radical Armed Forces Movement are anxious to hold on to the huge wealth of these colonies. Their tactic is to commit themselves to the idea of independence while holding on to political and economic power for as long as possible.

Sinister

In this context the report in this week's Sunday Observer that Major Mike Hoare, the mercenary leader who cut his teeth fighting for white supremacy in the Congo, is interviewing for jobs in a mercenary army in Mozambique is particularly sinister.

In Portugal itself, meanwhile, the new government is reacting more and more sharply to the public criticism

which it openly invited three months ago. Last weekend three newspapers, including the official mouthpiece of the Socialist Party, whose editor was Information Minister a fortnight ago, were closed because they carried reports of a meeting by the Maoist organisation, MRPP. The ostensible, if familiar, reason for the ban was that speakers at the meeting had expressed their solidarity with the liberation movements in the colonies.

This, said a government spokesman, was tantamount to a call to desert.

Organised protests and threats of strike action among all Lisbon's journalists immediately forced the government to revoke its ban on Monday but at the same time the government banned the MRPP paper, Luta Popular. The reason? 'Criticism of the Armed Forces Movement'.

Sardine strike breakers

THE fishermen of Matosinhos, a small fishing community on Portugal's west coast, went on strike last week for higher wages. As soon as the strike was voted for, the Russian refrigerated ship Nakhichevan arrived at Leixoes, just down the coast, with

3000 tons of Russian-caught sardines. The fishermen have picketed the local canning factories, demanding that the workers refuse to can the Russian sardines, and have successfully persuaded the dockers not to unload the fish.

The judges' 'concern' — 3 years

LONDON:—Robin Sterling, Horace Parkinson and Lloyd James—the Brockwell Three—came up on appeal last week. They are the three black youths from Brixton who were jailed for three years on affray and assault charges earlier this year after disturbances in Brockwell Park, South London in June 1973.

For the youngest, Robin Sterling, the appeal was successful, but the other two face the jail sentence.

The three judges were ideally qualified to have an understanding and sympathy with the black community. Judge Nield, is an ex-Tory MP. Lord Justice Lawton's notable political involvement was as a member of Mosley's British Union of Fascists in the 1930s.

In fact Lawton appeared rather more 'tolerant' than Nield and the third judge, Cantley. The police case against Sterling claimed he stood on a wall for 15 minutes continuously bombarding them with bottles. 'If Sterling can lob a bottle from that distance, and repeatedly hit policemen then there is evidence of his considerable athletic ability in the future,' said Lawton.

The absurdity of the charges put forward by the police was belatedly recognised by the appeal judges and Robin Sterling, was set free—having served three months for committing no crime.

The cases of Horace Parkinson and Lloyd James were treated differently. Sworn affidavits from witnesses for Horace Parkinson were dismissed by the judges because they 'could have been made available during the original trial'.

The 'objectivity' of the judges led them to references to 'political demonstrations'. Lawton, whose experience as a fascist in the 1930s made him ideally qualified to discuss the matter, said he was 'all too familiar with political demonstrations. Cases of young men who push pieces of broken glass into

police horses and then charge the police with brutality.'

The fact that none of the accused did this, that there were no horses at Brockwell Park that evening, and that it was not a political demonstration were not dealt with.

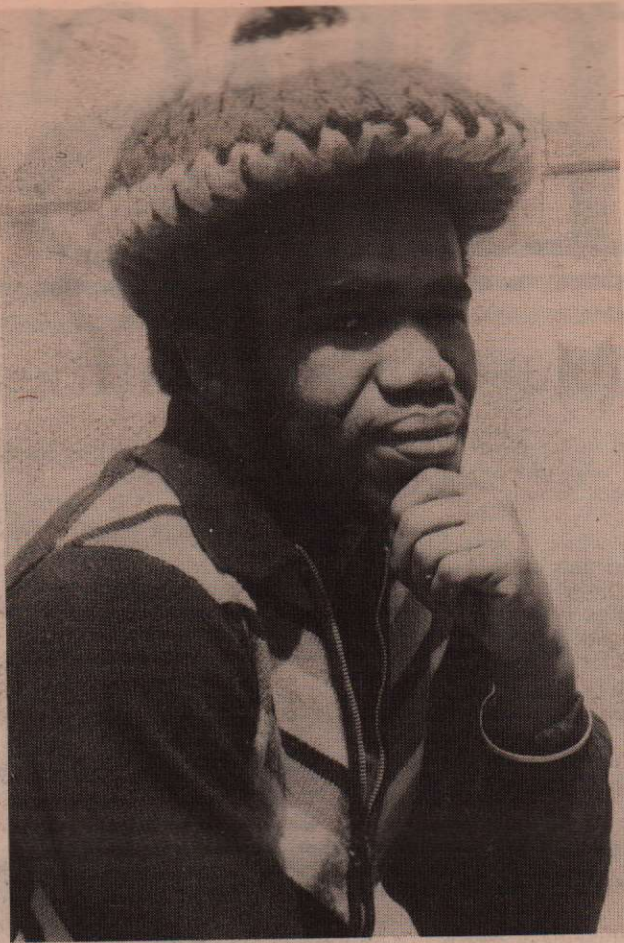
'The whole of this trouble has caused great concern in the Brixton community' said Nield, summing up. 'This court shares it.'

Then Horace and Lloyd disappeared below, Mrs Parkinson col-

lapsed outside the courtroom and Robin Sterling emerged, with a dazed look on his face.

'I'm glad for my Robin,' said his mother, 'but Horace is still innocent. I don't think I'll sleep tonight.'

The day the appeals were turned down the three policemen involved got their rewards. Constable Castle, Detective Sergeant Tucker and Temporary Detective Constable Harper received £20 each from the Bow Street Magistrates Award Fund.



Horace Parkinson—still in jail

Die like pigs

BY ORDER OF SCARBOROUGH COUNCIL

SEVEN dustmen at the Whitby depot run by Scarborough Borough Council have been sacked for obeying the law.

On 1 July the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries issued an instruction that all pig swill should be collected in drip-free containers to minimise the risk of swine fever. The nine men employed by Whitby had a meeting and agreed not to collect swill until the necessary precautions were taken by the council.

Unfortunately the shop steward, T Wilson, blacklegged on this decision and with another member took a wagon out. This provoked a stoppage until these two members agreed to abide by the majority decision.

Eventually after long negotiations and largely because the council didn't have a drip-free cart, the men agreed to collect the swill separately. They were then asked to work overtime to make up the backlog of work, and agreed. Next day they were told they would not be paid overtime rates as the backlog was their fault.

Represent

So they stopped work. On 19 July they were all sacked for 'gross misconduct', though it appears that any misconduct here is on the part of the employers—in causing risk of swine fever. They were also told they could appeal within seven days to get their jobs back. A meeting was arranged at which Eddie Bradin, area organiser for NUPE, the men's union, would represent them.

When the men arrived for the meeting, they were met by Eddie Bradin, who told them each case was to be heard individually by Mr Ayton, the local director of Health and Housing. This they refused for fear of victimisation. Bradin then left them, walked into the office and out by another door, and they haven't seen him since. Almost immediately a clerk appeared with their cards

by Danny O'Donnell

TGWU shop steward and Chairman Scarborough IS

and wages all made up to date, which suggests that the appeals were a foregone conclusion.

I spoke to Bradin on the phone at his Halifax office, and while he agreed that the men were right, he said that he was washing his hands of them due to their attitude over the individual appeals. Which really is an astonishing statement from a union official whose members have been so harshly treated.

While all this was going on, the

CLAY CROSS. ANOTHER BROKEN PROMISE

LAST YEAR'S Labour Party Conference passed the following resolution on the Clay Cross councillors' battle against Tory orders to raise rents: 'Conference deplores the lack of initiative shown by the national executive in failing to defend the Clay Cross Council in its fight against the Housing Finance Act . . . Conference further agrees that upon the election of a Labour government all penalties, financial or otherwise, shall be removed retrospectively from the councillors who have courageously refused to implement the Housing Finance Act 1972.'

Shadow Minister Ted Short, speaking for the executive, recommended conference to accept this resolution.

The Labour government has been in office since the beginning of March. Ted Short is a Minister and Leader of the House of Commons. And the former Clay Cross councillors have just heard the final judgment of the High Court. They must pay the

council had moved men from Scarborough to do the work of the sacked men. Scarborough International Socialists arranged a meeting between the Whitby and Scarborough dustmen which resulted in Fred Keys, the spokesman for the sacked men, being asked to put his case to the members of the Scarborough depot. But unfortunately, because they are in different unions and because their own union, NUPE, is not backing them, they have not yet got the full backing of the Scarborough dustmen.

We appeal to all NUPE members to apply pressure wherever possible to support these men. Fred Keys can be contacted any night after 9.30 at Whitby 3874.

£6985 surcharge levied on them under the Tory government because they defied Tory orders.

There is no suggestion from Harold Wilson or Edward Short of implementing the decision they recommended their conference to accept. The ex-councillors have sensibly put their slender assets in their wife's or husband's name. Several say they will go or stay on the dole rather than accept attachment of earnings. All honour to them. They have been betrayed by their party comrades but they fight on. They deserve the support of every militant.

*'But pleasures are like poppies spread,
You grasp the flower, the bloom is dead.
Or like a snowflake on the water,
A moment white, then gone forever.'*

So it is with Labour Party resolutions. Put not your trust in the resolution-mongers.

WHAT WE THINK

SHARES FALL, WE DON'T

SHARE PRICES have reached a new low. The Financial Times Index, which measures the average value of shares, was down to 232 at the end of last week. In April 1972 it stood at over 500.

So what? In this same period work has gone on as usual. There has been comparatively little unemployment except in the period of the Tories' three-day lockout at the beginning of this year. Goods have been produced in greater quantities than ever.

So why does what happens on the Stock Exchange matter to those of us—the overwhelming majority—who don't own shares in GKN or British Leyland?

The Sun newspaper tells us that because of the fall in share prices 'Great Britain is going for a song. The nation itself is now the bargain buy of the summer sales. We are up for grabs as shares slump . . .'

If that is true the obvious moral is that it is time to put an end to the system in which 'we' can be bought and sold by a handful of speculators in a market over which we have no control whatsoever.

But that is not the moral The Sun, mouthpiece of millionaire Rupert Murdoch, wants us to draw. 'A fall in the value of your company is a fall in the value of your job,' it shrieks.

That is rubbish. The fall in share values certainly cuts the paper value of Murdoch's shares—though not his income from them. It makes no difference at all to the 'value' of anyone's job.

The truth is that the Stock Exchange is a parasitic institution. It produces no wealth at all. It is a casino in which rich men gamble for high stakes. Often they win fortunes. At the moment most of them are not winning.

But spare your tears. They are still drawing their dividends. A fall in the price of shares does not reduce the dividend paid on them. And this unearned income is produced by workers, not shareholders. Shareholders produce nothing. They are drones, consuming what others have made.

The Stock Exchange, then, contributes nothing to the economy. If it were to be abolished tomorrow, not a factory, not a machine would be lost. It does have one importance though. It is an indicator of what the bosses expect to happen.

It works exactly like a bookie's odds on a horse. If the horse is a favourite, the odds are short. If a company is expected to make big profits its shares are dear—the share price rises. And vice-versa.

What the steady fall in share prices tells us is that the bosses expect a slump.

And they expect a world slump. The Sun tells us that one of the causes of the Stock Exchange collapse is 'Worries about Wedgie Benn and his wild nationalisation plans.'

Prescription

Poppycock. The downward slide got well underway when Ted Heath was Prime Minister. It is as marked on Wall Street and other foreign share casinos as in London. Indeed, it is worse on some of them.

The Financial Times reports (5 August): 'British industry is No 1 for profitability on US rating.' Which gives some idea of how confident US big business is about its own future!

The slump is indeed coming and all the experts predict that it will be worse than anything since the 1930s.

What can we do about it? The head-fixers of press and TV have their answer. Wage restraint. Allow inflation to cut real earnings. Then profits will rise. Profiteers will invest. Share prices will pick up. There will still be a slump but, maybe, it won't last so long.

This is a prescription for disaster. This is a prescription for going back to the 1930s. This is a prescription for 'solving' the problems of the capitalist system at the expense of working people.

The coming slump is not an Act of God like an earthquake or a flood. It is the direct consequence of government policies designed to prop up capitalism. They can and must be beaten.

Here's how. To beat inflation, incomes policy and unemployment, we must fight for these aims:

30 per cent across-the-board wage rises.
No time limit to any agreement. For the right to re-negotiate whenever the workers decide.

Equal pay for women.
A minimum wage of £35 a week.
The 35-hour week for 40 hours' wages.

Nationalisation under workers' control.
No victimisation; no blacklisting. For 100 per cent closed shops.

For rank-and-file unity against the employers' attacks. For a national rank-and-file organisation.

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

If the system can't provide a decent life for working people so much the worse for it. It must be ended.

LETTERS

TRIBE . . . Why print such tripe as that which was written by Caroline Bond? (Letters, 27 July). By all means fight male chauvinism, and encourage others to do the same, but let us not blur the issue by getting bogged down in trivial irrelevancies. -GILL WILLIAMSON, Liverpool.

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EXPULSION NORMAN! . . . You are doing a fine job, your articles on current affairs are a credit to you, with each Print, Foot excels himself. In my opinion Our Norman ascends mediocrity . . . this could well be due to your publication is undoubtedly the best produced by the British Left . . . But could you not in some small way be concentrating in preaching to the converted? Is not the object to appeal and attempt to educate the broad masses who know all of the football teams in the first, second, third and fourth division, but know nought of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Trotsky, Stalin and a wealth of others? -JOCK MATCHET, Bristol.

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WHAT WE NEED IS NO ACTION . . . I'm pleased to see the emphasis being put on the Anti-National Front demonstration in Leicester on 24 August. You failed to mention another right wing group, the 'National Association of Rate Payers Action Groups' . . . They now admit that rates were only an issue to get to a larger audience, now they're called the Action Group. Their spokesman is a Heathfield, Sussex sports goods manufacturer called David Petrie and they've attracted the support of General Sir Walter Walker ex-head of NATO forces in Northern Europe . . . In the London Evening News he said that 'the country might choose rule by the gun in preference to anarchy' . . . The Action Group is potentially more dangerous than the NF.-G L BUSHELL, Blackheath.

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20 PAGER? . . . I still don't think Socialist Worker reflects its working class readership . . . I think you should use material from workers in a more prominent and impressive way . . . Recently the paper has tended to be a mass of print . . . If the increase in contributions continues the size of the paper will have to be increased . . . Space must be cleared for articles written by workers. Leave out the long boring journalistic articles . . . Why don't you print some of the more important letters on other pages, as though they were articles? -C C ERSWELL, Liverpool.

■ ■ ■
DOING NOTHING HURTS . . . Those workers who are reluctant to join the Socialist movement as they feel it involves inflicting violence on someone, should realise that by being inactive they are inflicting violence on the whole world. The name of this violence is Capitalism: it's a system that's all about repression. Repression of the productive majority by the non-productive minority. The form this repression takes is varied yet it has one common aspect, violence. We have witnessed the shooting of workers in Britain in 1926, the torture of workers in Chile in 1974, the murder of workers in Italy in 1974; the list is endless. How then, can violence used to end this vile system be unjustified? In a socialist system violence will die along with class conflict, for how much easier it is for the majority to control the minority without the use of such places as the Maze prison and without the torture techniques of the British SAS. -STEVE FOREY, London, NW10

How to write unbiased article entitled THE WRECKERS

I HAVE just read the collection of words under Geoff Ellen's by-line in Socialist Worker (27 July) and I would like to point out that in the opinions of the vast majority of people on the Evening News the collection is, to put it at its mildest, inaccurate.

Perhaps, too, I detected a little spite—which is surprising when you consider that Mr Ellen only held down his job on this paper due to the fight put up on his behalf by colleagues in the NUJ chapel.

The fact is, of course, that young Ellen is orally introverted but a rampant extrovert when placed at the business end of a typewriter—an experience he never enjoyed, to my knowledge, at the Evening News.

He should temper his zeal with a journalistic urge for accuracy and try to see a little further along the horizon than his scarlet blinkers at present permit.

I have known Caren Meyer and admired her work since 1963. She is adept at probing, investigating writing: she is logical and, probably most

damning in Ellen's opinion, has the ability to turn the coin over and study each side.

It is a gross impertinence, if not a downright libel, for Ellen and his sub-editor to say she has sold her soul and to suggest that her series on The Wreckers was in some way biased against the Left.

Surely even Ellen would agree that there are more Left extremists than Right. I would say the ratio was accurately reflected in the series.

One thing of which I am sure—and I suspect Ellen is too, Caren has more reason than most to despise the extreme right.

But, like most of us, she probably finds the blind, unthinking, unquestioning, total acceptance not to say enthusiastic embracement of doctrines, for which extremists are generally known, (whatever their political direction) soulless indeed. -PATRICK LONG, Evening News, London.



Defenders of 'free enterprise' nationalised industry, Sir Derek Ezra of the National Coal Board . . .

I WAS SURPRISED (I know I shouldn't be) to see the names of Sir Derek Ezra and Richard Marsh among the new 16 man Confederation of British Industries committee which is supposed to advise the CBI chairman Sir Ralph (Asbestosis) Bateman on its tactics for dealing with the wicked 'socialist government.

The two creeps can't even give the pretence of supporting nationalised industries. Although it does show clearly the futility of nationalisation under capitalism. -NEWMAN SMITH, Stockport.



. . . And ex-Labour cabinet minister Richard Marsh of British Rail.

George Lennox and his 47 days on hunger strike

I COULDN'T agree more with the letter from D Groves (27 July). In particular prisoners in jail shouldn't be left to the mercies of the screws and governors. All cases of ill-treatment should be heard by an outside public inquiry.

It was in defence of such rights that George Lennox, a prisoner at Chelmsford Jail, went on hunger strike. He wished to write to his MP and to the Home Office for an outside investigation of his ill-treatment (he claims he was beaten up while in solitary confinement).

After 47 days of hunger strike he heard that a letter from him had by devious means reached his MP, Bruce Douglas-Mann, and that he was taking up the case with the Home Office. He ended the fast.

He remains in solitary and has been told by the governor that he'll stay there till he agrees to an inside inquiry.

Such an inquiry would be led by interested parties who've already reduced George's remission as a result of counter-charges by the screw in question. The inquiry would inevitably lead to a loss of remission for George and any witnesses who would be prepared to speak up.

How long will we allow such people to be totally deprived of human rights? Their forced work supports the present system and our silence supports the prison system.

Next week it may be you behind the prison door when it shuts, for 'illegal' picketing, 'illegal' release of information, or 'illegally' demonstrating.

Help open up the prison system now. For further information on the case of George Lennox and how you can fight for him and other prisoners' rights contact the George Lennox Support Committee, Oude Looier Straat 22, Amsterdam, Holland. -MS Essex.

Women! Are you angry? Try brain surgery...

ON ITV's Don't Ask Me members of a studio audience put questions to 'experts' like Desmond Morris and Miriam Stoppard. One question was 'Why do certain things make me angry?'

Without stopping to ask 'what things?' Miriam Stoppard answered the question 'scientifically'. It's all to do with a part of our brain the size of a fingertip it seems. But if you're the kind of person who loses their temper, help is on the way!

Research has been carried out on bulls. One moment they were

charging around a field in true bull-fighting style, the next they were very peaceful and still. Remote control electrodes planted in the brain caused the change.

They've done the same with people. A woman explained how after her operation she no longer lost her temper with her husband, hit him or threw teapots full of hot tea at him. She also said she was a

nicer and different person.

But, back to the woman who asked the question. She was obviously the sort of person to lose her temper easily. She was asked what made her angry, 'Women being treated like second class citizens,' was the reply.

That could make a lot of suitable cases for treatment. -MARGARET FALSHAW, Harlow.

RAT RACING WITH SUNDAY TIMES

THIS QUOTE comes from an article by Peter Keller on 'Inflation and how to survive', printed in the Sunday Times Review July 14th.

'In a perfect society, the higher-paid may well feel that they should make sacrifices to help the lower-paid. But *homo novus economicus* has been born into an imperfect society, and has a strong aversion to making sacrifices. He is more likely to avoid, rather than apply, rules aimed at achieving social justice through pay control.'

The information is clear—give

nothing away, fight tooth and nail to keep your privileged position, don't let the working class have a share in the things traditionally associated with higher income.

The passage was in fact part of a long feature on how to keep ahead of inflation, however, it was not designed to help the millions of workers fighting to make ends meet, no, it took the average run of the mill chap on £4,500.

Figures were given to warn him that he was falling behind in the salary race, workers had secured a

rise of £5.89 over the past few years whilst the hard done by executive had to make do with just £11.63 extra per week.

Useful hints were given however on how to stop several jumps ahead of the 'low paid', such as join a militant managers 'Union' (sic) use of your £22,000 house as investment capital, and helpful tips on buying diamonds, persian carpets, and other everyday things.

Serious consideration must be given to the number of foreign holidays that are taken and the executive must at least think about the expense of sending little Johnny off to public school. In the very last resort the hard-up manager may be forced to send his wife out to work (shame) or to make economies on things he had 'previously' bought too extravagantly.

Oh how my heart bleeds for these poor middle class people. -TG, Penyceodoae, Glamorgan.



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.

National Front: we need the facts to fight them

SOCIALIST WORKER must provide more information on the National Front. Not just character assassinations but arguments for use in leaflets against the Front at the coming election. A pamphlet should have been produced by now and I would hope that it would be a priority along with one on Ireland.

The NF are not just a bunch of nutters as sometimes comes across in Socialist Worker but they have a few of the disillusioned workers who have been looking for some alternative, and are in danger of attracting more. Their leaflets are very well produced and they give them out by the thousand. Their election campaign has already started. -PHIL JONES, Gloucester.

See Page Six . . .

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.



In the end it's the Irish who'll pick up the pieces... British troops dismantle a street barricade in Northern Ireland

Getting the troops out...

YOUR EDITORIAL of 20 July, raises a few questions which the International Socialists must tackle if they are to have an impact on the Irish struggle, and at the same time advance the revolutionary movement in Britain which has so much to learn from the experience of Irish revolutionaries.

Under the heading, Bombs And Hypocrites the editorial puts forward the correct attitude to violence in general and points to the violent nature of the capitalist state machine. It goes on to say that it objects to the 'tactics of the Provisional IRA', because the 'bombing tactics does not help to develop a united movement of the working people for the liberation of Ireland, an aim we support, but hinders it'.

International Socialists must realise that if you are sitting in the Bogside or the Falls Road, and British troops are daily arresting,

using CS gas, batons, wrecking homes and other forms of repression, nothing is more natural than to advocate an effective bombing campaign in Britain, with the view to having the troops removed from Irish streets.

I agree that the bombing campaign does not have the desired effect, but I must question the record of the IS to date on the building of the mass movement aimed at troop withdrawals here in Britain. Only such a movement can make Irish liberation fighters see that the bombing campaign is not in their own interests, but while the British Left merely talk about building such a movement, how can we expect to guide those who we assume are misguided?

The Troops Out Movement in the Manchester area has a mailing list of various contacts, half of whom are in the IS but over this past nine months of activity only two or three

have come to our meetings and protests ect. I write this letter as an individual, and not on behalf of TOM, but we can't begin to lecture men who are prepared to give their lives and freedom, when many of us on the Left will not even stir to attend meetings.

Our omissions and lack of determination merely delays the building of the mass movement for immediate withdrawal, and self-determination for the Irish people. It must be built and built soon not merely to stop bombings in Britain, but to end capitalism's imperialist policies in Ireland.—FIONNBARRA O'DOCHARTAIGH, Manchester.

The good life

IN GARTREE Prison the canteen is run by screws and sometimes the prices inside are higher than they are on the outside. One curious prisoner asked why, he was told by the screw that delivery charges had to be paid.

On ringing the three major supermarkets in Market Harborough, it was discovered that not only are there no delivery charges but in most cases there is a discount of between 8 per cent and 10 per cent as the prison buys £300 worth of goods per week.

In the machine-shop a piece of copper taken in weighing seven lbs—for making nuts and bolts and things and the wastage is between four lbs and five lbs for which the screw is paid £5 a time—on removal by a local scrap merchant.

No-one knows what happens to the discount from the food or the £5's from the scrap merchants but the people on the inside know that the prison industry is booming for someone and it's not the prisoners.

The prison industry does so well that in 1971-72 the Home Office declared a net profit from HMP to the value of £500,000.

The TUC has stated on several occasions that it will press for higher wages for prisoners—the last rise they had was a grand total of 10p which doesn't even cover the cost of stamps to write home.

Continual pressure is needed from the rank and file trade unionists to ensure that the slave labour in prisons is stopped. What kind of resolution are you going to put to your next union branch to your next trades council meeting? —PRISONER'S WIFE, London.

The best of a bad job- why we're voting Labour

TONY BARRS (20 July) can't understand why the International Socialists adopted the slogan 'Vote Labour'. As he may remember IS added to this 'without illusions' and our position wasn't unquestioning support for Labour.

We drove home the point that all parliamentarians have to make capitalism work at our expense. But we agreed that the choice is between Labour or a Tory party committed to 'firm' government. This would have meant severe repression directed against the Labour movement.

We called for a Labour government in order to 'defend the unions and defeat the Tories'. A Tory government on an anti-union platform would have been a severe set-back for the working class.

Tony Barrs seems confused about revolutionary socialist attitudes to elections. He agrees that bourgeois political systems are another means to maintain the exploitation of the workers and yet he advocates IS devoting some of its scant resources to electoral reform!

We are Leninists and should view the issue of participation in parliament in terms of our propaganda, solely as a means to expose in practice the true nature of the present political system.

The IS should reject the anarchist

'Don't Vote' position and stress the need to avoid a Tory or coalition government by voting Labour while emphasizing the need to build a revolutionary party.

Standing candidates in certain areas would certainly aid our intention to become a revolutionary party.—PAUL CUNNINGHAM, Norwich.



TONY BARRS misses the point (27 July). We don't say 'Vote Labour' because it will give a temporary respite from ruling class onslaughts.

We know that any respite only comes when the working class organises and fights back. The reason for voting Labour is that most workers still see it as their party, as the party that represents their interests. As socialists we have to show that this isn't so, but we have to support the rest of the class in any improvements that can be got.

Labour's organisational roots lie in the working class the Tories' in the boardroom. Of course Labour will freeze wages and attempt to weaken our organisations but they will do it less overtly than the Tories.

A defeat for the Tories is a defeat for their blatant anti-working class policies. Let's keep it that way! —GERALD BAKER, Portsmouth.



WHAT WE STAND FOR

THE International Socialists are a revolutionary socialist organisation open to all who accept our 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 _____



Fascists on the march in London on June 15. Andrew Fountaine, the Norfolk land-owner, is marching on the far left of the picture. Next to him is John Tyndall, the Front's chairman. In the centre is Danny Harmston, formerly Sir Oswald Mosley's bodyguard.

Who are the National Front?

THE National Front and its allies have had more publicity in the past five months than in all the rest of its seven years existence. Many workers who have never heard of the Front have read about them in the newspapers or seen them on the television recently.

The Front's march on 15 June protesting against the Labour government's amnesty for immigrants who had been threatened by the Tories' retrospective laws, was protected from counter-demonstrators by the police, and led to the death of Kevin Gately. Now the Front pampered by a boot-licking press, are planning two more marches—in Leicester on Saturday 24 August and in London on Saturday 7 September.

Who are these people? Are they, as they claim, reasonable conservative men and women who want to chart a more direct course for British politics and 'wake up' the established parties? Should they be allowed to march on the streets unchecked, as though they were Liberal or Conservative Party demonstrators? Are they just a handful of nutters who will suffer most from being ignored?

These are urgent questions which require direct answers.

Persecution

The National Front is a fascist party. They do not use the word in their name, as for instance Sir Oswald Mosley used it before the war, but they are fascists. The Front's leaders have for many years supported the sort of politics which brought Adolf Hitler to power in Germany in 1933 and kept him there until his death in 1945.

Put simply, those politics seek political dictatorship by force of arms, the brutal subjection of all opposition, the murder or imprisonment of trade union militants and all political leaders of the left and the racial persecution of minorities, particularly Jews and blacks.

John Tyndall, the Front's chairman, is a former associate of Colin Jordan in the National Socialist Movement (NSM). In the early 1960s, he runs the bookshop for the National Socialist Movement under Jordan, and was proudly photographed on several occasions in full Nazi regalia. Martin Webster, the Front's 'activities organiser', is also a former NSM officer.

In the past few months several men with untrammelled Nazi records have been co-opted on to Front's directorate. Gordon Marshall—who calls himself Gordon Brown and is vice-chairman of the Front—is a former member of Tyndall's Nazi breakaway from Jordan, the Greater Britain Movement. So is Peter Holland, who has been recently co-opted on to the Front's directorate.

Andrew Brons, a former NSM man from Harrogate, has also joined the directorate, while Peter Williams, a former Mosley supporter, and Dennis Pirie, who was allegedly removed from the Front's directorate for attending Hitler's party celebration last year with another directorate member, Colin Cody, and Andrew Fountaine, who was expelled from the Front some years back for recommending 'action groups' in the streets, are back in favour.

THESE MEN and their party retain close links with the anti-Semitism of their hero Hitler. The June issue of

THE THREAT THAT MUST BE MET. THEIR AIM—RULE BY THE GUN



John Tyndall, the Front chairman, in uniform.



Martin Webster, Front national organiser. Note the swastika.

only to whites, whose 'purpose is not to subvert or infiltrate the trade unions but to seek to lead the movement by constitutional means only away from the path of communist internationalism and short-sighted opportunism'.

Some workers might see this as an appeal to more militant trade union action—a much needed breach with the 'short-sighted opportunism' of trade union leaders. They should remember that the same appeal was made to German workers in the 1930s in almost exactly the same language. Once in power, the first act of the Nazis was to smash the trade union movement from top to bottom, to imprison its leaders, and to designate militancy on the shop floor one of the most serious crimes against the Fatherland.

THE National Front supports racist, military dictatorship everywhere. At the time of the overthrow of the Chilean government last September, the National Front rejoiced. The wholesale shooting of political opponents by the new Chile dictatorship is welcomed by the Front leaders. When another military coup last April overthrew one of the most brutal dictatorships of modern times—in Portugal—the Front were furious.

Again in Northern Ireland, the only area where the National Front have had even marginal successes among working people, fine talk about 'Protestant workers' interests has to be measured against the reality. Lindsay Mason, National Front organiser in Belfast, summed up his view of the recent car bombings in Dublin: 'This time it was 31 dead', he said. 'Next time it will be 331'.

Allies

The Front, like their Nazi predecessors in Germany, have many rich and powerful allies in high places. One such is General Walter Walker, former chief of NATO forces in Europe. General Walker said in a recent interview in the London Evening News: 'Perhaps the country might choose rule by the gun in preference to anarchy'.

Rule by the gun! That is the aim. But how to capture power? By harping on racialism, by exploiting economic crisis, by 'reasonable' demands to suit all men—and, perhaps most importantly, by controlling the streets.

Hitler's SA—an 'unofficial' army which, even before Hitler took power, grew to a force of nearly half a million young men—set out by means

of rowdy and well-stewarded meetings and demonstrations to control the streets and thereby to pummel waverers into submission.

The Social Democrats in Germany at that time counselled caution. 'Ignore them, and they'll go away' was the advice. In the 1930s, as now, the British Labour Party told its members not to join counter-demonstrations against the fascists. 'Stay at home', they advised, 'and Mosley will soon be forgotten.'

Bully-boys

This advice is nonsense. The fascists in Germany gained hugely from the spinelessness of the Social Democrats. As their meetings, marches and rallies were unchallenged, so the influence of their bully-boys in the streets became more powerful. In Britain, Mosley was stopped not by Labour Party supporters in their homes, but by Communists and other socialists who blocked the blackshirts in the East End streets.

HOWEVER small, perverted and obscure the National Front may seem to us now, they do represent the embryo of a fascist movement—an embryo which can prosper in the British middle classes as Labour becomes more opportunist, and as the capitalist crisis deepens.

The politics of the National Front spells death to the whole working class and trade union movement. They threaten not merely communists and revolutionary socialists—but every member of any racial minority—Irish, Jewish, Asian, West Indian—and everyone who works for a living. The fascists' subservience to the 'existing order' is a subservience to capitalism and big business, whatever their rhetoric to the contrary. They differ from supporters of capitalists in the Tory Party in that they—the fascists—want to root out by fire and torture all semblance of opposition to capitalism.

That is why their marches and their meetings must be stopped. There can be no freedom for or argument with the open supporters of terror against racial minorities and workers. They cannot be allowed to spread their poison as though it were the bromide of run-of-the-mill party politicians. They must be stopped.

That is why International Socialists and thousands of other members of other organisations on the left will be mobilising for counter-demonstrations in Leicester on Saturday 24 August and London on Saturday 7 September.

THEY SHALL NOT PASS!

Subvert

Just as Hitler and the Nazis argued that German working-class organisations would be stronger if the Jews were banned from them, so Webster now argues—in the July issue of Spearhead—for a National Front Trade Union Action Association open

were killed.'

The pamphlet is an open defence of Hitler's policy toward the Jews. It was published by Robin Beauclair a member of the National Front.

The Nazi tactics towards the Jews have been adopted wholesale by the National Front towards the blacks. Just as Hitler called for the 'ridding of Germany of its Jewry', so Tyndall and his mini-Hitlers call for the compulsory repatriation of all black people in this country.

Spearhead, the Front journal, features a long speech by Eric Butler, the crusted Australian Nazi, on a recent visit to Britain.

Butler blamed the Middle East Crisis on Kissinger, not because he was the spokesman for American imperialism but because he is a Jew!

Butler—and the Front—pretend that they are against international capitalism and finance. In reality, however, they are only opposed to these when the capitalists and financiers are Jewish. Their 'reasonable' rhetoric about international capitalism and financiers is a smokescreen to cover their anti-Semitism.

Recently a pamphlet was produced entitled The Lie of the Six Million. The pamphlet denied that six million Jews were slaughtered in Hitler's concentration camps. Not at all, said the pamphlet. 'Only 300,000

There is nothing like a Daimler

JIM OLDHAM is branch secretary of Hickleton National Union of Mineworkers, and does not approve of the recent rise in left-wing influence in his union. He is reported to be a strong supporter of the social contract.

Jim Oldham is also Mayor of Barnsley, and as Mayor he took possession last week of the new Mayoral limousine. It is a 4.2-litre Daimler and cost £8300. The new number plate is THE 1. According to local reports it is worth more than the car itself.

The Daimler is exactly the same model as the previous Mayoral car. There is a significant addition. The new car is equipped with an intercom system so that His Worship the Mayor can communicate

with his chauffeur, Tom Reed.

Another miner who has a senior post in South Yorkshire local government is Tom Baynham, chairman of the South Yorkshire Metropolitan Council. On 19 July he led 14 other working-class representatives from his council to London—for the Buckingham Palace tea party. The 14 councillors

hired a coach to take them and their families to the great occasion.

Tom Baynham, who was accompanied by his daughter, Mrs Joyce Whitehead, told the Sheffield Telegraph: 'We don't feel we are squandering rate-payers' money. We were invited to send representatives by the Queen. We don't think we have a choice, we regard an invitation from the Queen as a summons.'

As an additional gesture of loyalty to his class and to the workers he represents, Councillor Baynham only charged one day's expenses for his important trip.

Personal

I wouldn't like to leave the Barnsley area without assuring Labour supporters there that two stalwarts in the town are not facing unemployment this winter. Jack Brown, for instance, is not only secretary of the local branch of the Transport Workers' Union, he is also on the Labour Party's parliamentary panel and is a personal friend of Barnsley's MP, Roy Mason, Minister of Defence.

Jack Brown has been appointed Barnsley's first Community Relations Officer. The appointment has surprised many people who imagined that Community Relations Officers are appointed to areas with high immigration. Barnsley has one of the lowest immigration rates in the land.

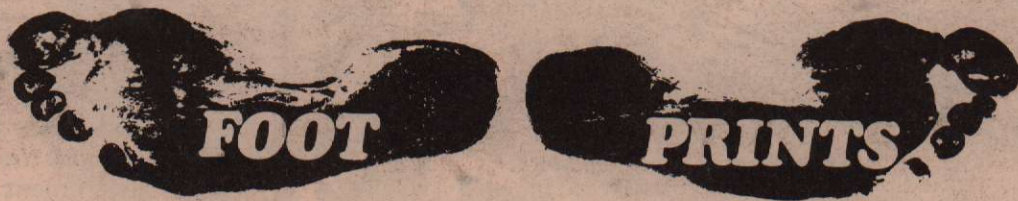
Lundwood, where Jack Brown lives, has no immigration at all.

His talents in this field—he is a drama teacher—were so obvious that Barnsley council didn't bother to advertise the job.

Promoted

Another Labour warrior in the area is Mrs Margaret Slater, a former chairman of Barnsley's Housing Committee. Mrs Slater lost her council seat in the recent local government reorganisation. Last year she got a job as a temporary clerk in the West Riding Social Services Department. What could have been more natural in the recent Barnsley take-over than that Mrs Slater should be promoted to the position of one of the town's new Community Relations Officers at a salary of £2500 a year.

I understand that there is a problem on Barnsley council. Recently one of the town's former opposition councillors was berating an official for the council's incompetence and parsimony. The official said nothing, but handed the councillor a form headed: 'Application for Employment'.



COUNTRY



DIARY

This pest we could do without

IT'S not rare around these parts of Yorkshire to be approached by the local gamekeeper, a man obviously blessed with the virtues of summer. He called over to us: 'Where the bloody hell do you think you're going, this is the lord's land?'

We were curious and, taking out our binoculars, decided to investigate the situation further. With the gamekeeper showing definite aggression towards our advances we decided to approach one of the other workers, who despite the late hour, 9.30 in the evening, had still not completed his working day.

We were intrigued to discover where we might catch a glimpse of the 'lord', a rare species no doubt. On asking, however, we were disappointed to find that such wild life is seldom seen around these parts except in the grouse season when the area is infested with them.

Informed

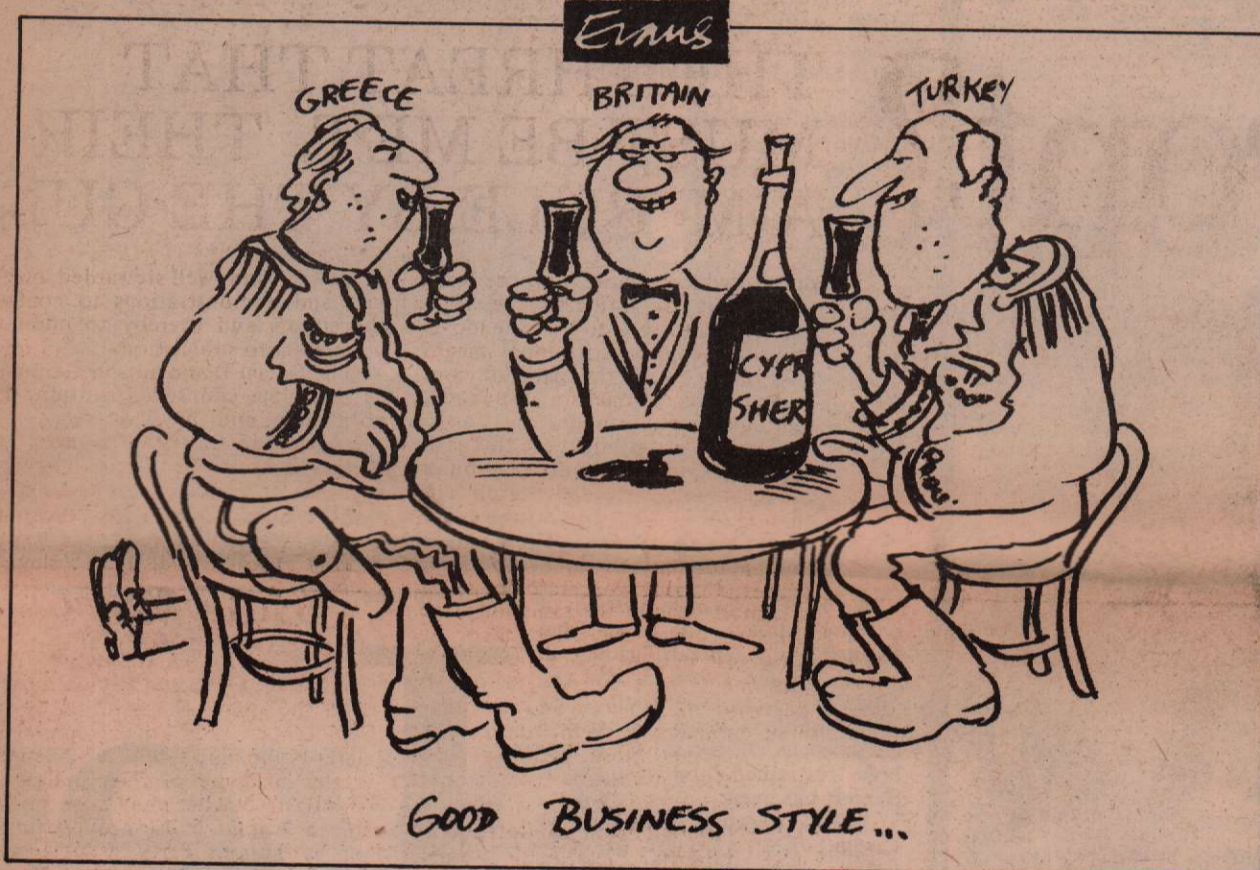
We were told that another likelihood worth following up might be the House of Lords where, it seems, the lord can occasionally be seen voting on issues which he feels strongly about. No doubt some of these involve the protection of the 33,000 acres of Yorkshire countryside that he owns.

'Doesn't seem right that one man should own all that, now does it,' exclaimed our informer. 'A good day's work would kill him you know. He can't even cross a ditch unless there's a bridge put there for him.'

'They reckon that in 1956 the estate was valued at about 16 million and look how the price of land's gone up since then. I often think about that when I'm working my job for 40 hours a week and farming at night to keep a family. If the aristocracy's dying out then it's a good thing as far as I can see.'

Unfortunately, as a lot of socialist wild life specialists know, such well-fed and protected pests don't just die out. They have to be hunted and the hunters have to be carefully organised.

Although being against blood sports and country rambles of some concern we certainly hope that the next time we're down that way we might catch sight of the locals destroying the last of that decrepit herd... the aristocracy. Austin Danks and Barry Turner (TGWU)



IN THE PINK

THE economic crisis has not yet been felt by the fathers and mothers of debutantes in this summer's season. According to the August edition of The Tatler: 'The highlights of the London season have been a series of glittering dinners and balls, many of a pre-war standard.'

'One of the best was the "pink" dinner, given jointly by Domaines Ott, producers of superb vin rose, and Maison Moet and Chandon [the champagne producers].

'The decor and flowers were pink, the champagne and wine were pink, only "pink" people had been invited and asked to wear something pink, and the menu, cleverly devised by Maitre Oswald Mair of the London Hilton, where the dinner was held, was also pink.'

The Tatler was rude enough to print this picture of the fattest man at the party—Dr Reginald Bennett, Tory MP for Fareham, who is pink.



Reginald Bennett, MP—large and pink

Job sanctioned

I THOUGHT there were still meant to be sanctions against Rhodesia, which includes a ban on advertising for migrants to go there or for jobs out there. So I was surprised to get a copy of an advertisement which had been pasted on the notice board of the School of Oriental and African Studies in London asking for 'a suitably qualified person' for a Fellowship in Arts at the University of Rhodesia.

The advert has been circulated to all university appointments boards by the Secretary-General of the Association of Commonwealth Universities in London. Rhodesia, is not in the Commonwealth so what this organisation is doing advertising for someone to work for the racist Smith regime I can't imagine.

When SOAS students protested about the advert, they were told by the college authorities: 'Oh, we always advertise for jobs for Rhodesia's university.'

The students responded by ripping the notice down. This is quite contrary to the college rules, but there is nothing I can do to stop it.

Malted away

DO YOU remember the song about the man who waters the workers' beer? I think he had a car, a yacht and an aeroplane, and a mansion at Bel Air.

He didn't exist of course. Just a figment of the fevered imagination of some old socialist song-writer.

I saw in the Daily Telegraph two Saturdays ago that John Sandars,

Britain's biggest manufacturer of malt—an ingredient of beer—and chairman of the Maltsters' Association from 1952 to 1955, had died.

In his will he left one and a half million pounds.

Taxes on this—it really is impossible to live under this Socialist Government—came to £145,991.

The rest he left to his nephew, a John Burke, on condition he changed his name by deed poll to Sandars.

I understand that Mr Sandars had a car, a yacht and an aeroplane, and a villa at Bel Air. But I can't comment on whether in the process of making more than a million selling malt, he spent any time watering the workers' beer.



INDUSTRIAL WEEKEND SCHOOLS

THREE MORE weekend schools are to be held this 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.

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)

ENGINEERS: Saturday-Monday 24-26 August
(Special Sessions: The Broaf Left, History of the Struggle in Engineering)

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 new management

BUT THE WORKERS STILL LOSE



On the Triumph finishing line: Will workers' management be the answer?

THE government is making a £4.2 million loan and a £750,000 grant to enable a workers' co-operative to run the former Triumph plant at Meriden, subject to 'concluding the necessary agreements, including terms of business, with the owners, Norton Villiers Triumph'.

It sounds great. True, NVT got £4.8 million of government money for its 're-organisation' which involved shutting down the Meriden plant and stands to do very well out of this latest arrangement. Even so, it looks as though the workers are getting some of the cash for a change.

A similar offer of £1.75 million has been made to the former workers on the Scottish Daily Express to launch the Scottish Daily News, conditional on them raising a similar sum to buy out Beaverbrook Newspapers.

It is entirely understandable that workers made redundant by closures should see these government moves as a big advance.

Their confidence in such schemes will naturally be increased by the outbursts of Tory backwoodsmen like Mr John Farr MP who says it is 'utterly disgraceful that public money should be risked by loans to the workers of the former Daily Express and the Triumph motorcycle company'.

There is no record of Mr Farr protesting about the £165½ million handed out as grants to 10 leading companies between 1970 and 1974.

Nonetheless, there are great dangers in the 'workers' co-operative' solution to the problem of closures—even with government financial support.

The Meriden project pinpoints some of them. The co-operative is to buy £4 millions worth of the £7 millions worth of NVT assets at Meriden.

This will swallow most of the government loan. The other £3 million worth of assets will be removed by NVT.

Output

The co-operative will then work, in effect, as a sub-contractor for NVT which will market its output.

More important, the output plans require a staggering increase in the intensity of work.

The Sunday Times reported: 'Plans are to turn out 12,000 bikes with a workforce of 450 in the first year, stepping up employment to 750 to double output in 1975.'

'As Meriden has never turned out more than 30,000 machines with 1750 men on the payroll under previous managements, this is a productivity boost of at least 85 per cent.'

In short, the workers are to drive themselves much harder than any management has ever been able to drive them.



Alastair Mackie chairman Action Committee Scottish Daily News



Dennis Johnson, chairman of the Shop Stewards Committee at Triumph.



Jim Barclay, the man who designed the modifications to the Bonneville 750 during the Triumph occupation.

By **DUNCAN HALLAS**

PICTURES: John Sturrock (Report)

And the profit from their labours will go to the state (in interest charges and repayments) and to NVT which sells the bikes.

Hard-won conditions will be lost and standards lowered.

It is not that the trade unionists who are supporting the scheme want these things. Of course they don't.

But the truth must be told. As Socialist Worker put it two weeks ago: 'You cannot build islands of socialism in a sea of capitalism.'

'And workers' management of a commercial concern operating

in that sea deprives the workers of the strength of union organisation directed against management.'

The solution to closures is nationalisation to save the jobs. That and a steady encroachment on management rights to hire and fire in both private and nationalised industry.

Co-operative self-management by workers will come. But it can only realise its potential when the working class controls the economy and when planning for its own needs replaces production for profit.

EDDIE PREVOST,
a London
docker,
reviews an
important
new book
on Chile

THEY were heady days after Allende and the Popular Unity government came to power in Chile in the 1970 general election.

Socialists and communists all over the world proclaimed it a great victory for the parliamentary road to socialism.

Anyone who sounded a note of caution, never mind warning, was 'nitpicking', or 'sectarian'.

Yet within three years, the Popular Unity government was overthrown in a bloody military coup.

Chile's Marxist president, Salvador Allende, lay dead, murdered by the same generals he had invited into his government.

The response of any half-decent human being to the brutality of the military junta is a desire to do something, anything, to help put a stop to the terror being inflicted on our brothers and sisters in Chile.

But something more than sympathy is needed.

We need to know how and why this terrible thing happened. We need to know how the outcome could have been different.

Blood

We need to ask ourselves if it is not always the case that businessmen, generals, chiefs of police, all the lovers of law and order, will fling away their mask when the time comes, and drown us in rivers of blood, no matter how restrained and responsible the left has been.

Helios Prieto, author of *The Gorillas Are Amongst Us*, published last week by Pluto Press, is to be congratulated for providing a brilliant analysis of the events in Chile which puts the record straight on why they happened.

He demonstrates, just as old Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, and V I Lenin did before him, what those who uphold social reform have always refused to understand—that the nice way, the little by little so-called easy way, the parliamentary road to socialism, Chilean or otherwise, is a myth, and an extremely dangerous myth for the working class.

Allende's Popular Unity government came to power, or rather office, because of the deep crisis of the Chile economy. Long before the election, some workers and peasants had seized their factories and land.

Allende was elected by those workers and peasants who had high expectations of his government. They were soon to be disillusioned.

His was a minority government. And Allende, forced into an alliance with the Christian democrats, adopted a familiar tactic. He soft-peddled and did everything in his power not to offend



After the coup they lit bonfires in the street... to burn

Les fo

his 'allies'.

They insisted that the new government should not in any way interfere with the army, the press, the legal machine or any other institution of capitalist rule. Chile's 'Marxist' president agreed.

Prieto shows how fateful this non-interference with the armed forces was to be.

In June 1973, a group of sailors,

aware that their becoming involved in a coup, decided to discuss the government's intentions. When this became clear, they were arrested and their relatives protested. The navy defended the navy against all charges.

This and numerous other incidents clearly demonstrated the pro-socialist forces of the army and the navy. They had been cultivated and prevented the offing of the coup.

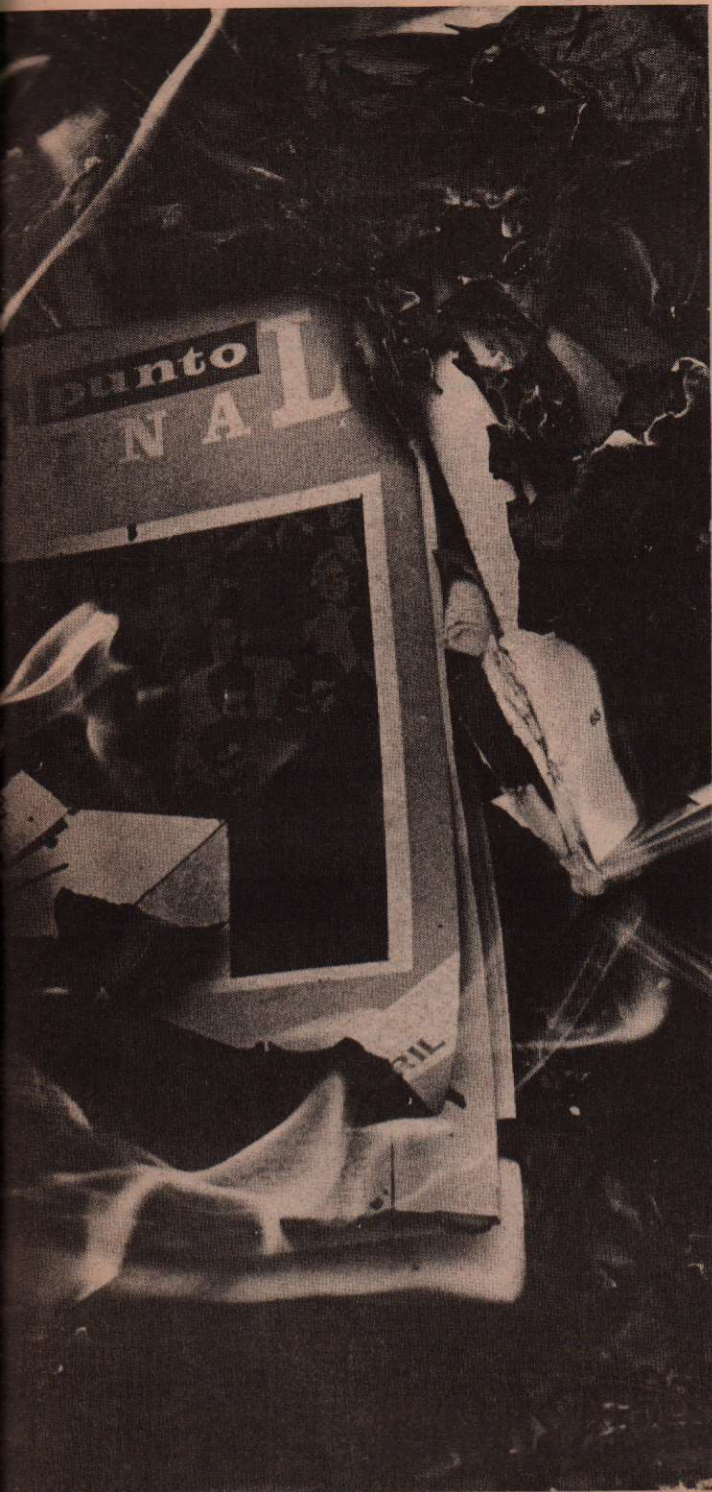
These were the forces which should have been together with those of the working class, to smash the generals, the politicians, the businessmen—the state.

Lenin, in his Revolution, made

Solidarity with the resistance in Chile

DEMONSTRATE

SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 1pm
Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, London.
March to Trafalgar Square



Photographs by KOEN WESSING



HUMILIATION as the Junta rounds up socialists



DEGRADATION as prisoners scramble for cigarettes.

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officers were in plans for a bold series of ways to de-

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the working class couldn't take over the existing state machinery but had to smash it and replace it with its own.

But here in Chile was a Marxist agreeing not to interfere with the state in any way and taking steps actively to support the existing state against the revolutionary forces.

Chain

The culmination of the events leading up to the coup is movingly described by the author. On 4 September 1973, seven days before the coup, the head of the navy, Admiral of the Fleet Montero, resigned.

Allende, sensing that the navy's nomination for a successor, Torbio Merino, was but another link in the chain to destroy his regime, refused Montero's resignation.

Later that evening, Allende attended a mass celebration on the third anniversary of his

electoral triumph. The people marched past in silence.

Men and women wept with eyes cast to the ground. The working classes already sensed defeat.

On the raised platform, the four military ministers Allende had brought into his government were conspicuous by their absence.

Those who had led the people to this defeat stood staring ahead knowing the end was near.

The revolutionary left do not escape Prieto's critical gaze.

In particular, he criticises the MIR for their obdurate refusal to accept the rank and file workers' attitude to what became known as parallel trade unions.

Rank and file workers had set up their own district by district committees (*cordones*) to organise factories and advance their interests.

The government and the Chilean TUC, which did little to organise trade unions, wanted to get rid of the cordones, which they

attacked as 'parallel trade unions'.

This was a campaign against the initiative of the rank and file. But the MIR, though at first they participated in the cordones, later supported the TUC campaign against 'parallel trade unions'.

Unfortunately, the arguments on both sides are not sufficiently dealt with in the book, though the author does promise another deeper study in the future.

Prieto also criticises the MIR for being mainly in the hands of revolutionary students without one worker in the central committee. He argues that it leaned towards a guerrilla type paramilitary organisation when it should have been more outgoing, less clandestine and more attractive for workers to join.

Read

Nonetheless, Prieto praises MIR for its orderly retreat in the face of the successful coup and considers it the best bet for the future, provided the necessary changes are made, provided they became a working-class revolutionary party.

Just as socialists in the 19th century made a study of the Paris Commune to develop the strategy needed to make the socialist revolution, so today we workers and revolutionaries must read books such as Prieto's to master the lessons of Chile and help minimise future mistakes.

I hope I have done it justice. Unlike the last book I reviewed, this is a tool in the hands of the workers, provided of course they get a chance to read it.

OUT NOW

HELIOS PRIETO
CHILE: THE GORILLAS ARE AMONGST US
Translated and introduced by Mike Gonzales



In this implacable attack on Allende's government of Popular Unity, Prieto shows clearly the dangers of not preparing the people for successful resistance to counter-revolution.

In bookshops

50p or direct (add 10p post and packing) from



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

Ignored, underpaid? Try Roy's equal rights

THE OLD SAYING that a woman's place is in the home doesn't stop them going out to work—but it does stop them getting decent wages. Women chemical workers in Leicester came out on strike a couple of weeks ago. They work a 42-hour week—their wage? £12 a week...

Women suffer in other ways too. The hand that rocks the cradle may rule the world—but it isn't allowed to sign hire purchase agreements. It apparently needs less sustenance too, women get lower fringe benefits...

But don't despair girls! The Labour government is going to change all that. And Roy Jenkins assured his listeners, while announcing the plans, that they were a *great* improvement on the Tories' plans of a few months ago.

Passive

Women may wonder why politicians have suddenly taken such a keen interest in feminine affairs. They never have before. Women, bogged down by domestic duties and exploited by their employers, are traditionally a passive and comparatively untroublesome sector of the electorate.

Inflation changed all that. Huge rises in food prices sent women out to the polls to vote for the party that promised to bring down prices. Edward Heath came to power on the women's vote, but housewives were rapidly disillusioned by his efforts.

With another election looming, both Labour and Tories are now wooing the woman voter. This presents problems. Women are worried about prices but few believe that the government can do anything much about them.

Unable to offer lower prices the politicians have plumped for the next best thing. They have decided to seduce women into the ballot box with equal rights.

Fated

It sounds great. But we already have some experience of government attempts to give women equality. The last Labour government introduced equal pay legislation. By 1975 we are all supposed to have equal pay. In fact women have benefited very little.

Many have been segregated into low paid women's jobs. Others have had to submit to job evaluation exercises to get equal pay.



These APEX strikers are in pursuit of something as elusive as the Holy Grail—equal pay for women...

Jenkins' proposals seem fated to end the same way. They suggest an Equal Opportunities Commission which would identify and deal with the main areas of discrimination. Legislation would apply to employers, employment agencies, trades unions, employers' organisations and training schemes. Schools would have to provide an equal standard for children of both sexes, although single sex schools would be allowed to continue.

It sounds very wide ranging and impressive. It isn't.

The most controversial areas are missing. Social security, taxation and pension schemes are all to be covered by separate legislation and are excluded.

Eliminating discrimination in

A FORTNIGHT AGO Home Secretary Roy Jenkins introduced the Labour government's plans for legislation to ensure equal rights for women. ANNA PACZUSKA is not impressed, she explains why...

education would require a massive injection of money if it is to be any more than a token gesture. The building of more workshops and domestic science rooms, the re-equipment of schools with books that do not show all girls cooking and all boys playing football, the retraining of careers teachers, the re-organisation of government training schemes, the provision of a vastly increased number of day release facilities for girls... and so on.

Just this year, education suffered

huge cutbacks in spending. The proposals could never be implemented without a reversal of the cuts and the provision of more money. Yet there's no mention of it.

Other things are unsatisfactory too. Small workshops and firms are to be exempt. Yet it is precisely the women who work in small shops and offices who suffer the worst conditions.

Above all the provisions made for dealing with complaints about discrimination are inadequate. The Tories in their proposals suggested

that women who brought complaints that were not proved, would be subjected to penalties. This was supposedly to discourage frivolous complaints.

The Labour Party has gone one better. The special county courts and the procedure they propose is complicated and designed to be time-consuming. It would be a costly troublesome business that is hardly likely to be entered into by your average woman worker. There is more than one way of skinning a rabbit it seems...

Inferior

The Labour Party aren't too far for fear of arousing the disapproval of the employers. Many of them make a lot of money out of rotten wages for women. And Roy Jenkins wouldn't like to upset them...

The real way to end discrimination against women is to end the economic and political system under which women have a domestic—and thus inferior—status. From the Labour Party we get an election gambit. We're not daft, and we're not going to be satisfied with their current shopping list.

'They don't forgive easy'

'YOU'VE GOT to understand the way a woman's mind works. She's not got her mind on the job; whilst she's working her mind's on the next meal, clothes for the kids etc. She doesn't notice what's going on around her. She doesn't see what management is up to on the shop floor, so it's up to the steward to get the issues across.

'You've got to go to the women and explain to them what's happening, to make sure they know and understand. If you keep telling a woman something, how she's being cheated over something, it'll start to niggle, and when something starts to niggle, a woman will get into a group with other women.

Adamant

'When that happens, you know you've got a stoppage on your hands!

'A woman reacts differently to a problem from a man. She'll always go and look for support from other women. When she acts it's always as a group, whereas a man will often be satisfied with a personal row with the foreman. Women are more difficult to get going over an issue than men, but once they're roused they don't forgive easily.

'Now at Easterbrook and Allcards, it's the women who lead

WOMEN WORKERS are often accused of being non-militant. Men argue they won't fight—that they hold the whole work-force back. SYLVIA GREENWOOD doesn't agree. And she should know. She is a Transport union steward and chairman of the Joint Shop Stewards Committee at Easterbrook and Allcards, a small tool engineering firm in Sheffield. She talked to SHEILA MCGREGOR about some of the problems she's had, and some of the successes.

the firm. A few weeks ago, when we were out on strike over the threshold, it was the women who were really adamant that we come out. They make up the majority of the picket line as well.'

Sylvia pointed out that women faced the same problems becoming politically active as they did becoming active as trade unionists.

'A woman makes up her politics from bits and pieces. She only half listens to a programme on TV, whilst she's doing the ironing or some other household job. She hasn't got the time to sit down and listen to something all the way through.

There aren't many women shop stewards in Britain, and certainly not many who get to Sylvia's position. I asked her how she had got involved as an active trade unionist and the problems she faced as a woman.

'I started off as a shop steward in the GMWU at GEC Swinton. I

had always been a member of a union and one day I went to management and demanded to know how my bonus worked. When I found out it was impossible to earn the bonus, the whole assembly line stopped until we got things sorted out.

'After that, the secretary of the GMWU came up and asked me if I wanted to be a steward. So I started with five members. I took the job very seriously and started going on weekend schools laid on by the union.

'It's a hard job for a woman trade unionist. You're not just battling against management, you're battling against the sex problem, and it's one of the most difficult there is.

'Even now, with 17 years experience, when trade union officials ask me if I would like to take an organiser's job in the union, they do it with a smirk on their faces. If you're a woman you've definitely

got to be a battler.

'You also find sometimes that officials in the union will try to use their position to get their way with you. And they're supposed to be the people you can trust in the fight against management.

'Another problem women face, is that if they're any good at all they're always expected to take up the "women's question". At these weekend schools, I got so sick of being asked to speak on women, that I once said I would speak on any subject, on international trade unionism, anything, but not on women!

Silly

'There are some perks to being a woman trade unionist. You can use men's prejudices against management. When you start negotiating, they always think you're just a silly woman and you don't know what you're doing. That's the time you can often win concessions no man would ever get away with.

'I remember one set of negotiations with a manager who kept his eyes fixed on my short skirt all the way through and just nodded yes to everything I asked for. Unfortunately they get wise to you after a bit and it no longer works.'

The politics of Lenin

Paul Ginsborg



International Socialist pamphlet 20c

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

Paul Ginsborg's Introduction deals with the main political arguments which Lenin used in his work in the Russian and World Revolutionary movement.
Available from IS Bookshop,
265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4

by Pete Gold

OUR chaotic transport system has achieved a great deal in death, mis-spent money and daily inconvenience.

From the pulverised bodies that periodically splatter the sides of motorways to the people I have seen literally in tears just waiting for a bus to arrive, the car—or rather its makers—have a lot to answer for.

Advertisements boast about the world of speed, travel and freedom cars have opened up. And they are famous for improving your sex life.

But cars have also killed and maimed a million people in the last decade, roads have swallowed up an area of land the size of Oxfordshire in the last 12 years and a third of the people in the country now suffer from road noise.

Under the pressure of the oil giants and car manufacturers, public transport has been run down. In America, railroads have been destroyed to eliminate any competition to the wonders of the automobile.

Yet those of us who don't own cars (still four out of five people) have to pay the cost in stress, road accidents which most often involve pedestrians, and the tax costs of road building and maintenance.

■ ■ ■
We suffer equally from the filthy waste products which the car, with cheerful lack of discrimination, sprays across us all.

In 1968, the motor car spewed out seven million tons of carbon monoxide, a million tons of hydrocarbons, 400,000 tons of nitrogen oxides, 125,000 tons of assorted particles, 20,000 tons of aldehydes and 10,000 tons of lead.

You wonder why somebody 'didn't do something'? Why there isn't efficient, free public transport which is a pleasure and not an or-



Castrol celebrate 75 glorious years of profitmaking, accidents and exhaust fumes.

The lunacy they call the motor car

deal to use?

Well the motor car companies and their suppliers thought it was all very nice, it was OK for the oil companies and Mr McAlpine has not objected in the least.

To keep the carnage going, they have one of the most powerful lobbies in the country trying to tell us it's good for us. The final insult is that after spending millions in influencing governments to adopt the unbalanced transport policy, they manage to avoid the consequences themselves.

Motorways don't pass through fashionable suburbs, they knock down working class homes instead. You don't get noise irritation if you reside in a villa in the countryside.

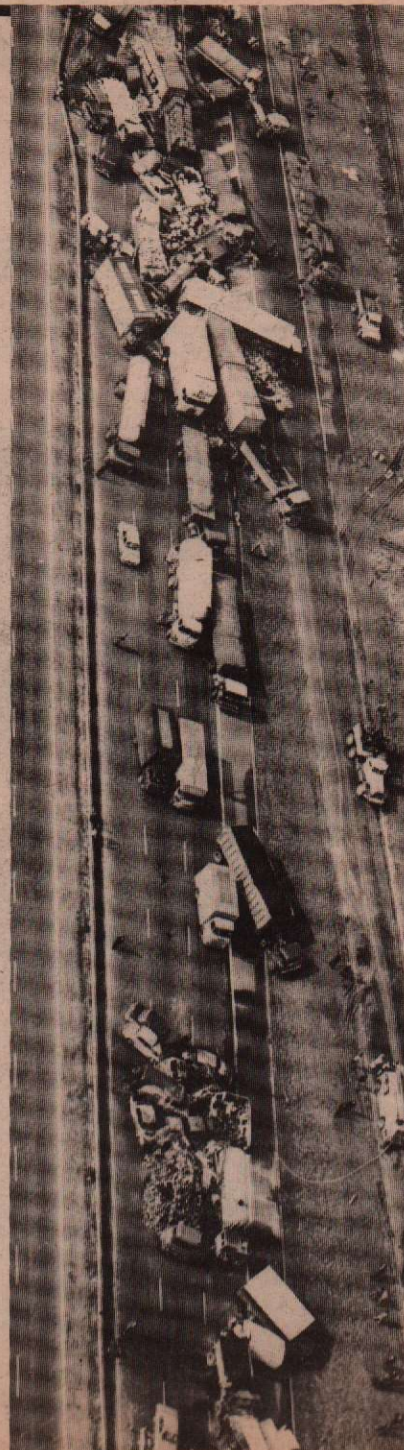
The Fat Cats have even got their own trains, fully equipped with luxury food and de luxe accommodation, called Businessmen's Pullmans.

There are all sorts of well-intentioned patchworks of schemes which try and clear some of the worst mess.

They don't work for the same sorts of reasons that partial reforms don't work in other areas: they never really tackle the power of the barons whose commercial policies create the mess.

Instead we, the victims, watch while they go to greater and greater lengths of lunacy because of the logic of their own perverted society.

Tell that to your Castrol man . . .



There are, of course, one or two disadvantages to the motor car. Like getting killed, for instance . . .

The making of a revolutionary

The Young Lenin: by Leon Trotsky (Pelican Books 60p)

THIS IS not a great book but it has its rewards. Written in 1934 when Trotsky was in hiding in France, the manuscript mysteriously disappeared shortly afterwards and just as mysteriously reappeared in the late sixties.

Its best section is on the origins of Russian populism, the political movement with which most 19th-century Russian intellectuals, including Lenin's elder brother, identified.

The populists idealised the peasantry and alternated between 'back to the villages' missionary activity and assassination attempts. Lenin's brother Alexander, when on trial, defended his actions by saying 'the weak intelligentsia, very weakly imbued with the interests of the masses . . . can defend its right to think only with terrorism'.

Alexander's execution did not turn the teenage Lenin into an instant Marxist but it did impress on him the importance of revolutionary caution and the need for careful study and preparation before taking action.

From the ashes of the populist tradition, grew Russian Marxism, the tiny group of exiles led by Plekhanov called the Group for the Emancipation of Labour. They argued that the most revolutionary group in Russian society were the previously ignored workers. This tiny but immensely important organisation the allegiance of the 23-year old Vladimir Ulyanov.

STEVE JEFFERYS

Danger! Women at work

Danger! Women at Work: 50p, from National Council for Civil Liberties, 186 Kings Cross Road, London WC1X 9DE.

THIS USEFUL pamphlet is a summary of the proceedings of the NCCL Conference on Women's Rights held at Congress House last February.

Betty Harrison, 70 year veteran of the Tobacco Workers Union, called the conference 'a breakthrough. Here we have industrial workers, professional women, women from the new women's liberation movement, who are to discuss and decide what we must do in the future in the fight for equality'.

Among the subjects discussed and written up are protective legislation, maternity leave and child-care, equal pay and its limitations and pension rights. Some of the workshops seem to assume that women's 'rights' could have been won within capitalist society if only women tried a bit harder. Others look more deeply into the complex way women are held back by mis-education, sexually selective apprenticeships, industrial training and careers officers from even starting in decent jobs.

Discussion suffers from being dominated by very confident women union officials but the pamphlet is a mine of useful information and statistics.

SALLY DOWSE

GETTING INDEPENDENCE ON THE NEVER-NEVER...

PLAY MAS has just finished three successful weeks at London's Royal Court Theatre and is due for a West End production.

It's about Trinidad and will tell you more about colonialism, nationalist movements and capitalist values than a dozen books on the subject.

It's a funny but serious fable about the rise of a house-boy, Samuel, to the position of police chief during the 1972 wave of strikes and demonstrations. He restores order with a State of Emergency and a carnival aimed at siphoning the anger of the West Indian workers.

The CIA, the Church and the Chamber of Commerce all do their bit.

TOM HICKEY talked to the play's author, Mustapha Matura, about politics in Trinidad.

I USED to be an office-boy in a solicitor's office. When I got back to Trinidad two years ago, the office-boy before me had become the Minister of Finance.

He read this Budget speech which lasted seven hours. The praise was fantastic. What he said didn't seem to matter.

The words 'policy', 'expansion', 'programming', 'implementation and co-ordination'—fantastic you know, poetry! But everyone thought 'what a fantastic speech', 'seven hours!'

This is the thing about the government of Eric Williams which came to power on a big nationalist thing with a lot of talk about the people taking

back the wealth of the island from the oil companies.

At the time he awakened everyone, every Trinidadian was a politician. But Williams had no policies, no programme, no foreign policy. Trinidad just got the trappings of independence.

They had an Ambassador to the United Nations, an ambassador to this, a Ministry of that—a diplomatic service, a new flag, a National Anthem—no more Kingdoms but their own Order of the Hummingbird. Trappings . . . no policy. Every year it is 'Wait and See'.

Unfortunately after the heights of political awareness reached during

independence, Trinidadians have now got to a stage where they don't think about politics at all.

They are just left with this love affair with Dr Williams. They can't seem to separate the man from his politics.

Economically, the island is ridiculous. It's surviving on credit. Everyone in the black middle class has a Toyota car, Sony hi-fi system, a freezer and washing machine. This is where Williams gets his hard-core support.

They allowed uncontrolled investments to pour into the island from America and Japan and Britain. But all that arrived was hundreds of tiny factories giving the illusion of a big, independent country, the trappings of a nation again.

What you got was a big American firm sending a small factory to Trinidad—a shed compared to their main thing.

RURAL

There was a sort of guerrilla movement. They were romantic, very young, black, middle-class. They were really trying to do something.

They were very political people keen on Chairman Mao and Castro. But it was entirely a rural thing, appealing to the peasants.

The only organisation that tried to build a working-class political movement in the cities were the trade unions. But their books were confiscated, they were checked and audited and funds were said to be irregular and seized.

They became very disorganised, though now they are beginning to rally support again. Now there's just no working-class revolutionary organisations in the cities, although there is a lot of potential.

ON THE BOX

SUNDAY
BBC-1, 8.15pm. A big night for Russia. THE LOVE GIRL AND THE INNOCENT is a play by Alexander Solzhenitsyn, set in a Russian labour camp in 1945. ITV at 10.15 goes back into the mid-nineteenth century, to provincial life in Czarist Russia for A PROVINCIAL LADY. If Solzhenitsyn is the greatest living Russian writer then Turgenyev who wrote A Provincial Lady is one of his most illustrious forebears.

MONDAY
BBC-1, 8.10pm. The Conservative Party is profiled in PARTY LINES.

TUESDAY
ITV (Scottish TV area only), 6.35pm. The 'Monkey Trial' in Tennessee in 1925 was one of the last stands of the anti-Darwin, anti-evolution bible thumpers. A young teacher was prosecuted for teaching that man was a mammal, and descended from the apes. The prosecution was led by William Jennings Bryan, who had led

the mid-West farmers in their crusade against the gold standard in the 1890s. Fredric March plays a thinly disguised Bryan, and Spencer Tracy (surprise, surprise!) plays the good guy defence counsel. VILLAGE HALL at 9pm (ITV) is MARK MASSY IS DEAD. It stars Colin Welland as an amateur writer whose literary position is threatened by a rival whose actually had something published . . . On BBC-2 at 7.50pm is MAX ERNST: HOW MANY COLOURS HAS A HAND? a profile of the surrealist painter.

WEDNESDAY
ITV (Yorkshire, Thames, Tyne Tees, Border, Ulster, Grampian) 8.30pm (Harlech showing on Friday) THE BRONTES OF HAWORTH is being re-shown, re-edited into five one hour episodes. Over the moors from Bradford you get to Haworth, which despite the Bronte Icecreams and Bronte souvenir shops doesn't seem

to have changed much since the time of the Bronte sisters back in the 1830s and 1840s. This Yorkshire ITV series got better as it went on, but didn't capture the power of the Brontes' writing and didn't satisfactorily deal with the childhood fantasy world which provided much of the inspiration for their writing as adults. In that industrial village on the edge of the Yorkshire moors, in the heart of an area of Luddite and industrial activity, with an infant mortality rate in 1841 of 41.5 per hundred (higher than anywhere in England except Aldgate in London) Charlotte and Emily Bronte wrote Jane Eyre and Wuthering Heights, two of the greatest English novels. Charlotte also wrote Shirley, dealing with (from a High Tory position) the Luddite disturbances in the 1810s. Since this TV column seems to have turned into On The Book, it only remains to suggest you buy the novels (they are Penguin paperbacks)



THE MEANING OF MARXISM

by Duncan Hallas

25p plus 7p postage

from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4

What Ian Gibson told his ASTMS

SWEETHEARTS SAGA

by Ian Gibson

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

It has written to the staff associations suggesting merger on almost any terms the Sweetheart Organisation care to dictate. The first response has come from SAGA, the staff association of General Accident.

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

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

Success is possible if we ballot, if we see it as a joint union with genuine trade unionism in any case, to co-ordinate our actions with the Industrial Relations Act. There is no joint negotiation that represented the commission on Industrial Relations Act. SAGA had criticised SAGA's independence and its attitude of control. It suggested a joint negotiating body. A vigorous campaign by ASTMS members to resign and

APPROVED

NORMAN NORMAN, THIS IS TONY HE'S A STUDENT. HE'LL BE WORKING.

THESE ARE THE ROPES

The stars face a fight

by Ian Gibson
ASTMS executive member
No 5 Division

OUR UNION's annual conference starts today in Harrogate in an atmosphere of 'give the Labour government a chance.'

Motion calling for the release of Members of ASTMS

DISAPPROVED

...IRC and protesting...
...ment of their pension in...
...Africa...
...But the ASTMS executive...
...barraged at the members...
...made into their own hands...

The SW story by Ian Gibson the ASTMS Executive liked...

The story they didn't like—and which brought Ian Gibson's suspension from union office.

IT IS two years now since I sat through the last attack on me for allegedly acting against the interests of the Association. At that time I was exonerated by the appeal committee.

If the National Executive Committee were to take disciplinary action on this occasion they would be completely unjustified.

It would signify punishment for my political opinions and for expressing what many ASTMS members feel about the union.

The reason for the disciplinary measures would be for writing an article before annual conference in the Socialist Worker, the newspaper of the International Socialists.

'Democracy is at last on the agenda'

SOCIALIST WORKER is proud to publish here the speech made last month by Ian Gibson at his 'trial' by the executive of the white-collar union ASTMS.

His 'crime' had been to write an article in Socialist Worker which criticised the executive for their policies in relation to the Tory pay legislation and the Industrial Relations Act.

Ian, who represents division number 5 (East Anglia) on the executive and is a member of the International Socialists, also criticised the lack of democracy in the union.

Within 24 hours of the publication of the paper, he was the subject of a 20-minute denunciation at the ASTMS annual conference. A sub-committee of the union executive met the same day and decided that what Ian Gibson had done might constitute actions contrary to the interests of the union, Rule 15 section 10 sub section B.

As a result on 13 July the full executive met to try him. They decided that writing a critical article was contrary to the interests of the union and barred him from office for three years.

Despite the fact that he immediately lodged an

appeal, Clive Jenkins, the general secretary, insisted Ian had to be kicked off the executive forthwith. A vicious attack on the elementary right of trade unionists to free expression culminated in a rush to judgment indicative of just how deep-seated is the ASTMS bureaucrats' fear of real democracy and debate.

This was done even though the No 5 Divisional Council meeting on 22 June had passed a vote of confidence in Ian Gibson and demanded that only those members who elected executive committee men and women had the right to throw them off.

Ian Gibson is now pressing for his appeal to be heard immediately. This Saturday, ASTMS members in his division and beyond will be picketing the executive meeting to demand his immediate reinstatement pending the appeal.

The picket of the ASTMS executive is at the Great Western Hotel, Paddington, 10am. Trade unionists in every plant or office where ASTMS is organised should be taking up this issue. It sets a fearful precedent for similar goings-on in other union executives. After all, an injury to one is an injury to all.



IAN GIBSON: Barred

Incidentally, two weeks ago I wrote another article with the help of an ASTMS officer for Socialist Worker and that, I believe, has pleased some high-ups in the union.

In the article which has led to the charges, I argued that the bureaucracy of the union, its general secretary, National Executive Committee, national officers etc are not sufficiently responsive to the membership, that they often seem more concerned with protecting their own privileged positions than with fighting the causes of the branches and divisions.

A healthy organisation can ride criticism but not in ASTMS, since we hear at the NEC that this opposition 'must be snuffed out now'.

Many members have expressed puzzlement about why the NEC are reacting so extravagantly to an article criticising them.

Why did they not react in the same way when an ex-official of ASTMS went to the Pay Board in contravention of union policy?

Why was there no question of his acting against the interests of the association?

The reason is that this is only the latest of a series of conflicts on

the NEC because basically, whilst I accept NEC decisions, I do not accept that it follows that one should not rock the boat or carry on fighting for one's principles and those of the members who elect you.

I have pressed everywhere I am active in ASTMS for more control of the union by its members, for a consistent fight against all forms of wage restraint, for more active support for members in dispute, for the members concerned to have the power to approve or reject settlements negotiated for them by officials, for less secrecy about the proceedings of the NEC and so on.

When your union journal is as

tightly-edited as it is (for example look at the last one with an editorial attacking [conference] delegates—some 40 per cent probably—who demanded an editorial board for the journal) then there is something wrong.

There is no attempt to put two viewpoints in our journal. I tried at one time to get an article entitled 'Why we should de-register?' published at a time when the policy of ASTMS was effectively to register under the Industrial Relations Act.

Given this attitude of the elite who run this union then I do demand the right to write for a

newspaper which I believe in.

This is the background which explains why the SW article led to conference being presented with a 20 minute formal denunciation of me by Arthur Sier on behalf of the executive.

It is symptomatic of the attitude of this NEC towards democracy that they gave me no right to reply to this denunciation.

The NEC later held an interrogation lasting more than three hours on the contents of the article.

Now I am threatened here today with further action.

I wrote to the editor of the journal a letter, believing that any member has the right to reply somewhere informing other members concerning these charges, especially when most of them hadn't even read the article [in Socialist Worker] and didn't know what it was all about.

The letter does not seek to inflate the issue. It denies the charges laid by the NEC.

I asked the editor to await a further elaboration of this letter before publishing. He indicated that it wouldn't make the conference edition of the journal.

But at the same time he crawled along to the general secretary with the letter. I then received an impudent letter from the general secretary accusing me of further misdemeanours and directing the letter to the NEC.

This to me is another hysterical

reaction to an article which is fast being made into a magnum opus.

All these events have arisen for voicing what many members believe about the need for more democracy in the union and a less offhand attitude from officials.

The number of resolutions to conference urging that officials must abide by the decisions of the membership shows I am not alone in my views.

The question of disloyalty to the leadership of the union has been raised—my loyalty has been and will always be to the membership.

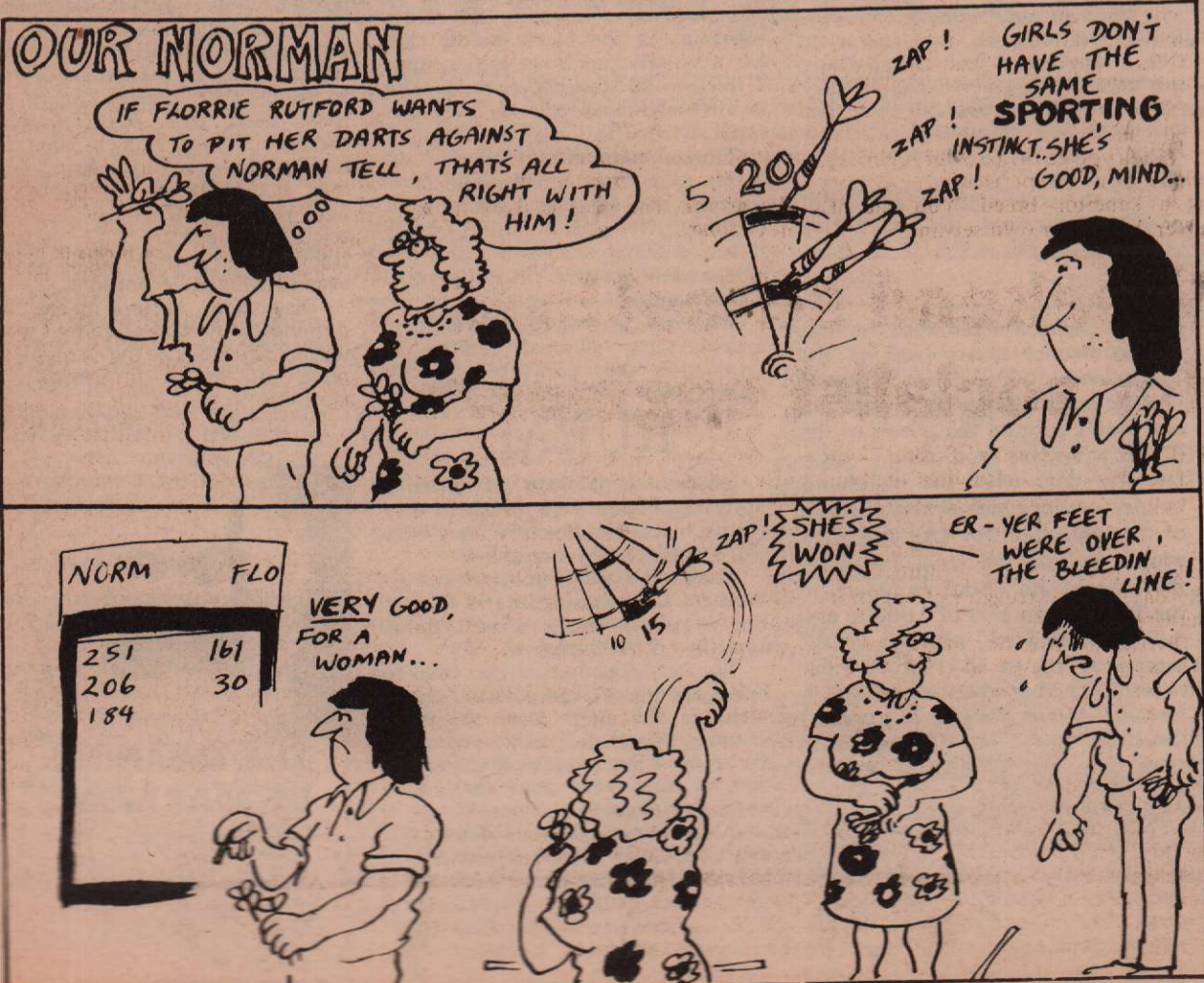
I suffered the line-by-line interrogation at the investigating committee and elaborated on the issues there.

I was given an assurance by the chairman that the things said there would not leave the room. The investigating committee report puts it another way.

If the officials of this union persist in all of this, which is nothing more than a political witch-hunt, it is to the ordinary members of the union that I shall look for a final judgment on my right to be a socialist and to criticise the leaders of the union from a socialist standpoint.

I am encouraged at the support which has been given me by members who are of all different political opinions.

They are standing up and saying: 'Fight on.' Democracy in ASTMS is at last on the agenda.



Strachan's men hit out

ACTIVISTS in the Strachan's occupation in Eastleigh, Hampshire—themselves victims of the Special Branch and Economic League—are the latest engineering union members to condemn their executive's ban on Socialist Worker.

Eastleigh No 3 branch of the AUEW also pointed out that, unlike Socialist Worker, anti-trade union papers such as the Daily Express and Daily Telegraph have free access to the union's engineering section conferences. It called for an end to the discrimination against Socialist Worker.

Eastleigh No 2 has also condemned the executive decision and called for an explanation.

KNOW ANY WORKING-CLASS JUDGES?

THE ATTACKS on Socialist Worker and the increasing harassment of people selling the paper prompted the Barnet IS branch to hold a public meeting entitled 'The Police—Whose side are they on?'. We had two speakers, Jim

Nichol, a member of the IS executive and publisher of Socialist Worker, and Ian Olley, a London dockerman.

Ian spoke of the treatment the London dockers received from the little-publicised Special Patrol Group. The dockers and a few other workers now know that the SPG are highly trained at smashing up workers' picket lines and demonstrations. They are like a

commando unit of the army working within the police force.

Jim Nichol explained how the employing class set up the police force to protect their interests, and how they portray the police and the law as above everyone else. But the interests of the ruling class are not the same as those of the working class. They make the laws, and they sit in judgment. How many working-class judges

do you know?

Although the meeting was held in the middle of the summer holidays about 30 people came, many of them new to our meetings. It is really important that as many people as possible are aware how important it is to defend Socialist Worker. Organise a meeting about the police in your area—a lot of people are really interested.



NEWS

LEAFLETS being handed out at last Saturday's Colchester Military Tattoo by members of the town's Troops Out Movement. The Troops Out Movement, which is supported by Colchester IS, called on visitors to the tattoo, including these soldiers, to get British troops out of Ireland.

Ilford and Dagenham IS recently organised a leafletting campaign at the Dagenham Town Show. IS members handed out leaflets calling for Troops out of Ireland and exposing the role of the police Special Patrol Group.

Several police approached and threatened to arrest the leafletters for 'breach of the peace'. Asked how handing out leaflets could be described as 'breach of the peace' one intellectual constable replied: 'Someone might try to sort you out!'

The police took away leaflets but handed them back again after argument. The leafletters returned the next day with the same leaflets, which they handed out unmolested.



(Report)

'EYES LEFT' FOR EX-SOLDIERS IN I.S.

EX-SERVICEMEN who are now members of the International Socialists met recently in Birmingham to discuss their experience of the forces, and to begin to analyse the role the Army plays in Britain.

Members present had been on active service in most of Britain's colonial battles since the war—in Aden, Cyprus, Malaya and Ireland. The explanations why they had joined the armed forces were depressingly similar.

'The army recruiting tour arrived in town—all the girls went down to the exhibition to look at the soldiers and when you went into the pub there were the recruiting sergeants, buying you drinks', said one ex-soldier.

'You found out later that it was all paid for by the army. Then off to the recruiting office where you found a nice fat sergeant giving you a cup of tea. He explains how you'll learn to defend yourself in a tight spot, turns you into a real Kirk Douglas figure.'

OPPRESS

'Once you've signed up it's quiet for a week then you're in the middle of it, up at six in the morning, polishing boots, battle training. And you get all the patriotic stuff—"The Tommy is the best soldier in the world. The Yanks have got more money otherwise we'd be on top of the world."'

Speaker after speaker emphasised

the cold awakening that comes when you go on to active service and find that the people you've come to save are the people you oppress.

'We were supposed to be guarding the local workers in factories in Aden', said one speaker. 'Local workers? They were six soldiers in the BP refinery. We were told that the people would be glad to see us, but we were sent in to put them down. The only local who was pleased to see us was the Sheikh. He lived in his palace while the people rotted.'

'When we were training for Northern Ireland', said another, 'we were in a camp which was turned into a miniature Bogside. Half of us had to be Roman Catholics—spitting on a protestant funeral procession. This was when we were supposed to be training as impartial "peace-keepers".'

A ex-military policeman said he didn't think about the role of the Army when stationed in Germany—only when he got to Ireland.

'We started searching houses, smashing them up. Anyone who was a Catholic between 15 and 50 we would pick up, photograph and interrogate. Then people wonder why they didn't like us...'

An ex-officer and graduate of Sandhurst explained how he was trained: 'The object is to break you down. They want you as low as you can be. Then they build you up, as they want you. You have no contact with women, you can write hardly any letters, you're real matter for indoctrination.'

'You do the most stupid things,

like cleaning the bottom of your boots—it's all designed to make you accept the system. At the end of Sandhurst training all the cadets go off for a big ball at the Dorchester Hotel. And what are you? A brain-washed machine, totally intolerant of any ideas.

'Then you go off to your regiment, where you accept that you're part of a superior breed. You eat off silver, have your own servant.'

Weekend school held for socialist engineers

THE IS Engineering School held last weekend in London had the twin aims of giving newer members a better understanding of the working and history of the Engineers' Union and linking revolutionary politics with the day-to-day struggles of engineering workers.

Particular attention was given to discussion of the social contract and the best way to convince workers to reject this sell-out. This was followed by producing a mock leaflet for use in the Stanlow Refinery dispute which all those at the school found extremely useful.

A talk on Ireland was given by Jimmy Grealy with the main emphasis on moving of resolutions in the trade union movement calling for the removal of British troops from Northern Ireland.

The links between the Army and the Special Air Service were discussed—and the way that 'promising' soldiers would be put in the SAS. The SAS's role in sectarian murders in Northern Ireland, their activity as plain-clothes provocateurs and the reaction of the Irish—protestant and catholic—was examined.

Further meetings are planned for the group. The next is likely to be in October.

Another weekend school was attended by 50 IS members of white-collar trade unions. The importance of white-collar workers in the building of socialism was stressed by all the speakers and there were detailed discussion on strengthening the rank and file trade union movement and joint action with manual workers.

There were sessions on Ireland and on the need to fight incomes policy. One group from the school visited the printshop and Socialist Worker editorial offices. Comrades also prepared and debated resolutions on Troops out of Ireland and Incomes Policy, both of which should be useful in the near future in trade union meetings, and on the Shrewsbury builders' trials—which raised questions about the law and the state.



WHAT'S ON

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

IS public meetings

LAMBETH COUNCIL WORKERS IS inaugural meeting. Inflation and public sector workers. Speaker: Paul Foot. Thurs 8 August, 12.30pm, Lower Hall, Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton SW2.

TEESSIDE IS public meeting: Is Russia socialist? Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Thursday 22 August, 8pm, Borough Hotel, Corporation Road, Middlesbrough.

TOWER HAMLETS IS film: Seventeenth Parallel (about the struggle of a village in North Vietnam against the Americans). Plus Asian music. Saturday 17 August, 8pm, Half Moon Theatre, Alie Street, London E1. Admission 30p in aid of Socialist Worker Defence Fund.

PRESTON and district readers of Socialist Worker please note that Preston District International Socialists will now be meeting every Thursday at 8pm in The Waterloo, Friargate. First meeting on 15 August is a discussion on Ireland. All SW readers welcome.

SOUTHAMPTON IS public meeting: Defend Socialist Worker. IS and trade union speakers. Wednesday 21 August, 8pm, UCATT Hall, Henstead Road.

TEESSIDE IS film and folk evening: Songs from Alex Glasgow, and Marcello Mastroianni as 'The Organiser', Saturday 21 September, 7pm, The Dovecote, Stockton. Tickets available in advance from IS Books, 14 Grange Road, Middlesbrough (Phone M'bro 40749).

PADDINGTON IS discotheque in aid of Socialist Worker Defence Fund: Friday 9 August, 8pm onwards, The Chippenham pub (corner of Shirland Road and Cambridge Road), London W9. Admission 30p.

Meetings for IS members

NATIONAL CONFERENCE for IS Women: Women's struggles in the coming year. Saturday 31 August, 10.30am-5pm, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham. Watch for branch circular and further notice in What's On.

EAST MIDLANDS District IS meeting for members only: Pre-conference discussion on political and industrial perspectives (speaker Steve Jefferys, national industrial organiser) and political and organisational perspectives (speaker Duncan Hallas, member of executive committee). Saturday 17 August, 2.30-6pm, AUEW headquarters, Vaughan Way, Leicester. Comrades will gather in the Dixie Arms, Vaughan Way, from 1pm. All members should attend. Social in the evening.

EPTU IS fraction executive meeting: Sunday 11 August, 11am, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

IS notices

COACHES from London to Leicester for the anti-fascist demonstration on Saturday 24 August, leaving Kings Cross, £1.25 return. Book by sending money in advance to John Rose, London Region IS, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

CHINGARI, latest issue now out (both Punjabi and Urdu editions). Includes articles on Imperial Typewriters strike, Leicester, Portugal, The crisis in the Health Service. Price 3p per copy (please add postage) from Europe Singh (Punjabi), 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2, or J Engineer (Urdu), 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

EAST MIDLANDS IS social: Saturday 17 August, 7pm-midnight, AUEW Social Club, Vaughan Way, Leicester. Nominal admission charge.

FOR SALE: Proceeds to the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund. Gas cooker, electric cooker and fridge. Phone 01-739 1870. Any offers accepted!

COMRADES require two rooms in house or flat in North or East London. Phone 01-274 2405 or 01-732 9016.

COMRADE needs accommodation in Bristol for 3-4 months from 14 September. Write to G Woolfe, Flat 2, 34 Dermody Road, London SE13 (phone 01-852 ext 237 daytime or 01-318 3566 evening).

YORK TUC SCHOOLS. All IS members who will be at any of this year's remaining schools please ring Peter Household, York 51501.

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

IS INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT requires full-time admin. assistant/typist. IS members only. Apply to Steve Jefferys, Industrial Dept, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

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.



Young workers on the picket line outside the Barr and Stroud factory

They try to tell us we're too young

by Jimmy McCallum (TASS)

THE young workers on strike at Barr and Stroud here in Glasgow are determined to force the employers to pay them the full threshold. They will not allow them to pay less and the differential between young and time-served workers.

Under the wage restrictions imposed by the Tory government and continued until recently by Labour, the old pattern of wages in the engineering industry has re-emerged. Young workers, particularly apprentices, have lost out as the differential between their wages and those of time-served workers has increased.

When the controls allowed a 7 per cent increase apprentices and young workers received a payment based on the adult rate. Now under the Pay Board recommendations on threshold payments many young workers are being paid percentages of the full £2.40. At each stage the restrictions have been more severe for the young workers.

This situation is not new to the engineering industry. Only recently have the conditions of apprentices and young workers received any attention at all. Back in the days when Bill Carron ruled

the Engineers' Union the differential was looked on as a good thing. 'The apprentice had something to look forward to', was the idea. In the 1950s the rate for apprentices was rigidly tied to the nationally agreed minimum for the industry and although the minimum sometimes went up, the percentage paid to apprentices rarely changed.

Every so often apprentices in the engineering industry have decided they have suffered enough. The employers refused to accept their cases and the trade union leaders nationally and locally were indifferent. They had to take matters into their own hands, organising strike action which involved thousands and brought quick results.

Stopped

In 1949-50 the apprentices' strike started on Clydeside and quickly spread to other areas. The young workers formed their own strike committees and handled the organisation for the dispute without any help from the official trade union movement.

This was repeated in 1960. Again the strike began on Clydeside, with the same demands, for more money and rights of representation, and quickly spread. The strike committee in Glasgow had a simple plan for spreading the strike: a well-organised factory stopped work and set a picket in the next factory. This did not attempt to stop people going into the factory but only to pull out the apprentices.

The same tactic was used to spread the strike to other towns. The Glasgow Committee sent out carloads of strikers Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham and Newcastle. The response was immediate, and within days thousands of young workers up and down the country were involved in this dispute. For most of the apprentices it was their first experience of trade union activity.

The obstructive attitude of many trade union officials taught the strike committee to rely on its own resources. The strike committee circulated its own weekly bulletin which kept up the morale of those on strike.

Ignore

The eventual settlement—which came nowhere near meeting the apprentices' demands—showed the trade union leadership up for what they were and still are: 'sell-out merchants'. A large number of the activists in the 1960 strike got their first political lesson in that settlement.

The apprentices went on strike again in 1965 but the organisation was limited and the AUEW officials were able to step in and redirect the fight. But important concessions were won which full-time officials like to forget and, sadly, some stewards ignore.

The most important was that the employers conceded that apprentices' representatives had the right to negotiate with management on wages and conditions. Today few firms will accept this procedure and few stewards committees encourage young workers to form their own negotiating committees. If the apprentices and other young workers in the engineering industry had been able to put their own case they would not have suffered the cuts that the Tory wage restrictions brought.

In the present situation the conditions of young workers are likely to worsen unless they begin to follow the example of the Barr and Stroud Junior Workers Committee in Glasgow.

The issues that face young workers can be fought through organised action like the 1960 apprentices' strike. The employers will not now move on apprentice rates unless they are pushed. The trade union leaders are so convinced of the social contract that they are willing to allow the employers to get away with it. Previous apprentices' strikes have shown that when young workers have a case the best people to take it to are other young workers.

Hornchurch to unionise the stables. Last week's hasty backdown by the owners is a measure of the union's impact.

There is plenty of room for further gains. Horseracing is for the upper class a kind of festival involving the unabashed display of vast quantities of wealth. At the Ascot enclosure this year De Beers, the stupendously wealthy South African mining company whose profits are entirely produced by ruthless exploitation of black workers, displayed the world's most expensive uncut diamond. Worth £200,000 it underlined the fact that they were sponsoring the racing.

DESIRE

The industry itself is entirely dominated by wealthy parasites such as the McAlpines, the Royal Family, the Beaverbrooks and the Duchesses of Westminster. These are the people who have been refusing to pay the threshold to those who actually do the work at Newmarket. Of course these rich people cannot afford to pay the threshold—they have a standard of living to maintain.

Their hard line on the wages of those who work for them results from their sincere desire not to see people fall into anything which might remotely resemble their own idle ways. This would clearly be disastrous for the country.

But even though the wealthy parasites of Newmarket have been forced to concede on the threshold they're not completely down in the dumps. The so-called social contract cheers them up for it also kids people along that to make do with £25 a week is for their own good.

If 56 hours wins this...

by M Norman (TGWU)

YORKSHIRE:—Process workers at RTZ's Capper Pass plant struck for 56 hours last week after pay talks broke down. The strike started on Wednesday when a mass meeting turned down management's paltry offer and re-asserted a previous claim for £1 an hour basic—£54 for shift men and £40 for day men.

Shop stewards saw management while the men remained assembled. Management said the claim was unrealistic and refused to talk about it, so we took strike action.

RICH SEE STABLE DOOR STAYS SHUT

by Socialist Worker reporters

NEWMARKET:— Race-horse trainers made a quick climb-down last week and paid up the £2 threshold rise they had been trying to withhold from the 'stableboys' and 'stablegirls', members of the Transport Workers Union.

The reason was simple. They could hear the patter of pickets' footsteps moving towards the sacred emerald turf of Ascot.

The horse racing establishment was petrified that our top-hatted 'superiors' in the Member's Enclo-

sure might have to push past a picket line.

This year the gentry at Ascot had £4 million of horse flesh and £120,000 worth of cups and prize money to feast their eyes on.

Over the past four years, prizes have rocketed up. Prize money in the horse-racing business has increased from £3.69 million in 1968 to £6.72 million last year and the money made out of breeding winners has become almost ludicrous.

The TGWU started two years ago to organise the stable workers who earned less than £20, with automatic deductions for hostels, complicated shifts to cover the 4am training runs and the prospect of nights spent tossing and turning in the horse box.

But two years ago the veteran TGWU branch secretary at Newmarket 80-year-old Harry Foley, joined up with ex-London docker and Cambridge TGWU Officer Sammy

Hotels: Union surrenders

IPSWICH:—The six-week dispute at the Crown and Anchor Hotel has ended in defeat. It started with the sacking of shop steward Stewart Bloomfield and was fought over union recognition. Now it has been negotiated by General and Municipal Workers' Union industrial officer Bobby Smith into an unconditional surrender.

The shop steward has lost his job and

the other strikers will be offered employment at the company's pleasure.

At the Trust House Forte Post House Hotel in CARDIFF, where a dispute blew up at the same time as Ipswich, the outcome has been similar.

Attempts by the workers in the hotels to get together and work out a common strategy brought strong disapproval from the union officials. They preferred to see their members defeated instead.

In the Ipswich dispute the workers

managed to regroup after the Cardiff defeat. With the help of the newly-formed group of rank and file trade unionists in the hotel and catering industry, they massed a picket outside Trust House Forte prestige spots in London. The pickets proved extremely effective and forced the company to ask the GMWU to the negotiating table.

At that stage the dispute could have been won. A word from the union could have brought out 600 members at the Grosvenor House Hotel on London's Park Lane and the fully TGWU-organised Talk of the Town Restaurant.

But the word for action never came.

The danger now is that union activity will be killed off inside Trust Houses Forte. The first signs of the mopping up operation are already visible. One of the worst cases is the dismissal of shop steward George Tofaris, who had organised the 270-room Cavendish Hotel in London. Although this brings the defeat into London, where organisation of hotels is strongest, the dismissal didn't even produce a whimper of protest from the GMWU.

The rank and file grouping of hotel and catering workers is crucial. Any hotel workers interested should write to the IS Industrial Dept, 8 Cottons Gdns, London E2, for details.

Fisher Bendix fight on

KIRKBY:—Workers at Fisher Bendix, now renamed PID by ace speculator John King, are keeping up the fight for nationalisation of the plant. This week they allowed the liquidator back into the factory and he has now become the manager. He and his bankers have said that if the factory is kept going then 450 is the maximum number of jobs. The government feasibility study suggests 600. But the shop stewards are sticking firm for jobs for all the 1200 workers left fighting on.

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.

DEMONSTRATE against Mujibur Rahman's regime in Bangladesh. Sunday 11 August, 2.30pm, Speakers Corner, Hyde Park.

SUPPORT WANTED for Islington Tenants Campaign picket on Prebbles Estate Agents. Meet 9.30am-12.30pm every Saturday, 82 Parkway Camden Town, 109 Upper St, Islington and 564 Tottenham High Street.

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.

HOSPITAL WORKER No 10 NOW OUT. Four-page special (price 3p) on latest developments—hospital engineers' strike, radiographers, nurses, private patients and London Weighting. Orders to 8 Beverstone Road, London SW2. Please add postage.

PHILOSOPHY AND REVOLUTION, a new book by Raya Dunayevskaya—former secretary to Trotsky. Now obtainable price £1.75 from Bob Potter, 98 Addison Road, Hove, Sussex.

GKN WORKER, the newsheet written and produced by rank and file trade unionists in GKN. Latest issue now out. Price 1p per copy (plus postage please), from 165 Tame Road, Witton, Birmingham 6, or IS Books, 224 Deritend High Street, Birmingham.

B&ICO public meeting: Bill Warren on Imperialism. Thursday 19 August, 7.30pm, Conway Hall.

SOCIALIST WOMAN FORUM: Women in the Imperial Typewriters Struggle. Speakers: Ms Doshi and Ms Ranjan from the Imperial Strike Committee. Wednesday 7 August, 8pm, Roebuck pub, Tottenham Court Road.

TYNESIDE CHILE SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN meeting: Friday 16 August, 7.30pm, Room 118, Claremont Tower, Newcastle University. Showing of film 'Chile: The Reckoning', plus trade union and Chilean speakers.

REWARD FROM THE UNION: THE BOOT

by Linda Walsh Former USDAW shop steward

OLDHAM:-We are constantly reading reports in Socialist Worker of the treachery of the trade union bureaucracy. This is another one.

I was working at a small distributing firm here. Northern Leather Goods. In the same building, seven other companies were supposedly operating. In fact that are all owned by the same people. There must be thousands of companies in this district run in the same way to avoid tax payments.

Northern Leather is typical of

these little sweatshops, which make their profit out of young workers, part-time female labour and old age pensioners. Floors are never swept, rats and mice are everyday sights, the toilets are filthy and there are no canteen facilities and no contracts of employment.

I was earning 38p an hour as a packer, and office girls were earning £12 for 40 hours. The firm supplies Woolworth's.

When we first joined the shop-workers' union USDAW, management refused to recognise the union and blatantly tried to victimise me because I was shop steward. But when we threatened to strike they agreed to negotiate. They promised a £2.25 wage rise, plus a threshold payment of £1.20.

But a week later they said they would not pay us after all and again refused to recognise the union. They told us if we went on strike they would close the place down.

STOPPED

Last Monday we came out on strike. The same evening management delivered out cards personally, with our wages but minus holiday pay. We continued picketing, and railway, Post Office and Transport Workers Union drivers stopped delivering.

Our Union official came down and offered a few words of encouragement such as: 'I think you are being very silly and I can't make your strike official'.

But other trade unionists came to support our picket line and I approached the shop steward for one of the other companies in the same building and asked for support. She said they wanted to come out with us and she would contact her union, the footwear union, NUFLAT.

I had earlier been in contact with the national organiser of NUFLAT, who was full of fine words. I quote from his letter to me: 'Frankly, I am disgusted to find that an employer could operate under the conditions that this employer is offering.'

DISCUSS

But when faced with the real opportunity, he said there was nothing he could do, and instructed the shop steward not to bring the members out.

On Wednesday, our third day out in the rain, our union official came down again. He went in to talk to the director, without consulting the strikers. When he came out he told us that Roberts had offered to give all our jobs back, except for me, and had promised future negotiations. He refused to let us discuss it on our own and insisted on an immediate answer.

When the strikers expressed their reluctance he called this a victory and said he was very sorry I'd lost my job, and that's what you get for being silly. This, he said, would at least get them their holiday pay—after all, you can't expect unions to fight for holiday pay.

Two of the strikers will go back and work for a couple of weeks to get their holiday pay and then they will leave. The rest will just not go back at all, as they were all thoroughly demoralised by the lack of support from the union and the victimisation deal. As one of the strikers said to me: 'Whose side are they on?'

Victimised! So Asian bus drivers walk out

LANCASHIRE:-60 Asian bus drivers and conductors are on strike in North East Lancashire after the victimisation of Mohammed Bhatti, a bus driver employed by Burnley, Colne and Nelson Transport.

Mohammed Bhatti, a member of the Transport Workers Union, came to work on Tuesday last week an hour earlier than his scheduled time at the request of an inspector. Later that evening, while on stand-by duties, the same inspector asked him to work until midnight. As Bhatti had started work at 1pm he quite reasonably refused.

After a brief phone call to the garage manager, the inspector told Mohammed that he was fired. He then refused to allow him to speak to the garage manager on the telephone. He even had the nerve to ask him to complete his duty before he collected his cards.

Sacked

Mohammed did finish his duty at 10pm that evening and returned the following morning to see the garage manager. The 'interview' consisted of the manager saying he would not listen to Mohammed's story, that he was accepting the inspector's story without argument and that Mohammed was fired. He offered him an appeal at a later date, until when he would remain sacked.

Mohammed returned home but met on the way a few workmates who were so enraged by his story that they immediately returned to the garage and pulled the rest of their Asian workmates out on strike. At a meeting of the strikers an action committee was set up.

A call has been made to the white workers to support their workmates. Said Fazal Karim, secretary of the action committee: 'This is their fight as well. It could have happened to any of the lads, white or black. We are all brothers together in this.'

The appeal is to be heard later this week but the strikers are not relying on it. They will be staying out until Mohammed Bhatti is reinstated, appeal or no appeal.

Financial aid and messages of support to: Fazal Karim, Action Committee Secretary, 8 Livingstone Street, Brierfield, near Burnley, Lancs.

Welders go back to work

EDINBURGH:-After seven and a half weeks on strike the 58 welders at Parsons Peebles decided to return to work last Friday. An offer from management that a works conference later this month would negotiate a quality control payment was accepted.

In their previous offer the firm stated there was no possibility of payment before March 1975. Management have moved from this position, but there is no mention of any sum of money and there is no specific payment for doing the annual weld tests.

Much pressure has been exerted to get the welders back to work. The rest of the men in the factory did not want any one section to get a rise because this would disturb the Common Wages Structure which replaced the chaotic and divisive wages structure during the mid-1960s.

The dispute laid off 250 men who didn't get one penny of earnings-related benefit during the 7½ weeks. They were therefore feeling the pinch and felt the welders should compromise. The management's offer was the solution proposed by the Engineers' Union district secretary on the first day of the strike.

The militants in the factory knew that management would have settled quicker and on better terms if the whole workforce had struck in support of the welders. With the Pay Board gone, a substantial wage rise for all could have been won.

But the majority were not willing to fight for this because of the influence of local officials and because of the pay increases we have recently received. These bring the skilled rate to £44. This may sound good. But the truth is we need £15 a week extra to keep up with the rocketing cost of living.



The reluctant postman: Pickets stop the mail at Northern Leather. PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

AIRWAYS BOSS TAKES TO AIR IN PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN

by Ian Morris (AUEW)

BRITISH AIRWAYS managing director Henry Marking, aided and abetted by TV and newspapers, has spent the last few weeks in a propaganda exercise to persuade staff to accept early retirement redundancies and wage freeze.

The issue that sparked off the attack was the decision of the industrial grades to strike for London weighting. The strike was called off when management agreed to pay up from 1 July. With the threat of strike action removed we lost the initiative and management later said they were not prepared to increase the payment to £200 until next April.

But fear that there might still be action persuaded them to pay the increase from 1 October.

Sacrifices

To back up his press and TV campaign Marking has held several 'open meetings' with staff and their representatives. At each it was made clear to him and his directors, who sat each side of him on the platform like stuffed parrots, that increased fuel costs were not going to be paid for by sacrifices on our part.

He was told that if he needed more money the way to get it was to demand the return of the routes hived off to private operators by the Tory government. Marking was also told that British Airways was losing something far more valuable than money—workers were leaving and taking their skills with them.

The European Division joint shop stewards committee has demanded the removal of Marking and the British Airways Board and their replacement with people who believe in running nationalised industry for the benefit of the community, rather than as a commercial venture with the narrow aim of making profits. The corporation made a so far undisclosed profit last year and £35 million the year before.

Leyland Threshold demand

BIRMINGHAM:-Indirect workers at Tractor and Transmissions, part of the British Leyland combine, imposed an overtime ban on Tuesday in pursuit of the full threshold payment.

They decided to go for the threshold on return from holiday last week. After negotiations got nowhere last Friday they decided on a policy of non-co-operation and work-to-rule, then toughened their tactics and imposed an overtime ban. As they clean and vacuum machines on overtime and over the weekends this will soon

start to hit the firm.

The workers have the full backing of the Birmingham East district committee of the Engineering Union for this claim. They should also get support from the direct workers, since their success would set a precedent for all workers.

Firm action from other Leyland workers has won results. A series of strikes at the Aveling Barford plant in Grantham won threshold payments, disguised as a productivity bonus for them and workers at British Leyland Rearsby.

Engineers cut Cottons

LOUGHBOROUGH:-More than 250 Engineers' Union members met outside the Cottons factory, part of the Cotton Bentley group, last Friday after a week of unofficial strike for threshold payments and voted unanimously to continue the strike, which is now official.

One year ago Cottons were well up in the pay league tables. Now they are at the bottom, and management have done little to help things all along the way. Said George Marlow, AUEW convenor:

'While our bosses and big business are continually putting up prices in the name of "business", they are blackmailing us to keep wages down for the sake of "the Economy". This is a one-sided state of affairs and soon they will have to realise they are not the only ones in business, we too have a commodity to sell—our labour and our knowledge.'

'Sooner or later management will have to realise that industry can do pretty well without them, but industry cannot do without us.'

Annan and the wreckers

by Jackey Sprague (Essex student)

and Simon Turner (IS student organiser and member of the NUS Executive)

NO ONE should be surprised at the result of Lord Annan's so-called independent inquiry into recent events at Essex University. This report was commissioned after a year of trouble at Essex which resulted in 105 students being arrested for picketing.

The investigation was not requested nor agreed by Essex students, and the students union did not co-operate with its production. It was imposed by the administration of the university headed by Chancellor Lord Butler and Vice-Chancellor Albert Sloman. It was no accident that these two chose Annan to write the report, for Butler and Annan are long-standing friends and Annan, as a member of the academic planning committee which set Essex up, was largely responsible for the appointment of Sloman.

The report should be seen as written by the Essex University administration themselves, and any attempt to dress it up as independent is a total fraud.

The report plays up the role of those it calls the 'wreckers', a

group of militants 'dedicated to causing disruption, manipulating the mass of Essex students'.

This is hardly original. The conspiracy theory is always used by the authorities when there is mass action. It was used at the time of the 1968 student unrest by Edward Short, then Education Minister, and more recently by Edward Heath during the miners' strike.

The 'red scare' tactic cannot disguise the real reason for the dispute. Lousy grants coupled with virtually no student union facilities first mobilised Essex students to occupy the Vice-Chancellor's office. Then the ruthless way Sloman attempted to victimise those he saw as responsible united the majority of Essex students into action against him.

In the coming year, students and workers are going to face fines for attempts to maintain their living standards against inflation. The Annan Report confirms that students will have to rely on their own action again to stop massive cuts in education and win their demands for higher grants.

TV men join the weighting queue

TELEVISION workers are the latest group of workers to take action on the London weighting issue. On Monday members of the ACTT, the film and TV union, stopped work at Thames Television for an hour to hold a meeting.

At present they receive £120-a-year London weighting and are demanding this be increased to £400-a-year. Their meeting blacked out Coronation Street, Today and Opportunity Knocks.

Thames TV is stalling the claim by saying that it wants discussions separate from the wage negotiations which are going on.

Barry White (NALGO) writes:

Our London weighting claim has been sold out. Sixteen months after submitting a claim for a wage increase for all town hall workers in London the union leadership has accepted the first offer that came their way after the end of Phase Three.

Ignored

Despite our demand through the union's London District Council that there should be no increase in the differential between the inner and outer boroughs, the settlement trebles it.

What has been accepted is a total weighting of £381 for inner boroughs. Even the Pay Board recommended £400. The majority of members who work in the outer boroughs receive an increase of £156, making their total up to £261.

To add insult to injury staff under 18 will only receive half the increases. This even goes against the recommendations of the Pay Board report. The increases will also be excluded from calculations for overtime and shift payments, something the Pay Board also wanted.

This is contrary to present custom and practice. The inclusion of Wandsworth and Hammersmith in the inner zone does not hide the fact this settlement is an appalling betrayal of NALGO members.

Resolutions passed by the London District Council in support of the full claim and calling for the members to ratify any settlement before it was sealed have been totally ignored. Our colleagues in Gas and Electricity have been effectively isolated.

Rejected

The NALGO Action Group have been quick to respond. A London Weighting Special news-sheet is already circulating in many London NALGO branches. It calls for members to call branch meetings to reject the sell-out. Unofficial action must be taken, the instruction of the national executive council calling off the action should be rejected.

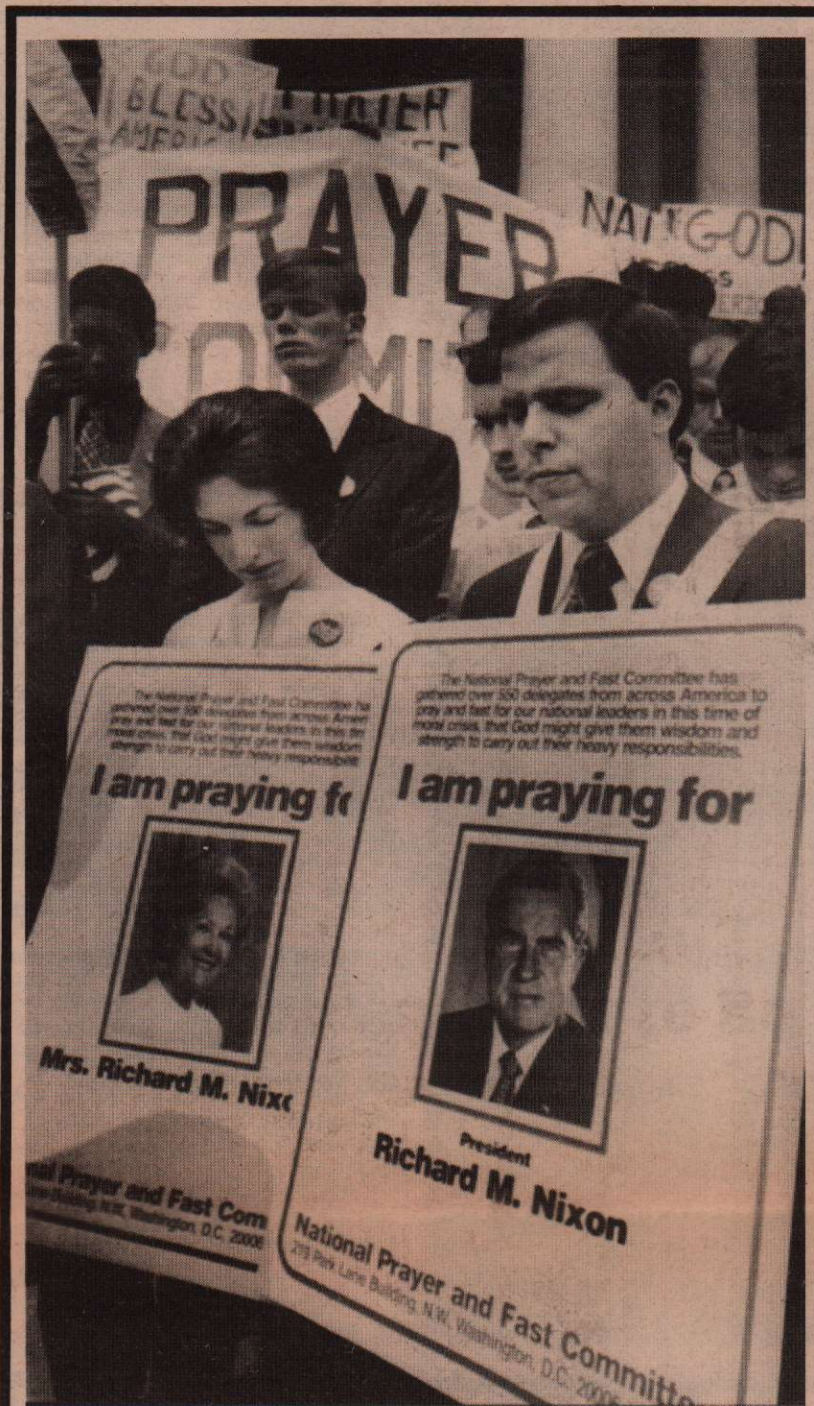
The sell-out is the prelude to a similar about-turn on our current pay claim for an increase of 20 per cent. Only rank and file organisation can fight against the feebleness of our leaders. The lessons are clear.

NALGO members in the electricity industry have had a similar settlement imposed on them. This has the same phoney inner/outer London differential and again young workers are to get less. NALGO is to call off all industrial action in electricity.

Copies of the London Weighting Special news-sheet may be obtained from the Business Manager, NALGO Action News, 26 Tressilian Avenue, London SE4. Price 1p each plus postage.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS



One down, system to go

THE American National Prayer and Fast Committee is praying for Richard M Nixon. So is Richard M Nixon, having lost the support of almost all the politicians who believed that votes could be harvested from his coat-tails.

Nixon is going down because he is the president who was found out. The man who rained bombs down on Vietnam is now being dragged out of office for a petty cover-up—like Adolf Hitler being indicted for a parking offence.

The orgy of Nixon-bashing now going on throughout the Western world conceals as much as it reveals.

IT CONCEALS Nixon's role as a witch-hunter in the early 1950s.

IT CONCEALS Nixon's lies over the war in Vietnam.

IT CONCEALS the record of his predecessors. JOHNSON, the man who lied continuously over America and Vietnam. KENNEDY, the man who sent the troops to Vietnam, invaded Cuba, pushed the world to the brink of nuclear war in 1962 and rigged his own election against Nixon in 1960.

Most of all IT CONCEALS in the wave of cant about the 'openness' of the American political system the fact that America is the model for all capitalist society. It is based on money, violence, bribery.

Nixon leaves office a bitter man. The man who lived by the rules of American politics. The man who worked hard with Brezhnev to make the world safe for the gangsters of the two superpowers.

One down, the system to go.

NURSES: Highcroft shows the way

THE REFUSAL of Barbara Castle, Labour's Health Secretary, to grant an interim pay award to nurses, radiographers and other hospital workers has set off another explosion of militancy in the hospitals.

In Birmingham nurses at the huge Highcroft Mental Hospital came out on strike on Monday—the first-ever 24-hour strike by nurses in this country.

In several areas radiographers have struck in protest against the Minister's decision. One radiographer at Middlesbrough General Hospital shouted as he walked out: 'Who is Secretary of State, Barbara Castle or Lord Halsbury?' It is no secret that Barbara Castle wanted to grant the nurses an interim award but has been restrained by Lord Halsbury, who heads the committee investigating nurses' pay.

Halsbury has insisted that an interim award will 'interfere with his committee's independence.' Halsbury is one of the richest industrialists in the country. He is a director of Distillers, the marketers of thalidomide. He is also a director of Head Wrightson, the heavy engineering company, and of Joseph Lucas. He owns all the shares in 12 Lucas subsidiaries.

An ingrained reactionary, Halsbury has no love for the Labour government. But 'Red Barbara' Castle is more worried about offending his lordship and his colleagues than she is about prolonging the misery of Britain's nurses, radiographers and other hospital workers.

Granville Williams writes from Birmingham:

'We've been morally blackmailed for years, and we hope this action will show the government we're not standing for it any more.'

THE STRIKE of more than 300 nurses at Highcroft Hospital, North Birmingham, on Monday has inspired a new militancy among nurses. Many other hospitals are now discussing 24-hour stoppages.

What was remarkable about the run-up to the strike was the pressure from hospital management and union full-time officials to get it called off. On Sunday the Highcroft NUPE and COHSE branch officers were subjected to 12 hours of threats, promises and pressurising, including the threat of a court injunction against the two branch secretaries Ben Price and John Wood.

One of the most shabby attacks came from Dr D A Perris, secretary of Birmingham Trades Council and chairman of the Area Health Board, who condemned the action as irresponsible.

But the nurses stood firm. The results of the strike ballot were as follows:

NUPE	FOR 119	AGAINST 26
COHSE	FOR 75	AGAINST 8
TOTALS	FOR 194	AGAINST 34

Among the younger nurses on the strike was Catherine McAllister, a student nurse and a COHSE shop steward. She described how she was expected to buy books for study and support herself on a take-home pay of £68 a month. 'We are hoping the strike will snowball. It's disgraceful it's come to this, but we can't be dedicated and hungry at the same time.'

Two COHSE stewards from All Saints, another large psychiatric hospital in Birmingham, joined the picket to express solidarity. John Hope, one of the stewards, said: 'We are having a nurses' action meeting, and from it we are expecting combined action.'

Tom O'Sullivan, the other steward, pointed to the feeling of disillusionment that his members had with the trade union officials. 'Next action we take, we'll make sure they consult us before it's called off.'

Rank and file nurses must spread the action to other hospitals and win the active support of other trade unionists. Barbara Castle let the nurses down. The trade union officials, nationally and locally, have marched their members up the hill and marched them back down again for a broken promise of an interim pay award. The Halsbury Commission drags on and on.

The Highcroft nurses have learnt to rely on themselves. Through their action they have given a real lead. They can win a pay increase and get a better Health Service, and they need our support.

BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC MEETING

Strike a Blow for the Nurses

Speakers: Gerry Phillips (COHSE) and Monica Dibble (NUPE), both of Highcroft Hospital; Granville Williams (Socialist Worker) and a local trade unionist. Wednesday 14 August, 8.30pm, The Hare and Hounds, Marsh Hill, Erdington (No 11 bus).

Adrian Sugar, an ASTMS radiographer on Teesside, writes:

TEESSIDE radiographers stormed out on strike on Tuesday for an hour in protest against Barbara Castle's decision. Last week they had decided to return to work pending the announcement of an interim award. The announcement that there was to be no award was followed by a chain of demands from all over the country for resumption of strike action.

In any event, on Teesside, the three weeks' backlog of X-rays will have to wait until we get a satisfactory settlement.

Adrian Sugar's article last week was changed to give a wrong impression. In fact, the decision of the ASTMS executive to grant strike pay to Teesside radiographers was taken BEFORE the radiographers' mass meeting.

FIGHTING FUND

THE National Front are on the march again. In Leicester they try to whip up racist strikes. In Belfast they support the anti-working class Orange Order. All over the country they paste up their posters and distribute their leaflets. They get lots of financial help for this from wealthy businessmen, company directors and a host of other idle parasites.

And we can't run away from them. We will be at the front of the campaign to drive these fascists off the streets and to defeat them in the factories. To do that we need your help. Last week we raised £631 towards the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund target of £2000 each month.

Our thanks to Socialist Worker readers in Northampton for £7.35, readers from the Dogsthorpe Estate, Peterborough, £1.50, Blackburn £3, and Fawley Power Station £4.25. A farewell dance for the Strachans strikers also sent us £13.15. Many more IS branches have been sending in money and include: Barnsley £10, North London District £20, Salford West £26.20, Glasgow Workshops £15, Darlington £3, Hyde £6.50, Tiverton, Devon £2, Woking £6, Leicester £5, Bristol £14, Maidstone £2, Sheffield £36, Peterborough £8.20, Imperial College £6.10, Grays and Tilbury £3, Barnet £4.27, Hull £13, Birmingham Teachers £12, Norwich £100, Watford £10, Cardiff £15. Thanks to all of them, and keep it coming in.

Send your contribution or collection to National Treasurer, Jim Nichol, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

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